

Baltic Earth – Earth System Science for the Baltic Sea region

The BALTEX successor programme was launched at the 7th Study Conference on BALTEX, Borgholm, Öland, Sweden, 10-14 June 2013



BALTEX
(1992-2013)

Vision of the new programme

To achieve an improved Earth System understanding of the Baltic Sea region



- **Interdisciplinary** and **international** collaboration (study conferences, workshops, etc.)
- **Holistic view** on the Earth system of the Baltic Sea region, encompassing processes in the **atmosphere**, on **land** and in the **sea** and also in the **anthroposphere**
- “**Service to society**” in the respect that **thematic assessments** provide an overview over knowledge gaps which need to be filled (e.g. by funded projects)
- **Education** (summer schools)
- Inherits the BALTEX network of scientists and infrastructure

Baltic Earth

Earth System Science for the Baltic Sea Region

Baltic Earth Science Plan and Grand Challenges

- Flexible science plan with a continuously on-going definition of core research questions which are identified to be key scientific issues, so-called “**Grand Challenges**” (GCs)
- New Grand Challenges will be identified at conferences and by using **assessments of existing research** by dedicated working groups. Grand Challenges are envisaged to be research foci for periods of about 3-4 years (then terminated or updated)
- The new programme will **communicate** with **stakeholders** and research funding **agencies** to promote funding relevant for the Grand Challenges
- **International embedment**
(GEWEX, Future Earth)



Current Grand Challenges

- GC1: **Salinity dynamics** in the Baltic Sea
- GC2: **Land-Sea biogeochemical feedbacks** in the Baltic Sea region
- GC3: **Natural hazards and extreme events** in the Baltic Sea region
- GC4: Understanding **sea level dynamics** in the Baltic Sea
- GC5: Understanding **regional variability of water and energy exchanges**
- The **human impact** will be assessed at all levels, wherever possible
- Website: www.baltic-earth.eu

Baltic Earth Infrastructure

- International BALTEX Secretariat continues as **International Baltic Earth Secretariat**
- **Baltic Earth Science Steering Group (BESSG)** installed as of June 2014
- **Baltic Earth Science Plan** to be finalized in late 2014
- **BESSG members:** Excellent, active “young” scientists; country balance, gender balance, discipline balance, institutional balance
- **Working Groups** installed for each GC, plus
 - WG on Outreach and Communication
 - WG on Education
 - WG on the Utility of Regional Climate Models (BALTEX inherited)
 - WG on the Assessment of Scenario Simulations for the Baltic Sea 1960-2100 (BALTEX inherited)
- **Senior Advisory Board**

Baltic Earth Science Steering Group as of June 2014

Chair

Markus Meier, Head of Oceanographic Research Dept. of SMHI and Professor at Stockholm University, Sweden.

<http://www.smhi.se/en/Research/Research-departments/Oceanography>

Vice-Chair

Anna Rutgersson, Professor of Meteorology, Uppsala University, Sweden.

<http://katalog.uu.se/empInfo/?!languageId=1&id=N96-3829>

Members

Juris Aigars, Franz Berger, Inga Dailidienė, Chantal Donnelly, Jari Haapala, Sirje Keevallik, Karol Kulinski, Andreas Lehmann, Kai Myrberg, Carin Nilsson, Anders Omstedt, Irina Partasenok, Piia Post, Marcus Reckermann, Gregor Rehder, Benjamin Smith, Martin Stendel, Hans von Storch, Sergey Zhuravlev, Eduardo Zorita

