

Minutes of the Young Scientist Club, Helsinki 14.01.2009

List of participants:

Kirsi Järvenpää
Anu Hirvonen
Anna Villnäs
Anna Weckman
Slawomir Dobosz
Anders Hansson
Larpe Arppe
Helena Jäntti

How can Bonus programme improve and integrate the Baltic Sea post-graduate studies? The topics discussed:

1. Travel grants (the most important topic, we think!)
 - No young scientist (at least of those present) was participating in writing the proposals and therefore our needs were possibly not considered in the planning of projects. Other topic of concern was how the budget cuts are going to reflect to the travelling opportunities of young scientists. It was noted that it is essentially important that everyone is given the chance of participating at least to the yearly Bonus annual meetings.
 - When new needs for education arises (cutting edge courses), not anticipated during the planning of individual projects and thus not included in the budgets, there could be a common pot of Bonus money available as grants.
 - Grants to travel to other labs to benefit from their equipments.
 - It was also noted that there are many different sources for grants already available.

2. Proposed course subjects

Interdisciplinary courses were desired (everyone would have an interest to participate) and workshops with more specific topics could also be organized (during the annual conferences?). The proposed course subjects:

- economics/socio-economics (related to environmental issues)
 - o Socioeconomic of a healthier Baltic Sea
- European environmental policy and management: actors and how the system works. Also on a national scale, for example: the implementation differences and special characteristics of Baltic Sea countries.
- Introduction to modelling
 - o Bayesian networks and decision analysis
- Some of the participants had an interest to participate a course on publishing, authorship, and research ethics. However, it was noted that these kind of courses already exists (at least at the University of Helsinki).

How, when and where?

- Intensive courses of a week or two, not during the summertime (almost everyone is busy with their field samplings). “Hands on” types of courses are preferred.

3. Networking

- Workshops organised during the Bonus annual meetings, serving as frameworks for dissemination and networking among the young scientists. Also topic specific workshops could be organized if regarded useful.
- There is an interest to exchange programs of all durations if opportunities arise (and funding).

How to inform the young scientists about courses ext.?

- The most efficient way would be to establish a young scientists mailing list with instructions, on how to join the list, on the Bonus portal.

All participants found the young scientists club providing for good surrounds for networking, and sharing experience/expertise!