

**HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER
EDUCATION**

ZINĀTŅU UN AUGSTSKOLU VĒSTURE

INTER-ACADEMY COOPERATION IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

BALTIJAS JŪRAS REĢIONA ZINĀTŅU AKADĒMIJU SADARBĪBA

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Introduction

Since their first appearance during the first half of the seventeenth century, the scientific academies did not regard their work as only for domestic consumption – they were also anxious to be part of the learned world of Europe. The Baltic Sea region taken as a whole saw the foundation of the national academies of sciences within over 200 years: from the beginning of the eighteenth century until the middle of the 20th century. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, was founded in 1739, and it constituted one of the most significant institutions in the cultural life of Sweden. From that beginning until 1908 national academies of sciences were founded in Denmark, Norway, as well as in Finland. In those years only 4 states surrounded the Baltic Sea: Denmark, Germany, Russia and Sweden.

The beginning of the eighteenth century was the time when the Baltic Sea concept, that had emerged in the 16th century, was replaced by the idea of “the North”. Apparently, one of the implications of this historical situation for the Scandinavian academies of sciences was the emergence of their common name – the Nordic academies. Special cooperation among these academies was established in 1971 upon the initiative of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Since that time the academies in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden started acting together in holding conferences, symposia and scientific journals, as well as in international organizations, like ICSU, when this was considered convenient (Bernhard, 1989).

The establishment of democratic statehood of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia, namely the Baltic States, and the detachment of Finland from Russia in the first decades of the 20th century made a common definition of the Baltic Sea region possible again, but it failed to materialize. Two decades later the academies of sciences of Estonia (1938), Lithuania (1941) and Latvia (1946) were founded. However, about forty-five years after World War II the scientists of the three countries got connected to international cooperation via USSR authorities. At the beginning of the 1990's the countries on the

southern shores of the Baltic Sea witnessed radical transformation of the academies of sciences into classical academies, which unite elected members, and filled their particular niches in the respective scientific communities (Kristapsons *et al.*, 2003). The transformed academies, collectively named the Baltic academies of sciences, identified themselves as the successors of the former scientific academies. From 1990 onwards, the academies of sciences of the Baltic States began scientific cooperation, initially at a bilateral level, with the Nordic academies and international scientific cooperation saw gradual development. However, apart from bilateral agreements between the academies of sciences in the studied area, a multilateral dimension has been achieved, too.

Besides the historical meaning of the studied topic, it may, apparently, have broader applicability, because right now the European Commission is preparing an EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region on the request of the European Council. The aim of the Strategy will be to coordinate the efforts of various actors in the Region and it will aim at the following objectives: to improve the environmental state of the Baltic Sea Region and especially of the Sea; to make the Baltic Sea Region a more prosperous place by supporting balanced economic development across the region; to make the Baltic Sea Region a more accessible and attractive place for both its inhabitants, for competent workforce and for tourists; to make the Baltic Sea Region a safer and more secure place. The strategy has to be presented to the European Council in June 2009 and it is expected to be one of the main priorities of the Swedish EU Presidency during the second half of 2009.

The main purpose of present paper is to describe the scientific cooperation of the academies of sciences of the Baltic States and the Nordic academies of sciences during the past 18 years. Besides that, the emergence of scientific cooperation between individual scientists and organizations around the Baltic Sea is described in outline.

A glimpse into development of international scientific relations in the Baltic Sea region

Well before the establishment of the national academies of sciences in all Baltic Sea countries, in the last half of the 19th century, international cooperation was established between individual scientists, the universities and other institutions. Collaborative links developed in marine research, not the least in the form of exchange of results of ship expeditions (Dybern & Fonselius 2001), and in geological studies, namely the land uplift in the northernmost countries. In these early days due to practical considerations (maritime transport) wealthy sea ice observation data were accumulated. The ice formation and breakdown data in Riga harbour, for instance, are available since 1529 (Jevrejeva, 2001), but the first observations on water level fluctuations in Pärnu harbour date back to 1806 and in Riga to 1841 (Ojaveer and Andrushaitis, 2004). Towards the turn of the 19th century there was a growing awareness of the Baltic Sea being a resource, and understanding that this resource was not inexhaustible. When the intergovernmental scientific body – the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), was founded in 1902, it became the dominating international organization in the Baltic Sea up to World War I and during the interwar period. The Baltic Sea investigations became increasingly international after 1920 (the establishment of statehood of Finland, Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania). In the interwar period Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian scientists and engineers got involved in hydrographic work in the Baltic Sea, hydrological, meteorological and synoptic observation network, discussions of fisheries questions and ecosystem studies.

From the middle of the 1930's intellectuals of the Baltic States met annually at the Conferences on Intellectual Cooperation, which were organized under the auspices of the International Institute on Intellectual Cooperation (Paris) set up by the League of Nations in 1926 (later replaced by UNESCO). Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as Finland, took part at these congresses and occasionally Sweden and Denmark attended, too. The 1st Baltic Congress on Intellectual Cooperation took place in Kaunas (1935), 2nd Congress in Tartu (1936), 3rd Congress in Helsinki (1937), 4th Congress in Riga (1938), 5th Congress in Kaunas (1939), and the 6th Conference was held in Tallinn (15 – 17 June, 1940, jointly with “The Baltic Week”), however it did not cover the planned programme due to the violent occupation of the Baltic States by the Red Army on 17th June 1940. The conferences on intellectual cooperation were attended by university lecturing staff, scientists, public figures (ex-

ministers, ambassadors) and politicians, and the participants discussed the a wide spectrum of up-to-date issues as scientific cooperation, university text-books, student and scientist cooperation, language of communication in the Baltic States, reviews of literature and music, publications of common journals, Baltic Institute and its activities, foundation of academies of sciences in each Baltic country, publication of the journal “Revue Baltique” (in 1940). Reports were delivered by prominent figures of the time: M. Roemeris, J. Baltrušaitis, A. Piip, L. Puusepp, L. Adamovičs, J. Auškāps, F. Balodis, E. Blese and others (Stradins, 2001).

During the years of first independence (1918-1940) quite a number of scientists of the new Baltic States were elected members of the academies of sciences in the Nordic countries (for instance, the outstanding Latvian linguist Janis Endzelins became the member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences), also Germany and Poland that showed the tendency towards developing and maintaining contacts with colleagues around the Baltic Sea.

After World War II there were seven independent states around the Baltic Sea. Research of the Baltic scientists was carried out under Soviet rule. When opportunity was given scientists took part in international projects. As may be derived from the foreign visit reports of 1970's and 1980's, the researchers of the Institute of Biology of the Academy of Sciences of that time Latvia were constantly involved in the Baltic Sea ecosystem studies and marine scientific activities. Within the bilateral scientists' exchange agreements between the Academy of Finland and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR for instance fairly good contacts existed between Latvian and Finnish scientists in the fields of wood chemistry and botany (non-wood forest products).

Relations between the Baltic and Nordic academies of sciences from 1990 onward

In order to establish a closer contact between the Academies of Sciences of the three Baltic States and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, a meeting was arranged on June 26-28, 1990 in Tallinn with representatives of four academies. The Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian academies of sciences signed a communiqué on cooperation between the three academies of sciences on 28 June 1990. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences played a not insignificant role in fostering this process. It was then decided that the academies should initiate and encourage scientific collaboration, with particular emphasis on environmental research. As an important first step it was decided that a joint meeting between active research workers in the four countries should be organized at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. Quoting the member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Professor B. Sundin: “The commitment of the Academy of Sciences to questions concerning the protection and preservation of the environment and natural resources can be said to be based on traditions reaching back to the Academy's very beginnings” (1989). The conference with the title “Environmental Toxicology and Health” in May 1991 was a very interesting and successful meeting (Ramel, 1991).

From 1991 until 1996 the Baltic-Norwegian Legal conferences were held, upon the initiative of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters, in order to discuss the legal and constitutional issues with special focus on the Baltic States, which recently had reinstated their independence. These conferences that were twice held in Norway (1991, 1994), once in Latvia (1992) and once in Tallinn (1996) were found to be an area where the collaboration agreements with each of the Baltic academies of sciences signed in April 1991 were really coming into useful practice.

During the 1990's the academies of sciences around the Baltic Sea entered into bilateral agreements aimed at enhancing mobility of scientists and facilitating scientific networking. The Estonian Academy of Sciences, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and the Latvian Academy of Sciences established close and friendly contacts with a number of the academies in Sweden, Norway and Finland, namely The Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, The Academy of Finland, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, the Royal Swedish Academy Engineering Sciences and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. All or any of the Baltic academies of sciences signed bilateral agreements on scientific cooperation with the above academies in Sweden, Norway and Finland. The long history of the friendly academies of sciences of the northern Europe

proved to be really valuable in sharing experiences during the academy delegation meetings because a distinct historical background of each academy, understandably, has had its effect upon their main activities and missions: science policy and advice, awarding prizes for scientific and educational achievement (international and national), representation of country's science internationally (ALLEA, ESF, ICSU, UAI, IAP, etc.), publications, research support from own foundations and source of funding (own funds created through gifts & legacies and/or governmental funds).

Over the following years the inter-academy cooperation, particularly among the Baltic academies of sciences, was realized in the following forms: exchange of information, exchange of scientific visits, joint meeting/conferences and mutual consultations to represent internationally the views and positions.

After the 1990 Tallinn meeting, the delegations of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian academies of sciences started meeting regularly. During the 1990's the delegations from the three Baltic academies met annually in Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius to discuss the topical problems and issues of research cooperation. In 1996, the geography of participating academies was extended beyond the southern part of the Baltic Sea Region, and the delegations of the academies of sciences of the Nordic countries were invited to attend these meetings.

Until 2000, the delegations of the three Baltic academies of sciences met regularly and several Baltic-Nordic meetings were held. The major topics of the first decade of these meetings were: scanty budgetary funding of science in the Baltic countries, upholding of the positions of the Baltic and Nordic academies of sciences internationally (ALLEA, ICSU, IAP, etc.), three joint research programs of the Baltic academies of sciences; the scientific justification of the Baltic energy system, establishing a Baltic academies' webpage and databases on internationally recognized experts of the Baltic countries, joint publishing (*Revue Baltique*, others).

Already in 1998, during the Tallinn meeting it was agreed to broaden the discussions, to step beyond the internal matters of the academies of sciences, and a couple of decisive decisions were made. It was then decided to hold the next meeting of the Baltic Academies of Sciences in conjunction with a scientific conference to be organized in Riga in 1999. Besides, the presidents of the three Baltic academies agreed to establish a joint Medal of the Baltic Academies of Sciences to be awarded in recognition of distinguished contribution to the advancement of collaboration among scientists of the Baltic countries and for performing joint research. This is to acknowledge, in retrospect, that the idea has been beautifully realized.

Thus, hitherto the progress in cooperation among the academies of sciences in the Baltic Sea region may be subdivided into three periods: meetings of the three Baltic academies, meetings of the Baltic-Nordic academies of sciences and the Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation (Ekmanis 2008).

The Baltic Conferences on Intellectual Cooperation

With the 7th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation, held in Riga in 1999, a different pattern of academy meetings was introduced. The 1999 Conference took place at the time when the Baltic states were gradually moving towards accession to the European Union (EU) and with the concept of the Baltic region as a building bloc of the New Europe, the conference concentrated on two key issues: historic aspects and future perspectives for the cooperation of Baltic States and protection of intellectual values and science through mutual cooperation of legislators, governments, mass media and scientists. Quoting Stradins (2001), president of the Latvian Academy of Sciences: "The academies of sciences bear a special mission and special responsibility of motivating and maintaining the unity of our Baltic States and taking care that intellectual values are honoured in the region". The Conference saw the participation of representatives of the Baltic States, Finland, Sweden and Norway. The unofficial white-red-yellow flag of the Baltic (each stripe coming from the flags of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, respectively) was exhibited to the participants.

The 8th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation was held in Tallinn in 2001, and at this conference three subjects were taken to the foreground: the message to the world aimed at raising the awareness about the historical experience of the Baltic States, research strategies in small countries,

and the humanities during the past decade. It was distinguished by a wider representation of the countries around the Baltic Sea.

The 9th conference took place in Vilnius on June 10, 2003, and the dominant theme was “Globalization, Europe and National Identity”, and a lot of attention was given to the science and culture of small countries. The Conference arranged by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences was attended by participants from as many as eight Baltic countries.

The 10th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation (BCIC) was held in Helsinki by the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters and the theme was „The Baltic: Past, Present and Future”. The four conference sessions dealt with history and politics, the Baltic Sea as a body of water and scientific collaboration around the Baltic Sea.

The latest 11th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation “Academic Views on the National Development Strategies of the Baltic States” was held in Riga in October 2007. It was attended by the participants from five Baltic sea countries. The Conference plenary speakers highlighted all dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, social and economic, whereat the latter was primarily related to the energy sector, which is vitally essential for the three Baltic States. Further, the conference discussed the ways how *academia* could contribute to closer collaboration between scientists of our countries in the frames of European Commission research programs and to collaborative research within the programs realized by various European research organizations. The 11th BCIC (2007) passed two significant documents dealing with the advancement of science and scientific cooperation: (1) Resolution on Baltic Energy Issues, (2) Resolution on the advancement of science and the humanities in the Baltic countries.

The tradition of holding the Baltic Conferences on Intellectual Cooperation appears to be a heritage left by the International Institute on Intellectual Cooperation (replaced by UNESCO) set up the League of Nations. Nowadays the academies of sciences have become the main attraction point in organizing these events. Quite naturally the academies wish to believe that the tradition of holding conferences on intellectual cooperation will remain a privilege of the academies of sciences in the future. The success of the conferences in Riga, Tallinn, Vilnius, Helsinki and again in Riga in 2007 makes trust in this biannual conference’s continued tradition. With holding these conferences a new level of quality in the collaboration among our academies has been achieved.

Since 1999, the Medals of the Baltic Academies of Sciences are awarded for contribution to promoting cooperation of the Baltic States and for achievements in science. Hitherto, the awarding ceremonies of this special international award of the Baltic academies of sciences have taken place five times and nineteen medals have been awarded. During the latest ceremony in 2007 the Medals of the Baltic academies of sciences were presented to Dr. Olof G. Tandberg (Sweden) and professors M.Saarnisto (Finland), R.Pullat (Estonia), A. Silins (Latvia) and Z.R. Rudzikas (Lithuania). Although the wording on each Medal diploma is different, one feature they all have in common is the great contribution to fostering cooperation among the scientists in the Baltic region and to carrying out joint research.

Thus, the academies of sciences contribute to the development of regional scientific cooperation of the Baltic and Nordic countries in a united space of science, which forms a united Baltic Sea region as a dynamic part of the future Europe.

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Ekmanis J., Draveniece A. Baltijas jūras reģiona zinātņu akadēmiju sadarbība

Valstīs ap Baltijas jūru zinātņu akadēmiju dibināšana noritējusi vairāk kā divu gadsimtu ilgā periodā. Skandināvijā kā pirmā 1739. gadā nodibināta Karaliskā Zviedrijas Zinātņu akadēmija, bet Latvijas Zinātņu akadēmija –1946. gadā. Zinātnieku kontakti un starptautiskā sadarbība, pirmāk jau saistībā ar Baltijas jūras transporta funkciju (ledus režīms u.c.), kā arī jūras ekosistēmas izpēte sākušies jau 19. gadsimta beigās. Baltijas valstu pirmajā neatkarības periodā, sākot ar 1935. gadu, notikušas regulāras Baltijas valstu inteliģences sanāksmes ar Somijas un epizodisku Zviedrijas un Dānijas piedalīšanos. Daudzi Baltijas valstu zinātnieki kļuvuši par Ziemeļvalstu universitāšu goda doktoriem un ievēlēti par zinātņu akadēmiju locekļiem, kas cita starpā liecina par zinātnisko sakaru orientāciju.

Baltijas valstu un Ziemeļvalstu zinātņu akadēmiju savstarpējā sadarbība sākās 1990.gadā. Par sadarbības oficiālo sākumu uzskatāms 1990.gada 28.jūnijs, kad triju Baltijas akadēmiju prezidenti Tallinā parakstīja attiecīgu vienošanos. Baltijas un Ziemeļvalstu zinātņu akadēmijas uzsāka regulārus kontaktus, parakstīja divpusējas zinātniskās sadarbības līgumus, kuru ietvaros tika atbalslītas zinātnieku īsternīna vizītes. 1996. gadā Baltijas valstu zinātņu akadēmiju delegāciju ikgadējās sanāksmēs, sāka piedalīties arī Ziemeļvalstu akadēmiju pārstāvji. Baltijas un Ziemeļvalstu zinātņu akadēmiju prezidentu tikšanās pirmoreiz tika apvienota ar zinātnisku konferenci Rīgā 1999. gadā, tādējādi atjaunojot Baltijas Intelektuālās sadarbības konferenču tradīciju. Kopš šo konferenču atjaunošanas, tās organizē zinātņu akadēmijas, un to rīkošana notiek katru otro gadu pēc rotācijas principa: Tallinā (2001), Viļņā (2003), Helsinkos (2005) un Rīgā (2007). 1999. gadā Rīgas konferences gaitā pirmoreiz pasniedza kopīgās Baltijas valstu zinātņu akadēmijas medaļas. Par medaļu piešķiršanu lemj kopīga triju Baltijas akadēmiju žūrijas komisija. Katra laureāta diplomā ierakstītais formulējums gan ir atšķirīgs, taču visus vieno lielais ieguldījums sadarbības veicināšanā starp Baltijas reģiona zinātniekiem un kopīgu zinātnisku pētījumu izstrādē. 2007. gadā medaļas saņēma Ūlafs G.Tandbergs (Olof G. Tandberg, Zviedrija), Andrejs Siliņš (Latvija), Zenons Rokus Rudziks (Zenonas Rokus Rudzikas, Lietuva), Raimo Pullats (Igaunija), Mati Särnisto (Matti Saarnisto, Somija).

Ekmanis J., Draveniece A. Inter-academy cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

The Baltic Sea Region saw the foundation of the national academies of sciences within over 200 years. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences was founded in 1739 and the Latvian Academy of Sciences – in 1946. Well before a complete set of national academies of sciences around the Baltic Sea were established, the international collaboration emerged between individual scientists and universities and other organizations in marine research due to practical considerations (maritime transport) and in exploration of marine ecosystem. During the first period of independence of the Baltic States, from 1935, the Conferences on Intellectual Cooperation (altogether 6) were organized where the intellectuals of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as Finland, took part and occasionally participants from Sweden and Denmark attended, too.

From 1990 onward close contacts were established between the academies of sciences of the Baltic States and the Nordic countries. The academies of sciences around the Baltic Sea entered into bilateral agreements aimed at enhancing mobility of scientists and facilitating scientific networking. The delegations of the three Baltic academies of sciences met annually to discuss the topical problems and issues of research cooperation and their role in the science community. In 1996, the geography of participating academies was extended beyond the southern part of the Baltic Sea Region, and the delegations of the Nordic academies started attending. In 1999, the 7th Baltic Conference on Intellectual Cooperation, a revitalized tradition of the pre-WW2 conferences, was held in Riga and from this year onward convening of these events is the privilege of the academies of sciences and they take place every second year alternately in Riga (1999), Tallinn (2001), Vilnius (2003), Helsinki (2005) and Riga (2007). Also, since 1999, the Medals of the Baltic Academies of Sciences have been awarded for

contribution to fostering cooperation among the scientists in the Baltic region and to carrying out joint research. Hitherto, this special international award of the Baltic academies of sciences has been awarded to nineteen scientists. During the latest ceremony in 2007 the Medals of the Baltic academies of sciences went to Olof G. Tandberg (Sweden), M.Saarnisto (Finland), R.Pullat (Estonia), A. Silins (Latvia) and Z.R. Rudzikas (Lithuania). Thus, the academies of sciences contribute in a variety of ways to the development of regional scientific cooperation of the Baltic and Nordic countries.

Экманис Ю., Дравнице А. Сотрудничество академий наук Балтийского региона

Создание академий наук в государствах на берегах Балтийского моря происходило в течение более двухсот лет. В Скандинавии как в первой, в 1739 году была учреждена Королевская Шведская академия наук, а в Латвии академия наук – в 1946 году. Контакты ученых и международное сотрудничество, в первую очередь, уже в связи с функцией транспорта Балтийского моря (ледовый режим и др.), а также исследование экосистемы моря началось уже в конце 19-го столетия. В годы первой независимости Прибалтийских государств, начиная с 1935 года, происходили регулярные собрания интеллигенции Прибалтийских государств с участием Финляндии и эпизодически с участием Швеции и Дании. Многие ученые Прибалтийских государств стали почетными докторами наук университетов Северных стран и были выбраны членами академий наук, что, кроме прочего, свидетельствует об ориентации научных связей.

Взаимное сотрудничество академий наук Прибалтийских государств и Северных стран началось в 1990 году. Началом официального сотрудничества считается 28 июня 1990 года, когда президенты академий трех Прибалтийских государств подписали в Таллинне соответствующее соглашение. Академии наук Прибалтийских государств и Северных стран начали регулярные контакты, подписали двусторонние договора о научном сотрудничестве, в рамках которых были поддержаны краткосрочные визиты ученых. В 1996 году в ежегодных совещаниях делегаций академий наук Прибалтийских государств стали принимать участие также представители академий Северных стран. Встреча президентов академий наук Прибалтийских государств и Северных стран в первый раз была объединена с научной конференцией в Риге в 1999 году, возобновив таким образом традицию конференций Балтийского интеллектуального сотрудничества. С момента возобновления этих конференций их организуют академии наук, и их проводят каждый второй год по принципу ротации: в Таллинне (2001), Вильнюсе (2003), Хельсинки (2005) и Риге (2007). В 1999 году в рамках конференции в Риге были впервые вручены медали академий наук Прибалтийских государств. В отношении присвоения медалей принимала решение общая комиссия жюри трех академий Балтии. Формулировки, вписанные в диплом каждого лауреата, различаются, но их все объединяет большой вклад в осуществление сотрудничества между учеными региона Балтии и общую разработку научных исследований. В 2007 году медали получили Улаф Г.Тандбергс (Olof G. Tandberg, Швеция), Андрей Силиньш (Латвия), Зенон Рокус Рудзикс (Zenonas Rokus Rudzikas, Литва), Раймо Пуллатс (Эстония), Мати Сарнисто (Matti Saarnisto, Финляндия).