



Minutes of the
21st Meeting of the
Baltic Earth Science Steering Group (BESSG)
and
Baltic Earth Senior Advisory Board (BESAB)

12 May 2024
Hotel Jūrmala Spa,
Jūrmala, Latvia

Edited by
Marcus Reckermann

Participants at the 21st Baltic Earth Science Steering Group (BESSG) meeting and Baltic Earth Senior Advisory Board (BESAB) meeting

Last name	First name	Affiliation	Function
Aigars	Juris	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology, Riga, Latvia	BESSG member
Andrusaitis	Andris	Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology, Riga, Latvia	BESAB member, chair
Dailidienė	Inga	Marine Research Institute, Klaipeda University, Lithuania	BESSG member
Elken	Jüri	TalTech, Tallinn, Estonia	BESAB member
Post	Piia	Institute of Physics, University of Tartu, Estonia	BESSG member
Hyytiäinen	Kari	University of Helsinki, Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science	BESSG member
Kulinski	Karol	Institute of Oceanology IO-PAN, Sopot, Poland	BESSG member, vice chair
Lips	Urmas	TalTech, Tallinn, Estonia	BESSG member
Meier	Markus	Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde, Germany	BESSG member, chair
Myrberg	Kai	Finnish Environment Institute SYKE	BESSG member
Parnell	Kevin	Laboratory of Wave Engineering: Department of Cybernetics, TUTech, Tallinn, Estonia	BESSG member
Reckermann	Marcus	International Baltic Earth Secretariat at Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon, Germany	IBES, BESSG member
Rehder	Gregor	Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde, Germany	BESSG member
Sagan	Slawomir	Institute of Oceanology IO-PAN, Sopot, Poland	BESAB member
Soomere	Tarmo	TalTech, Estonia	BESSG member
Tuomi	Laura	Marine Research Unit Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland	BESSG member
Weisse	Ralf	Institute of Coastal Research Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon, Germany	BESSG member



From left to right: Kari Hyytiäinen, Kevin Parnell, Gregor Rehder, Juris Aigars, Marcus Reckermann, Markus Meier, Karol Kulinski, Slawomir Sagan, Kai Myrberg, Tarmo Soomere, Laura Tuomi, Ralf Weisse, Piia Post and Jüri Elken. Not on the photo, but present: Andris Andrusaitis, Inga Dailidienė, Urmas Lips.

Summary of Decisions and Action Items

Decisions

- Marcus Reckermann announced to resign from the International Baltic Earth Secretariat as of 28 February 2025
- It was agreed keep the “senior” in the name “Baltic Earth Senior Advisory Board” as it refers to status and not age.
- It was agreed to postpone the Baltic Earth-GEWEX joint GHP Conference and GHP meeting until further notice due to the uncertainties related to the retirement of M. Reckermann.
- The date for the 22nd BESSG meeting will be established by a Doodle call before the summer break.

Action Items

- A new **call for a second Young Scientist in the BESSG**, to be published in 2025
- BESSG members whose 3-year term has expired, shall undergo a **brief self-assessment if they would like to renew the term for another 3 years**. A simple questionnaire will be drafted by the Chairs and Secretariat, and sent to members, after the next (22nd) BESSG meeting, to be presented at the 23rd BESSG meeting.
- The deadline for the **1st draft contributions to the updated Baltic Earth Science Plan 2024 is now 21 June 2024. Contributors who have not yet submitted a draft, are asked to do so by this date (before the summer break)**. After the summer break (30 September 2024), the contributions will be assembled and complemented with introductory/supplementary text by the Writing Team, and sent out for internal review. A round of external reviews will follow.
- Inga Dailidienė agreed to organize this this at Klaipeda University. She will be supported by the Secretariat and by previous hosts of the Winter School, in organizing, content and recruitment of potential lecturers.
- The GEWEX-GHP Meeting in 2024 will be held in Sapporo, Japan. Markus Meier and Marcus Reckermann will participate online and represent Baltic Earth, as well as Kari Hyytiäinen who will be there in person.

Introduction

The 21st Baltic Earth Science Steering Group Meeting was a half day on-site meeting at the Hotel Jūrmala Spa, the site of the 5th Baltic Earth Conference which took place on 13-17 May 2024. Both BESSG and BESAB members were invited to this meeting.

Markus Meier, chairman of BESSG, welcomed all participants to the meeting. Then there was a short introductory round for a short self-introduction of all participants.

TOP 1: Organizational Issues

1.1 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

1.2 Approval of the previous 20th Baltic Earth SSG meeting minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

1.3 Review of previous Baltic Earth SSG meeting action items

- Lorenzo Minola and Mike Elliott were approved as new BESSG and BESAB members, respectively;
- A new regular online, public Baltic Earth scientific Colloquium was established; first Mondays of the month in the months February, April, June, October and December, at 15:00 CET; 16:00 EET. As of this meeting, there had been already 3 colloquia. <https://baltic.earth/colloquiums>
- The updated timeline for the Science Plan 2024 was not kept; only 3 contributions were available at this meeting. A new timeline was established at the meeting (see below).

1.4 Membership issues

- [Marcus Reckermann announced to resign from the International Baltic Earth Secretariat](#); he agreed to remain in the BESSG until the date of his retirement on 28 February 2025.
- Markus Meier proposed a [new call for a second Young Scientist in the SSG, to be published in 2025](#) (see 1.6.)
- The 3 year-term of membership in the SSG and SAB will need to be assessed, and members will be asked for a brief [self-assessment](#) if they would like to renew the term for another 3 years. A simple [questionnaire shall be drafted by the Chairs and Secretariat, and sent to members, before the next BESSG meeting](#).

1.5 Advisory Board issues

- The question arose whether to change or change not the name of the Baltic Earth Senior Advisory Board. It had earlier been noted that not all SAB members have reached a “senior” age. Still, it was agreed that the “senior” refers to the status and not the age, so it will be kept in the name “Baltic Earth Senior Advisory Board”.
- The SAB was called by SSG to give recommendations on the issue of the continuation of an International Baltic Earth Secretariat, related to the retirement of M. Reckermann. An extraordinary meeting of SAB members was arranged.

1.6 Young Baltic Earth Scientists issues

- Markus Meier proposed a **new call for a second Young Scientist in the SSG, to be published in 2025**. In this aspect, it was discussed to encourage Baltic Earth Young Scientist to self-organize a colloquium to discuss Baltic Earth issues and to discuss their MSc/PhD and research projects among their peers, to eliminate the dominance of the elder scientists present.
- A Young Scientist event was self-organized by Baltic Earth Young Scientists at the conference in Jūrmala. 25 young scientists participated in the event.

TOP 2: Activities in 2023 and 2024

2.1. Baltic Earth activities in 2024

- Special Issue in *Oceanologia* on the 4th Baltic Earth Conference contributions: 26 (31) expressions of interest, submission deadline: 28 February 2023; no fees, open access and now finalized. https://www.iopan.gda.pl/oceanologia/66_1.html
Slawomir Sagan reported that *Oceanologia* will as of July 2024 no longer be an Elsevier Journal. The Journal is intended to be continued and supported by IO-PAN; the above named Special Issue, after considerable delay has already been posted on the IO-PAN *Oceanologia* website (see above).
- Special Issue in *Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Seas* on River mouth systems conference; in process; extended submission deadline: 30 Sept 2024. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/estuarine-coastal-and-shelf-science/about/call-for-papers#river-mouth-systems-and-marginal-seas-natural-drivers-and-human-impacts>
The status is that some papers are still in review, but soon expected to be finalized.
- Oxford Research Encyclopedia “Climate of the Baltic Sea”, overview papers; 21 published or in review/accepted; 25 more proposed closing by the end of the year https://oxfordre.com/climatescience/browse?t0=ORE_CLI:REFCLI036
Marcus Reckermann to resign from the duty of Topic Editor by end of February 2025
- Baltic Earth website and social media (young scientists Facebook page). <https://baltic.earth>
- Baltic Earth publication database updated and in new format. https://baltic.earth/publications/publication_library/index.php.en
- New Baltic Earth Scientific online Colloquium established; <https://baltic.earth/colloquiums>
- Ongoing EN Clime collaboration with HELCOM. Markus Meier reported that a revised version of the Baltic Sea Climate Change Fact Sheet will be available by the end of the years 2024. <https://helcom.fi>

2.2 Baltic Earth events in 2024

- Winter term 2023/2024 (October 2023 - January 2024): International master course on “Climate of the Earth System”, Rostock University
- 5th International Baltic Earth Winter School for Young Scientists on “**Earth System Science for the Baltic Sea Region**”, Sopot, Poland, 18-22 March 2024 <https://baltic.earth/winterschool2024>

- Baltic Earth Session at EGU 2024: **“Human and other drivers of change: Impacts and interlinkages in marginal seas and their coastal regions”**, Vienna, 14-19 April 2024 merged with two other sessions. Now joint session: **Interdisciplinary approaches to understanding processes in coastal regions and nature-based solutions**
<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU24/session/50355>
- **5th Baltic Earth Conference, 13-17 May 2024, Latvia**
107 participants were on site for the conference. Very good summer weather, extraordinarily good spirits, very good presentations and vivid scientific discussions contributed to another successful Baltic Earth Conference. A Young Scientist event was self-organized by Baltic Earth Young Scientists at the conference in Jūrmala. 25 young scientists participated in the event. A call for interest for a Special Issue in a good scientific journal is currently ongoing. A call for papers, a scientific summary and a selection of photo will be published on the conference website. <https://baltic.earth/jurmala2024>
- **9th GEWEX Open Science Conference, 7-12 July, Sapporo, Japan**
This conference brings together Earth system scientists from the whole globe. Main topics are: Water, Climate, Anthropocene; Extremes and Risks; Water, Energy and Carbon Processes. A participation of Baltic Earth scientists would be beneficial for the global visibility of our activities. The conference is preceded by the yearly GHP meeting, of which Baltic Earth is a part. **Markus Meier and Marcus Reckermann will participate online and represent Baltic Earth, as well as Kari Hyytiäinen who will be there in person.**
<https://www.gewexevents.org/meetings/gewex-osc2024/>
- **10th International Baltic Earth Summer School, Askö, 26 August – 2 September 2024**
<https://www.io-warnemuende.de/bess-2024.html>
- **2nd Baltic Earth Workshop on Multiple Drivers, Helsinki, 4-5 December 2024.**
This will be a 2-day, lunch-to-lunch workshop to set the scope and recruit interested scientists for the next phase of the Baltic Earth Research Topic “Multiple drivers for regional Earth system changes in the Baltic Sea region”. Website to be open soon:
<https://baltic.earth/multipledrivers2024/>
- Winter term 2024/2025 (October 2024 - January 2025):
International master course on “Climate of the Earth System”, Rostock University

2.3 Anticipated events in 2025

- **6th International Baltic Earth Winter School for Young Scientists on “Earth System Science for the Baltic Sea Region”.** **Inga Dailidienė agreed to organize this this at Klaipeda University,** in a tentative time slot 24-28 March 2025. It shall be soon announced and lecturers be recruited from the Baltic Earth community.
- **Baltic Sea Science Congress, 26 – 30 May 2025; Sopot, Poland.**
- **Baltic Earth-GEWEX joint GHP Conference and GHP meeting,** in the Baltic Earth region, open. It had been long planned to organize a joint conference for all the GEWEX activities under the umbrella of the GHP Hydroclimatology Panel (GHP). GHP comprises four different types of projects: (1) Regional Hydroclimate Projects (RHPs), aiming at understanding and predicting hydroclimatology in a specific region; (2) Crosscutting Projects (CCs), encouraging knowledge mobilization and global synthesis of knowledge around a specific topic; (3) Networks, maintaining collaboration and building capacity for activities relevant to GEWEX science; and (4) Global Data Centers, collecting and distributing hydrologically-relevant data. Baltic Earth has volunteered to act as host region, but **it was agreed to postpone this collaborative event until further notice due to the uncertainties related to the retirement of M. Reckermann.** <https://www.gewex.org>

TOP 3: Science Plan 2024 status

Continuing, updated and modified Research Topics (RT)

- RT on Land-Sea Biogeochemistry of the Baltic Sea – Linking observations and modelling (Karol Kulinski, Gregor Rehder)
- RT on Natural hazards and extreme events (Anna Rutgersson, Martin Stendel)
- RT on Sea Level Dynamics (Ralf Weisse, Kevin Parnell)
- RT on Multiple drivers of Earth system changes (Marcus Reckermann, Kari Hyytiäinen)
- RT on the "Baltic Sea Model Intercomparison Project" (Matthias Gröger)
- WG on Education (Markus Meier)

New and approved Research Topics

- RT on Teleconnections (Florian Börgel, Itzel Baroni)
- RT on Small-Scale Processes (Urmas Lips)
- RT on Philosophy (Anders Omstedt, Hans von Storch)
- RT on Marginal Seas (Jan Harff). [The new Baltic Earth Research Topic on Marginal Seas was approved at this meeting.](#)

The new numbering and sequence of the new RTs will be fixed by the Science Plan Writing Team.

As only 3 RTs and the WG on Education was able to deliver a contribution as of this meeting, the time plan was again modified.

The deadline for the 1st draft contributions to the updated Baltic Earth Science Plan 2024 is now 21 June 2024. After the summer break (30 September 2024), the contributions will be assembled and complemented with introductory/supplementary text by the Writing Team and sent out for internal review. The external review round will follow as internal reviews and revisions are finalized. As external reviewers, representatives from ICES, HELCOM, CORDEX, GEWEX or similar were suggested.

TOP 4: Any other issues

A discussion related to the future strategy of Baltic Earth, also in the light of the new geopolitical situation in the Baltic Sea region, was initiated, with open end. This will be continued at the next meetings.

Upon the end of the meeting, members shortly reported on Baltic Earth-related activities in their home countries.

The next BESSG meeting shall be online in November/December 2024/January 2025. [The date for the 22nd BESSG meeting will be established by a Doodle call before the summer break.](#)

1st Draft, 10 June 2024

Approved final version, 20 June 2024