



5th CERN Baltic Group General Meeting

Remotely, 7th of April 2020

Agenda and supporting documents are available at
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/901922/>

Summary of the meeting

1. Welcome address to the remote General Meeting participants by Prof. Toms Torims, RTU.
2. Dr. Christoph Schaefer, CERN, expresses full support to the CBG activities and informs the participants about the current situation at CERN.
3. Agenda is adopted with no additional points. Participants of the meeting are listed in Annex I.
4. The Chairman reminds of the overall objectives and the general principles of the CBG and outlines **the objectives** and discussion points for this meeting:
 - to update and openly exchange information among the partners;
 - to report on CBG activities since the last General Meeting;
 - to elect a Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the CBG for the next two-year term;
 - to report on Estonia's, Lithuania's and Latvia's - state-of-play vis-a-vis CERN;
 - to discuss the collaboration of CBG Members within the CMS experiment;
 - to discuss the industry engagement in CERN, CMS and CBG activities;
 - to report and to discuss the status of the Baltic School of High-Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies – Aug 2020, Latvia;
 - to report the status of the CBG Study Programme by the Working Group;
 - review of the CBG Work Programme and the objectives for 2020-2021.

The Chairman reports on the CBG work, policy actions, CMS actions, coordination actions, study programme actions and industry engagement activities carried out since the last General Meeting in autumn 2019:

- Coordination of the Baltic research institutions' activities with respect to CERN and CERN-related collaborations and experiments;
- Continuation of strengthening and development of Baltic high-energy physics community;
- Fostering the cooperation between CERN and local industry in the Baltic States and to generate new opportunities via joint research projects and contacts;
- Development of the Baltic international multidisciplinary masters/doctoral level study programme in high-energy physics and accelerator technologies.

It is noted that great progress has been made with regards to the above activities; in

particular, regarding the work towards the consolidation and strengthening of **the Baltic high-energy physics community**.

4. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman elections; Prof. Toms Torims (RTU, LV) and Dr. Mario Kadastik (NICPB, EE) are re-elected as the Chairman as the Deputy Chairman, respectively, for a second two-year term, by a majority vote of the CBG representatives in accordance with the MoU.

5. Each country presents their progress regarding CERN-related activities since the last CBG Meeting and the current state-of-play.

Estonia: is in the final process of signature stage joining CERN in the capacity of an Associate Member State in the pre-stage to the full membership in 2021. Estonia is continuing its activities within the CMS experiment and other CERN collaborations, for instance, recently the Estonian researchers are exploring the possibilities of joining the CLOUD experiment. Dr. Mario Kadastik informs that Estonia has selected an ILO for CERN – Ms. Triin Kangro.

Lithuania: continues its engagement in the activities of the CMS experiment with continuing interest in CMS tracker system. Lithuania is participating in an ATTRACT programme project SCINTIGLASS, and the Horizon 2020 project Aida++. National Programme for CERN activities is supported by the Ministry of Education and Science and the Academy of Science. New team of VU is set for material science research activities. New CERN staff members of Lithuanian nationality are being appointed. The ILO for Lithuania is Mr. Mantas Vilys, assisted by Mr. Adomas Jelinskas. Lithuanian CERN BIC has received 20 applicants and the country is approaching an associate membership saturation: 2019 industrial return ~120k out of 300 with two-fold increase with respect to 2018. The CERN-Lithuania liaison committee meeting took place on March 9¹.

Latvia: has submitted to the CERN Council its application for the Associate Membership along with comprehensive Application Questionnaire in February 2020. This was an agenda point of the CERN March council; however, it was not discussed formally, due to the limited duration of the virtual meeting. There is no evidence of any opposition from the CERN Member States regarding Latvia's Associate membership to CERN. It is expected that June council will mandate a CERN Task Force for Latvia. Thus, Latvian Government is aspiring to join the CERN family as Associate Member State in 2021, as scheduled.

The president of Latvia visited CERN in January 2020, followed by the visit of the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Science in February. There is a full political, administrative and policy support towards the Latvian membership to CERN by all stakeholders.

The state research programme in high-energy physics and accelerator technologies, totalling 900 000 EUR, has been approved for 2020-2023.

CERN Latvia Stakeholders Group is up-and-running. The scheduled group meeting at CERN has been postponed to October from May 2020. A new social engagement activity aimed at promoting Latvian women in science is to be initiated in the second half of the year. The First Lady of Latvia has agreed to be the patroness of the initiative.

The RTU Centre of High-Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies is continuing its activities as a CERN National Contact point, with the main task to strengthen the

¹ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/895615/>

high-energy physics community and capacity in Latvia. It is done via the dedicated Government supported action plan.

Latvia is represented in the CMS collaboration with four full-time RTU scientists at CERN since January 2020. Latvia is successfully building-up its federative Tier2 computing facility for the CMS experiment. Latvia is starting to engage in the MEDICIS activities and is on the way to join this collaboration.

6. Collaboration of the CBG members within the CMS activities is discussed - see relevant decisions below.
7. Industry engagement in the CBG activities and the CMS experiment is discussed - see relevant decisions below.
8. Dr. Kārlis Dreimanis (RTU, LV) reports on the status of the Baltic School of High-Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies². CBG Partners shall participate with their students - see decisions below.
9. Prof. Mārcis Auziņš (UL, LV) and Dr. Kārlis Dreimanis provide a status report on the CBG Study Programme. Ms. Silva Vītola (RTU, LV), the Study Programme Coordinator, has started her duties (since March 2020) facilitating the development of doctoral study programme in high-energy physics and accelerator technologies. The main activities of the study programme are presented, such as the preparation of the first general agreement between RTU and UL, along with the setting-up the Working Group, encompassing representatives of the nominated CBG members. The next steps are agreed upon; these are the preparation of the programme documents for licensing, programme approbation and its accreditation. Further actions and timeline are agreed during the discussion – see decisions below.
10. The review of the CBG Work Programme and objectives for 2020-2021 are discussed – see decisions below.
11. The Chairman of the CBG provides a summary of the meeting and its decisions - no comments are made.

The following decisions have been taken and further actions collegially agreed during the meeting:

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

1. CBG shall continue to facilitate the institutional integration of the Baltic States in CERN and to support research and industrial participation in CERN projects, experiments and collaborations - thus fully benefiting from the collaboration with CERN;
2. Maintain a close collaboration with **the Baltic Assembly**, by seeking Parliamentary support at a Baltic level for the CERN related activities. *Inter alia*, to obtain a clear support of the Baltic Assembly to secure the CERN-targeted national funding and policy schemes via the relevant Ministries in Baltic States;
3. Encourage the exploration of administrative and financial EU/National means available for the CBG partner institution integration in CERN;
4. Maximise the impact and visibility of the CBG within CERN and other EU labs (e.g. via **TIARA Consortium**);

² <https://indico.cern.ch/event/903877/>

5. Continuing to build-on the momentum and to explore the Nordic dimension and possibility of the CBG partner institution collaboration with the Scandinavian and Polish research institutions and labs;
6. Invite new partner institutions from the Baltic States to join the CBG; e.g. Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) and Vytautas Magnus University;
7. Continue with the development of the high-energy physics and accelerator technologies Study Programme at the masters' level in close cooperation with CERN and the relevant National authorities;
8. Reinforce the industry engagement with the CBG, crucial to the success of the collaboration with CERN;
9. Benefit from a coordinated collaboration of the CBG within the CMS experiment. *Inter alia*: in a way of coordinated in-kind contributions of the Baltic States to this experiment;
10. Enhance the CBG partners' engagement in the CERN-coordinated H2020 projects;
11. Maintain a high-efficiency and collegiality of the CBG Technical Coordination Team and the CBG Secretariat.

II. CMS actions

12. **CBG CMS Working Group convenor** will call for a dedicated Group meeting³ within 1 month in order to discuss:
 - partner institutions' CMS activities;
 - **Tier2** status and the on-going work in Latvia;
 - collaboration and alignment of efforts for the **CMS Phase 2 upgrade**;
 - nomination of a CBG representative to the **CMS Computing Resources Board**;
 - adaptation of the joint strategy for further actions.

III. Industry engagement Activities

13. To invite ILOs of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia (when appointed) to participate in the CBG General Meetings and to strongly engage in the CBG industry group activities. Convenor of this Group shall (remain) be the institutional representative of one of the partner institutions of CBG.
14. The CBG industry group shall continue with the **mapping of CERN-relevant industries** in Baltic States and report on the progress within the next General Meetings as a standing agenda point.
15. The **CERN Industry Road Show in three Baltic States** and the **Baltic Industry days at CERN** are to be organised as deemed possible (currently on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions).

IV. Baltic School of High-Energy Physics and Accelerator Technologies actions

16. Thanks to active work of Dr. Dreimanis, Dr. Kadastik and Dr. Juodagalvis, the COST Action funding is obtained for this activity. CBG agreed to go-ahead with the school (scheduled for 10-14 August 2020) and to closely monitor the Covid-19 caused constrains and impacts to this event.
17. To approve the School poster and the indico registration page content. Each partner institution may appoint and register 2 priority-students to this school. In total place for 16 students from CBG partner institutions to be reserved. The participation fee for students from partner institutions will be calculated when registration will be closed, and budget will be settled. School shall be open to other applicants (within the max participant number of 60 students) with agreed fee of 450 EUR.
18. To issue a Certificate of Attendance to the fully participating students. Relevant home institutions will be able to allocate an agreed amount of ECTS to their students.

³ <https://indico.cern.ch/event/913568/> meeting was held on 7 May 2020

19. Taking into account that CERN Summer Student Programme for 2020 is cancelled, one of the viable alternatives is to offer for nominated students from the CBG partner institutions an individual programme at CERN, as practical continuation of the Baltic School training in the Autumn-Winter season of 2020/21 - under the CERN Baltic Internship initiative. The Chairman was mandated to convey this information to the CERN management to reach an agreement.

V. Study programme Actions - the development of the Baltic international multidisciplinary masters/doctoral level study programme in high-energy physics and accelerator technologies.

20. To acknowledge a good progress in the development of the doctoral study programme under the auspices of RTU/UL and with a direct financial support by the Ministry of Education and Science via an EU co-financed national programme. The list of nominated experts from partner institutions shall be updated
21. CBG acknowledges that this study programme is a strategic activity for the entire Baltic region and is one of the main objectives of the CBG. CBG stresses the importance of a masters' level curricula, which shall be developed subsequently to the doctoral programme.
22. A dedicated expert **meeting of the CBG Study Programme group** shall be organized upon the earliest convenience.
23. The study programme shall remain a permanent agenda point in the CBG General Meeting agenda.

CBG partners agreed to organise the **next General Meeting**, in October 2020 in Latvia under the auspices of UL.

08.05.2020
By CBG Secretariat
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Participants of the **5th CERN Baltic Group General Meeting**
Remotely, 7th of April 2020

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, Conveyor of the CBG Industry Group
3. Prof. Mārcis Auziņš, UL– Conveyor of the CBG Study Programme Group
4. Dr. Aurelijus Rinkevicius, VU – Conveyor of the CBG CMS group
5. Prof. Brigita Abakevičienė, KTU
6. Prof. Fjodor Sergejev, TalTech (by delegation from Prof. Renno Veinthal)
7. Dr. Jevgenijs Proskurins, RSU
8. Dr. Laur Järv, UT (by delegation from Prof. Marco Kirm)

The Representatives of CERN

9. Dr. Christoph Schaefer

Other contributors designated by Members

10. Dr. Andrius Juodagalvis, VU
11. Dr. Thomas Gajdosik, VU
12. Mr. Adomas Jelinskas, ILO for Lithuania
13. Dr. Kalvis Kravalis, UL/RTU
14. Dr. Kārlis Dreimanis, RTU
15. Ms. Silva Vītola, RTU

CBG Secretariat

16. Ms. Aija Rūse, RTU
17. Ms. Elīna Grate, RTU