



8th CERN Baltic Group General Meeting

Remote, 22nd November 2021

Agenda and supporting documents are available at
[8th CERN Baltic Group General Meeting \(November 22, 2021\) · Indico](#)

Summary of the meeting

1. Welcome address to the General Meeting participants by CBG Chairman prof. Toms Torims, RTU.
2. Agenda is adopted with no additional points. Participants of the meeting are listed in Annex I.
3. The **Chairman** provides a brief update regarding the main CBG activities since last General Meeting – details are available on Indico¹.
Policy Actions - strengthening and developing the Baltic High Energy Physics community:
 - Close collaboration with CERN Council and Baltic countries Delegates was maintained.
 - Liaison with the Baltic Assembly is being conducted successfully.
 - Despite still challenging epidemiological situation the focus was kept on the priorities set in the previous General Meeting and there are tangible results in most of the areas
 - Although, Study programme working group didn't have a designated meeting the doctoral program of High Energy Physics and Accelerator Technology is up-and-running.
 - Likewise, in the reference period, the Scientific and technology working group did not meet.
 - A need for the joint CBG flagship project and joint coordinated actions was emphasised. CBG shall build on its success and use the momentum of Estonia and Latvia joining CERN.
4. The representatives of each country outline the state-of-play of **CERN related activities**:
 - Mr. Robert Aare – **Estonia**: Mr. Aare is ILO as well as CERN Council Delegate and representative in Finance Committee. CERN high level visit to Estonia took place on 11-14 October. Wide range of Estonia-CERN collaboration topics was successfully covered with some 40 stakeholder talks and participation of 26 companies. There were 18 representatives of CERN, of which 16 were group leaders or their deputies. The event and meetings were recorded, all materials are available on Indico².
 - Dr. Aurelijus Rinkevicius – **Lithuania**: there are important initiatives ongoing in terms of Lithuania-CERN collaboration – National Plan for CERN activities is being prepared. The first inclusive draft was prepared in June 2021. The consortium was promoted with universities unifying concept in mind. The second iteration happened recently and without engaging key persons who have worked on the initial document. This National

¹ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1097709/>

² <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1094622/>

Plan is related to the financial planning and has major budgetary implications. Hence, there is strong pressure from variety of the interested parties. In November also CERN-Lithuania international advisory board took place. Serious internal tensions were noted during that meeting.

- Prof. Brigita Abakevičienė informed that there will be international masterclasses in hadron therapy and particle physics next year. More than 100 participants are planned to take a part in it.
 - Prof. Toms Torims – **Latvia**: on 2nd August Latvia became a CERN Associate Member State. Latvia has a very comprehensive portfolio of collaboration projects with CERN. There is well planned and steady growth within the CMS experiment, especially in part of MTD / BTL. Today on-site Latvia 3 senior scientists and 2 students working at CMS. Further 3 doctoral students will be added to that in 2022. The same goes for the Latvia's accelerator technologies team at CERN – there is strong engagement in variety of CERN accelerator projects, e.g. I.FAST, HITRIplus and NIMMS. In CERN ATS directorate, there are 2 senior scientists now at CERN + 2 doctoral students. Double of this number, both on CMS and Accelerator Technology part are working on these projects based in Latvia at their home institutions. This is completed by two on-site CERN doctoral students in MEDICIS and AEGIS experiments. There is dedicated CERN-Latvia doctoral student programme + regular CERN doctoral programme – Latvia is benefiting from both and today there are 10 PhD students from RTU and UL directly engaged in the CERN projects and developing their thesis on the CERN research subjects. New Doctoral Study Programme is up-and-running. State Research programme in High Energy Physics and Accelerator Technology also is yielding very satisfactory results. Latvia's budget for CERN activities is circa 2 M EUR for year 2022, including membership. ILO is starting to engage with national industry and there are good indications for the potential CERN orders. Latvia established its target proportion for its return from CERN: 60/40, where 60% is scientific component – Latvian scientific staff at CERN and 40% is industry component – procurement from Latvia. This principle has been communicated to CERN and relevant stakeholders. Additionally, in 2022 Tier2 development project will be launched.
5. Feedback from September **CERN Council, Finance Committee and ILO forum**:
- HE Bahtijors Hasans (Ambassador of Latvia to UN Geneva) – Latvia's Delegate in CERN Council - informs that September session was very constructive and transparent. There were reports on budget and planning as well as report on human resources activities and further plans. Ambassador emphasised importance of Baltic cooperation and policy, in the CERN context, to look at Baltic States as united region with integrated policy, market and education system.
 - ILO's Mr. Robert Aare (Estonia) and Dr. Lauma Muižniece (Latvia) outline the main discussion point of the September Council and ILO forum. CERN DG provided overall report. This was supported by status reports on HL-LHC and Phase II upgrades to ATLAS/CMS; FCC feasibility study action plan; non-LHC experiments; CERN environmental report, etc. An important goal (relevant to Baltic States) was identified – CERN is aiming to reduce very poorly balanced states from 6 to 3 by 2025. Baltic Industry days at CERN are planned in September 2022 and relevant industry mapping activities are under the way.
 - CERN Finance Committee: conduct of the FCC feasibility study has been approved - oversight to be provided by the Council. Update of status of Accelerators and Experiments: ATLAS and CMS affected by COVID and lack of electronics; protentional delay of next long shutdown by one year (start moving from 2025 to 2026); further delays can not be allowed due to lifetime of other components.
6. Feedback from September **CERN Scientific Policy Committee** – by Dr. Kārlis Dreimanis. FCC and future muon collider - feasibility studies will be finished by 2025. Other items already were reported (see above) by the CERN Council delegates.
7. Update on the work of CBG **Study Programme Working Group** – by Dr. Kārlis Dreimanis. The study programme council was officially established. First cohort of students was selected by the Council on the 27th of October and programme *de-facto* stated on 1st of

November. This doctoral programme consists of a total of 192 credits, 42 of which must be covered by study courses and training schools. The aim is to have all obligatory course credits and most of the limited choice credits fulfilled within the first year of study. Six promising students were matriculated in the first year. Detailed presentation is available on Indico³.

Prof. Mārcis Auziņš informed that accreditation of the relevant study direction in on its way and has to be done in order to secure stable development of the said doctoral programme. Overall goal remains the same – to extend this programme to the whole Baltic region.

Dr. Stefan Groote and Dr. Yury Dokshitser provided the first and rather positive feedback regarding the inaugural lectures which were provided to said students. CBG Chairman wholeheartedly thanked both lecturers for their valuable inputs, commitment, and willingness to engage so profoundly in the doctoral programme.

8. Organisational aspects of the **2nd CERN Baltic Group Conference 2022** - Dr. Aurelijus Rinkevicius, Prof. Brigita Abakevičienė: it was confirmed that the CBC 2022 will take place on 10-12 October in Lithuania. Scope and programme must be agreed upon. Two committees - organisational committee and scientific committees, should include representatives of CBG members. It has been agreed to continue the good practices of the inaugural Conference of 2021⁴.
9. Organisational aspects of the **2^{nds} CERN Baltic School of High Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies** – Prof. Fjodor Sergejev confirmed wiliness and readiness of TalTech to host the School in Sarema Island campus on 8-12 August 2022 - see presentation on Indico⁵. The main organizers from TalTech have been appointed: Mr. Erki Kärber and Mr. Raavo Josepson. Scientific and Organising Committees shall be formed as soon as possible and designated preparatory meetings to be commenced in early 2022. The best practices of inaugural School of 2021 to be continued and the main lectors (to be kindly invited) shall remain the same.
10. Discussion on CGB joint proposal for "**Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area**" within Horizon Europe Call – the Chairman explained the basic principles and scope of the call and prospective for the CBG⁶. To proceed with idea of the joint proposal, number of stakeholders shall be engaged and this must be done in the coordinated and comprehensive manner. CBG member institutions are requested to confirm their interest to be the Partners of said proposal. UT confirmed its willingness to coordinate the project proposal preparation and submission. Clearly this Flagship project will require close coordination and commitment by the partners.
11. The Chairman reminded that his 2nd two-year term is ending in April 2022. Therefore, within the next CBG General Meeting the **elections of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman** shall take the place. Chairman informed that he has no intention to continue for the third term.

The following priorities and further actions were collegially agreed and set for year 2022:

I. Policy Actions - strengthening and development of the Baltic High Energy Physics community:

12. To maintain excellent **collaboration with CERN management and CERN Council**.
13. To facilitate the coordination and exchange the most up-to-date information, **the CERN**

³ https://indico.cern.ch/event/1097709/contributions/4618503/attachments/2350420/4008946/DSP_2021_22.pdf

⁴ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/970609/>

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https://indico.cern.ch/event/1097709/contributions/4618499/attachments/2350436/4010435/8th%20CERN%20BG%20General%20Meeting_Baltic%20School%20of%20High-Energy%20Physics%20and%20Accelerator%20Technologies%20in%20Estonia.pdf

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<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1097709/contributions/4618496/attachments/2349081/4008343/CBG%20Excellence%20hub%2021.11.2021%20.pdf>

Council Members of Baltic Countries as well as representatives of the Financial and Scientific Policy committees to be invited to all further CBG General Meetings.

14. To continue close collaboration and coordination with the **Baltic Assembly** – to organise BA visit to CERN and to ensure CBG participation in BA events.
15. To continue coordination activities and exchanges with the **Baltic States Ambassadors** to UN in Geneva.
16. To continue dialogue with CERN regarding CBG involvement in the **Science Gateway project**.
17. To maintain the dialogue with CERN on how to organise the **CERN Baltic Internship Programme**.
18. To represent CBG actively and visibly at **TIARA collaboration** and eventually to organise a TIARA meeting in one of the CBG partner institutions.
19. To organise **2nd CERN Baltic School of High-Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies** in Estonia under auspices of TalTech in 8-12 August 2022.
20. To organise the **2nd CERN Baltic Group Conference - CBC 2022** in Lithuania – 10-12 October 2022.
21. To continue development of the proposal: **Baltic Strategy for High Energy Physics and Accelerator Technology**.
22. To persuade the idea of the potential Flagship project - **Advanced Particle (Cancer) Therapy Center in the Baltic States**, in close cooperation with CERN and relevant stakeholders.
23. To continue **development of the doctoral programme** of High Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies and to promote its benefits to all CBG partners.
24. To support development of the relevant **Master level study programme**.

II. Industry engagement Activities

25. Estonia to propose in writing a new candidate for the **CBG Industry Working Group Convenor**.
26. To assist Baltic ILO's and CERN in organising the **CERN Industry Road Show** in Baltic States in 25-29 April 2022 and **Baltic Industry Days** at CERN in September 2022.

III. Scientific and Technology Working Group Activities

27. The Working group is welcome to organise its work by relevant subtopics.

CBG agreed to organise the next (preferably at CERN and in-person) General Meeting in the first quarter of 2022.

22.11.2021.
By CBG Secretariat
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Participants of the **8th CERN Baltic Group General Meeting**
Remote, 22 of November 2021.

The Representatives of CBG Members with the voting rights

1. Prof. Toms Torims, RTU – Chairman of the CBG
2. Dr. Mario Kadastik, NICPB – Deputy Chairman of the CBG, Convenor of the CBG Industry Group
3. Prof. Mārcis Auziņš, UL
4. Dr. Aurelijus Rinkevicius, VU – Convenor of the Scientific and Technology Working Group
5. Prof. Brigita Abakevičienė, KTU
6. Prof. Fjodor Sergejev, TalTech
7. Dr. Jevgenijs Proskurins, RSU
8. Dr. Stefan Groote, UT (by delegation)
9. Prof. Saulius Mickevicius, VMU

Other contributors invited by Members

1. HE Bahtijors Hasans, Ambassador to UN Geneva, CERN Council Delegate (Latvia)
2. Mr Jérôme Pierlot (CERN)
3. Dr. Maurizio Vretenar (CERN)
4. Dr. Christoph Schaefer (CERN)
5. Dr. Kārlis Dreimanis, RTU – Convenor of the CBG Study Programme Group
6. Mr. Robert Aare, ILO, CERN Council Delegate (Estonia)
7. Dr. Lauma Muižniece
8. Mr. Allan Allik, UT
9. Dr. Yury Dokshitser, RTU
10. Mr. Guntis Pikurs, RTU

CBG Secretariat

11. Ms. Aija Rūse, RTU
12. Ms. Silva Vītola, RTU