

Meeting of Baltic and Nordic Academies, 13 June 2019, Helsinki



Experience and new ideas for collaboration
of the academies of the Baltic-Nordic region
from the point of view of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences
Jūras Banys, President of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

Baltic and Nordic academies of sciences are academies of personalities. Their members cooperate on various levels:

- National academies
- Universities and research institutions, e.g., NOVA-BOVA cooperation network between Nordic and Baltic Veterinary, Forestry and Agricultural universities
- Scientific organizations and associations, e.g., Nordic association for agricultural science NJF
- Research projects and personal communication

Cooperation agreements between the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and Baltic and Nordic academies. Exchange visits made under these agreements (these statistics do not include the visits of the academies' foreign members)

Visits from Baltic and Nordic countries to Lithuania (visits /days)	2016	2017	2018	2019
Academy of Finland	-	-	-	-
Estonian Academy of Sciences	1 / 15	6 /36	6 / 29	2/ 20
Latvian Academy of Sciences	13 / 40	9 /38	14 / 52	2 / 9
Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters	-	-	-	-
Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	-	-	-	-
Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry	-	-	-	
Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities	-	-	-	1 /14

Foreign members of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

Country		Foreign members of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences
Finland		
Estonia	1	Richard Villems
Latvia	4	Ojārs Spārītis, Jānis Stradiņš , Baiba Rivža, Voldemārs Strīkis
Norway	1	Jan-Erik Solheim
Sweden	7	Sven Erik Ekdahl, Sune Roland Svanberg, Ivan Karl-Eric Magnusson, Eva Maria Severinson, Rimvydas Vasaitis, Sten Nilsson, Hans G. Forsberg
Iceland	1	Karl Skirnisson
Total	14	

Lithuanian academicians elected as foreign members of Baltic and Nordic academies of sciences

Technology Academy Finland	1	Jurgis Vilemas
Estonian Academy of Sciences		
Latvian Academy of Sciences	6	Bonifacas Stundžia, Jūras Banys, Raimondas Čiegis, Valdemaras Razumas, Benediktas Juodka, Zenonas Dabkevičius
Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters		
Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry	4	Zenonas Dabkevičius, Henrikas Žilinskas, Albinas Kusta, Leonardas Kairiūkštis
Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences	3	Arvydas Janulaitis, Vytautas Ostaševičius Jurgis Vilemas
Total	14	

On 28 June 1990, in Tallinn, Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian academies of sciences signed a Joint Communiqué on Cooperation.

In 1999, the tradition of Baltic conferences on intellectual co-operation was revived with the academies of sciences organising bi-annual conferences in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland.

The themes and issues addressed at the conferences held during the recent decade include:

The role of small countries in the European research area (Tallinn, 2013)

Activities of academies of sciences in initiating and stimulating research and innovation (Riga, 2015)

Research-based teacher training in the Baltic region (Helsinki, 2017)

Gene research in the Baltic region and its implications (Vilnius, 2019)



Some examples of Baltic-Nordic research co-operation

- Prof. Gediminas Valkiūnas was a Vice-President of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology from 2003 to 2009, and Vaidas Palinauskas, a member of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, has been a Vice-President of the society since 2017.
- In 2018, an International Bioanalysis Summer School for doctoral students and young scientists was organised in Uppsala (Sweden) by Prof. Audrius Sigitas Maruška and Prof. Jonas Bergquist.
- In May 2018, the 14th Baltic Congress of Laboratory Medicine was organised by Prof. Zita Aušrelė Kučinskienė and Prof. Vaidutis Kučinskas.
- Prof. Zenonas Norkus participated at the Baltic States Contact Meeting *Upgrade 2018* at the Embassy of Finland in Vilnius.
- From 2016 to 2018, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences organised annual international conferences 'Young Scientists for Advance of Agriculture'. These conferences were attended by young scientists from Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian institutions of higher education and research.



L'ORÉAL -UNESCO fellowships *For Women in Science*

Decisions made together with Academies of Sciences

Fellowships for Lithuanian young scientists:

2017 1 post-doctoral scientist – Dr. Urtė Neniškytė*

2018 1 post-doctoral scientist – Dr. Giedrė Motuzaitė Matuzevičiūtė

2019 1 post-doctoral scientist – Dr. Jurgita Skiecevičienė

1 doctoral candidate – Milda Alksnė

In **2019**, Dr Urtė Neniškytė received the 2019 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Rising Talents award.



Ideas and suggestions for future collaboration of the academies in the Baltic - Nordic region

- To intensify cooperation between Young Academies (YA). The Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences intends to organise a European/Baltic-Nordic conference of YAs in Lithuania in 2020.
- To continue and expand Baltic (and Nordic) specialized 'Young Scientist' conferences in the fields of agriculture, nature, informatics etc. research
- To continue Baltic conferences on intellectual co-operation. The academies of the three Baltic countries, Finland, Poland, and the Hamburg Academy have been active participants at these conferences, and we are looking forward to a more visible presence of the academies of Norway, Sweden and Denmark.
- To discuss the content and forms of cooperation agreements between the Baltic and the Nordic academies: exchange of visits, accommodation, and daily allowances, etc.
- To exchange important decisions and resolutions adopted by the academies of sciences on such important issues of science policy, research and innovation as genome editing, vaccines, climate change, gas emissions, energy, and cyber security. Only harmonisation of the academies' decisions can result in favourable solutions for the EU and for their own countries.