

Invitation to a seminar on Municipality and University collaboration to strengthen local economic development.

February 11, 2013, Tallinn

Background

BUNLED (Baltic University Network for Local Economic Development) is an acronym for collaboration between selected Baltic Region universities with the ambition to strengthen the links between universities, local governments and the small business sector towards local and regional growth.

The scenario

Central Governments have delegated to Local Governments the task of local economic and social development. The task has both long-term (strategic) and short-term (operational) components. The creation of jobs is a strategic objective of crucial importance for growth while the provision of products and services is an operational activity of importance for the daily life. The small business sector is of vital importance to contribute to local growth but requires active support by local government to achieve the goals.

The so-called third task of universities includes their active contribution to society development. Universities thus have a role to play in local and regional development which is both strategic and operational. From both these aspects collaboration in well-defined and appropriate areas between universities and local governments should have the potential to jointly with the small business sector contribute to the local growth and development process.

The seminar presented here will be the first initiative to discuss and plan for further activities within this context.

Tentative Agenda for February 11

10.00 – 10.30	Introduction of participants and institutions they represent
10.30 - 11.30	Economic and Social Aspects on Local and Regional Development (by Prof. Per Lind, University of Gotland)
11.30 – 12.00	Nordic-Baltic Mobility Programmes for Public Administration and Business (by Madis Kanarbik, the Head of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Branch Office in Tartu)
12.00 – 13.00	Local Government view on collaboration and identification of potential projects (Brainstorm on current issues and possible solutions through cross-border collaboration)
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	Discussion about joint projects and outlines for an action plan
15.00 – 16.00	Coming activities and next steps

Financing

Participants pay for travel and accommodation. Meals during the seminar are covered by the BUNLED project.