



13th CERN Baltic Group General Meeting

21st - 22nd of March 2024

Hybrid format: in-person and remotely @CERN

Agenda and supporting documents are available at
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1377081/>

Summary of the meeting

1. Welcome address to the General Meeting participants was given by Chairman of the CERN Baltic Group (CBG) Dr. Ants Koel.
2. The General meeting was opened by Prof. Emmanuel Tsesmelis, Head of Relations with Associate and Non-Member States. Prof. Tsesmelis updated the CBG members on the progress of the FCC (Future Circular Collider) Feasibility Study and briefly discussed the planned update of the European Strategy for Particle Physics. The main goal of the FCC Feasibility Study is to develop in detail the plan for the next flagship machine at CERN, as well as to further increase international collaboration in all aspects related to the project, such as accelerators and detector technologies. He expressed his delight in the growing partnership and community engagement of the Baltic region within the FCC collaboration, notably, the involvement of Latvia and Estonia. Additionally, the plan to organise an FCC engagement meeting with the interested parties in Lithuania was mentioned. During his contribution, Prof. Tsesmelis also reminded that all CERN Member and Associate Member states are welcome to the CERN 70th anniversary celebration, which will be held on the 1st of October at the Science Gateway.
3. Guest speaker Prof. Christoph Schäfer, Senior Adviser for Relations with CERN Non-Member States, noted his involvement since the foundation of the CBG. He acknowledged the CBG's extensive participation in a diverse range of CERN activities and extended well wishes for continued successful collaboration in the future.
4. Agenda was adopted with no additional points. Participants of the meeting are listed in Annex I. Prof. Toms Torims (Riga Technical University) informed about the mandate for the voting given to him from University of Latvia. Chair of Deputy of the CERN Baltic Group Dr. Brigita Abakevičienė presented the new representatives of CBG, Dr. Inese Gavarane (Daugavpils University) and Karina Skirmante (Ventspils University of Applied Sciences), and informed that a mandate for the voting from Vilnius University was given to Dr. Jonas Venius (National Cancer Institute).
5. Chairman of the CERN Baltic Group (CBG) Dr. Ants Koel presented a report on CBG 2022-2023 & activities since last General Meetings.
6. **Vote – Chairperson and Deputy of Chairperson elections.**
According to MoU Establishing the CERN Baltic Group Annex II CBG General Meeting Terms of References Sub-Article 2.1. The Chairperson and Deputy of Chairperson shall be selected

among the Member representatives and elected by simple majority of the General Meeting for term of two years. Prof. Toms Torims nominated Dr. Brigita Abakevičienė as Chairperson and Dr. Karlis Dreimanis as Deputy of Chairperson of the CBG. There are no other nominations. Voting question: to approve Dr. Brigita Abakevičienė as Chairperson and Dr. Karlis Dreimanis as Deputy of Chairperson of the CBG for 2 years. Conclusion: from 14 members of CBG: 11 votes FOR (9 members voted in-person and 2 members voted remotely); 0 votes AGAINST; Approved.

7. The representatives of each country outline **the state-of-play of CERN related activities:**

ESTONIA – Prof. Veronika Zadin provided the information about the success of Estonian Center of Excellence connected to CERN. The full membership at CERN will be confirmed on September-October at CERN Council. Estonian science roadmap was announced. It was mentioned that the space strategy of Estonia connected to full membership and will learn from this experience and adopt, many of established directions over in NASA actions and go forward with this change.

LATVIA – Prof. Toms Torims presented an update on Latvia-CERN strategy what was approved by Latvia government in December 2022, and it is available in publicity and translated in English. The main goals are being steadily assured: 1) Meaningful and coordinated participation of Latvia at CERN in the Associate Member state status; 2) To become Full Member state within 2-3 years. Participation in all parts at CERN it goes well with State priorities in education, science, economic development and R&D. It was mentioned that human resources, available financial instrument are needed. The Consortium (RTU+UL) was presented in the CMS and MEDICIS experiments. University of Latvia activities in AEGIS and ISOLDE experiments, participation of the RTU in CERN accelerator technology projects (FCC, IMCC, NIMMS, IFAST, HITRIplus) were presented. It was mentioned that Latvia is proud of ILO representative Alise Pika-Ozola. CERN-Latvia Doctoral Programme, Technical Students programme, Summer Student Programme, Internship at CERN, participation in CERN Graduate Programmes, and CERN Staff have been counted and presented. Outreach and annual activities related to CERN were fully paid by Latvia. CERN Latvia (stakeholders) Group and close link with Latvian staff at CERN will be held in April 2024 at CERN. It was mentioned that thanks to CBG the joint doctoral study programme “Particle Physics and Accelerator Technologies” by RTU and LU up and running very well. Institute of Particle Physics and Accelerator Technologies up and running as well. To take away messages were presented: Latvia is reliable and honest partner of CERN. CERN – Latvia membership was and is a very good deed. Latvia has delivering tangible contribution to the CERN scientific programme. Latvia is ready to take the next step – to become full member of CERN. The inauguration of the TIER2 Center will take part in 4-5 of June this year.

LITHUANIA – Prof. Ramūnas Aleksiejūnas presented the Lithuanian Consortium for Particle Physics (LCPP), which is recognizing a need for wider inclusion of scientists and better coordination of CERN-related activities, three universities – Vilnius University, Kaunas University of technology, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences – established in 2022. In 2024, Lithuanian Energy Institute joins the LCPP. Currently, LCPP includes 11 scientific groups with more than 40 researchers. Openness for all scientists working with CERN is among the key principles of LCPP. A new scientific group for LHCb data analysis is to be established in LCPP. The International Advisory Board members of LCPP are Christoph Schafer, Tadeusz Lesiak, Susanne Kuehn, Maxim Titov, and Marco Gersabeck.

8. **Baltic ILO activities and industrial engagement, and news from ILO forum**

The annual 2023 report was presented by Alise Pika-Ozola. The procurement rules are changing – the draft of white paper was presented to ILO’s: the procurement procedure thresholds will be raised; the limited tendering will be extended; the Country to be considered well-balanced if there

is no change to place new orders. Procurement Department aims to produce white paper for Finance committee in June 2024. Big Science Business Forum will be on 1-4th of October 2024 Trieste, Italy. The suggestion to Lithuania to be considered to attend and provide an introduction. If you are a supplier and want to use a CERN logo, you should apply for it. CERN's annual balance of budget improves after revision and deficit decreased. The FCC Feasibility study was discussed as well at Council. CERN published knowledge transfer highlights from 2023. CERN's new digital report "Accelerating Innovation Through Partnerships" are available: <https://report2023-kt.web.cern.ch/>

Indrė Balčiūnaitė and Milda Vilčinskaitė from Innovation Agency of Lithuania. The Innovation Agency of Lithuania, which was built in April 2022, was presented. The Lithuanian laser industry plays a major role in the world. Deep Tech startups (about 60) are already very successfully operating. Lithuanian Government support for R&D of startups. Flagships events were presented as well: Startupfair; Miltec; Life Science Baltic – a unique Forum which will be in 2025.

9. **Feedback from March 2024 CERN Council, Scientific Policy, Finance Committees** - by Council representatives. Mario Kadastik mentioned that Estonia will become a full member of CERN. The LHC and FCC were presented like a very important point. The big concern in Finance Council was with Russians. Brazil, Ireland, Chile are going to full membership at CERN. Toms Torims mentioned about the election of the next director of CERN; the participation in FCC experiment should be considered for the Baltic countries as well. Andrius Juodagalvis was mentioned that some rules should be established how the money will be distributing for current members.

10. **Report of CBG Working Group "Advanced Particle Therapy Center for the Baltic States"**

As convener of Working Group Prof. Toms Torims provide with update on the on-going activities. Toms Torims mentioned that he is speaking from CERN perspectives as Maurizio Vretenar from CERN could not attend at CBG General Meeting. There is greatest interest from CERN that one partner per Baltic country could take part in project EIC Pathfinder proposal preparation. The proposal preparation of project has been started and will be managed by CERN. An update on the on-going activities and Feasibility study of Advanced Particle Therapy Centre for the Baltic States were presented by Toms Torims. The two-year Feasibility study project with three pillars were presented by Kristaps Palskis (1st pillar: Technological aspects" Technological integration for a facility in the Baltic States"), Erika Korobeinikova (2nd pillar: **Clinical case and epidemiology**), and Sergei Nazarenko from TalTech, Estonia (3rd pillar: Economical aspects and business plan).

11. **Report of CBG Study Programme Working Group.**

Dr. Karlis Dreimanis informs that in doctoral study programme have 14 PhD students: 3 students are first year, 4 students are second year, 6 students are third year, and 1 student is fourth year in HE P& atomic physics and accelerator technologies & medical physics study fields. The aim to recruit 2+2 students for the academic year 2024/25; advertisement to be posted on inspirehep.net within a month.

"We are trying to work towards implementing a new Master's level study program, that would be truly Baltic"- said Karlis Dreimanis. This through initiative was done running a project called Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM) with a Consortium of five Baltic Universities. Aims of the master's program itself is to train and develop capacity, people in develop capacity in modern fundamental physics and in technologies that are related to these; to develop joint mechanisms for admissions, evaluation, award of the degree, dissemination & communication mechanisms; to develop the above mechanisms to be fully in line with the requirements for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) calls; to develop a curriculum that would be highly

competitive & desirable internationally (incl. to Western European students). The Consortium already agreed on a single joint Master's diploma. The deadline of EMDM deliverables is the end of May 2024. The submission of proposal of European Joint Master programme is February 2025.

12. An update on the **CERN Baltic School of High-Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies (BSHEPAT'24)** – LATVIA, Kuldiga, August 5–9, 2024 was given by Kalis Dreimanis. It was mentioned that the School is co-organized by the CERN Baltic Group, a collaboration of fourteen higher education and research institutions in the Baltic states, and by COST Action CA22130 - COMETA (*COMprehensive Multiboson Experiment-Theory Action-COMETA*). The budget seems to be attainable from COMETA. The announcement of School will be ready within 2-3 weeks; almost all lecturers have given at least a “tentative” yes. The social programme will be a visit to the Irbene radio telescope.
13. An update on the **CERN Baltic Group Conference** - ESTONIA, Tallinn, October 15-17, 2024 was given by Prof. Ants Koel and Prof. Fjodor Sergejev. The host institution of Conference will be Tallinn University of Technology. The organizing and scientific committees already planned and are going to have a meeting very soon.
14. **Review of CBG Work Programme and Objectives for 2024-2025.** The elected Chairperson Brigita Abakevičienė and Deputy of Chairperson of the CBG presented the CBG Work programme and objectives for 2024-2025: to increase the visibility and recognisability of the CBG; to support the existing CBG events (School and Conference); to investigate developing other joint events; to jointly organize the International Masterclasses in the Baltic States; investigate the revitalization of the “Science and Technology” working group; to continue a periodic Coordination Team Meetings (CTM). It was agreed that the next CTM will be on 26th of April 2024.

CBG agreed to organise the next in-person General Meeting during CERN Baltic Group Conference in Tallinn, Estonia on 17-18th of October 2024.

March 22, 2024
By CBG Chairperson
brigita.abakeviciene@ktu.lt

Participants List of the 13th CERN Baltic Group General Meeting

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The Representatives of CBG Members with the voting rights

Prof. Ants Koel – Chairman of the CBG

1. Dr. Brigita Abakevičienė, Kaunas University of Technology, LT – Deputy of Chair of the CBG
2. Prof. Fjodor Sergejev, Tallinn University of Technology, EE
3. Prof. Mario Kadastik, National Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics, EE
4. Prof. Veronika Zadin, University of Tartu, EE (*remotely*)
5. Prof. Toms Torims (*mandate from University of Latvia*)
6. Dr. Karlis Dreimanis, Riga Technical University, LV
7. Dr. Jevgenijs Proskurins, Riga Stradins University, LV
8. Dr. Inese Gavarane, Daugavpils University, LV (*remotely*)
9. Dr. Karina Skirmante, Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, LV (*remotely*)
10. Dr. Gediminas Stankūnas, Lithuanian Energy Institute, LT
11. Dr. Augustinas Stepšys, Vytautas Magnus University, LT (*by delegation*)
12. Dr. Jonas Venius, National Cancer Institute, LT
13. Dr. Aurelijus Rinkevičius, Vilnius University, LT
14. Dr. Erika Korobeinikova, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, LT

Other contributors invited by Members

1. Prof. Emmanuel Tsesmelis, CERN
2. Prof. Christoph Schafer, CERN
3. Dr. Andrius Juodagalvis, Vilnius University, LT
4. Prof. Ramūnas Aleksiejūnas, Vilnius University, LT
5. Milda Vilčinskaitė, Innovation agency, LT
6. Indrė Balčiūnaitė, Innovation agency, LT
7. Alise Pīka-Ozola, Industrial Liaison Officer (ILO) for Latvia at CERN
8. Giedrė Urkė, Kaunas University of Technology, LT
9. Kristaps Palskis, Riga Technical University, LV
10. Andris Ratkus, Riga Technical University, LV
11. Gundega Selga Horste, Riga Technical University, LV (*remotely*)
12. Sergei Nazarenko, Tallinn University of Technology, EE (*remotely*)
13. Diana Adlienė, Kaunas University of Technology, LT (*remotely*)
14. Mindaugas Šarpis, Vilnius University, LT (*remotely*)
15. Gints Jasmonts, Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, LV (*remotely*)