

Research seminar and new projects at BALEX

During the autumn and winter, BALEX has emphasized its educational work, communications, new projects and public events. Three main research projects have been running in the period and a new international research seminar, which may be a forerunner to a more permanent course, will be held in Turku on 31 October 2017. BALEX has also actively been searching for new projects in the field of applied research. A project addressing the legal aspects of shipwrecks is under preparation and, as part of this, a seminar for state authorities and other interest groups who are working with shipwrecks in the Baltic Sea will be organized on 29-30 November 2017 in Helsinki, Finland, in co-operation with the Finnish Environment Institute Syke.

BALEX has received new funding from the foundation Merenkulun säätiö. We want to warmly thank them for enabling our extended functions! We have also hired a trainee, **Kati Heikkonen**, for the spring and the summer.

BALEX/Åbo Akademi University's part of the CompMon project has been brought to an end. The end report, addressing legal challenges linked to the enforcement of the new sulphur in fuel requirements for ships in the North Sea and Baltic Sea, is available on the Internet at www.compmon.eu/reports/.

A book on Baltic Sea law has been published in Finnish and another one, representing an outcome of the BaltReg project is currently being finalized. A short article about BALEX by Coordinator Saara Ilvessalo and Research Coordinator Henrik Ringbom was published in [Baltic Rim Economies](#). A column by Coordinator Saara Ilvessalo in Finnish about the Baltic Sea regulation was also published in Centrum Balticum's "[Pulloposti](#)".

In this newsletter, you will find more information about our past and upcoming events, education plans and research projects. Information about BALEX activities can even be found on Twitter, www.twitter.fi/BALEXStudies, and on our new website www.balex.fi.

BALEX FELLOWS

BALEX has invited a group of prominent persons from different backgrounds with whom BALEX is closely associated to form BALEX Fellows. Fellowship does not entail any obligations, but BALEX Fellows can bring their expertise, experience and contacts to the benefit of the BALEX network.

The following persons have been invited - and accepted - to be BALEX Fellows in the first round: Professor **Ellen Eftestøl-Wilhelmsson**, Helsinki University; Ministerial Counsellor **Lolan Eriksson**, Ministry of Transport and Communications of Finland; Professor Emeritus **Hannu Honka**, Åbo Akademi University; Research Professor **Timo Koivurova**, director of Arctic Centre, University of Lapland; Doctor **Marja Lehto**, International Law Commission member; Professor Emeritus **Ari Saarnilehto**, University of Turku; Professor **Björn Sandvik**, Åbo Akademi University; Minister **Christoffer Taxell**; and Professor Emeritus **Peter Wetterstein**, Åbo Akademi University.



BALEX Advisory Board and Steering Group meeting BALEX Fellows for lunch in Turku 9.5.

SHIPWRECK SEMINAR IN HELSINKI IN THE AUTUMN

A seminar with the topic **Wrecks as Environmental Risks: The Legal Framework** will be organized by BALEX and the Finnish Environment Institute Syke on 29-30 November 2017 in Helsinki, Finland. The focus is on clarifying the needs of international law, national legislation and the authorities in situations where the possibility to decontaminate (clean) wreck sites, and in particular the distribution of costs and responsibilities related to this, are problematic. The aim of the seminar is to shed light on the regulation concerning shipwrecks, highlight the existing problems and try to find solutions to them.

More information about the seminar can be found on [BALEX website](#). Please feel free to share the information!

EDUCATION

The BALEX logo, consisting of the word "BALEX" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a stylized graphic of three overlapping, wavy lines in shades of purple and pink below it. Underneath the graphic, the text "Baltic Area Legal Studies" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

**MULTIPLE LAYERS OF
REGULATION: FOCUS ON THE
BALTIC SEA REGION**
**One-day research seminar,
Turku 31 October 2017**
Call for papers

The plan for the first research seminar organized by BALEX has proceeded. BALEX international research seminar will be held on 31 October in Turku with the topic **Multiple Layers of Regulation: Focus on the Baltic Sea Region**. We are happy to announce that the keynote speakers for the seminar have been confirmed and other arrangements are well on their way.

The keynote lectures are open events and are given by top experts in multi-level governance and the Baltic Sea: **Marja Lehto**, Dr., Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Member of UN International Law Commission; **Mike Elliott**, Prof. Estuarine & Coastal Sciences, University of Hull, UK., Specialist in marine science-policy interactions; and **Anne Christine Brusendorff**, Dr., General Secretary, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

The seminar also calls for research papers on various fields relating to the multi-level governance and/or the Baltic Sea to be discussed in workshops. We encourage scholars at different career stages and from different disciplines to participate in the keynote lectures and to submit their papers.

More information on the seminar can be found on [BALEX website](#). Again, we warmly appreciate if you share the information to potentially interested participants!

RESEARCH PROJECTS

2017 is the main year for the BaltReg project, addressing legal issues related to the governance of the Baltic Sea, in particular the interaction between multiple layers of rules and the role of other non-legal steering mechanisms. The main event will be an international conference on 23-25 August in Korppoo, Finland, but the team will host a specific working group on these issues at the 13th Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference in Tampere on 6-8 June 2017.

The AAWA project on unmanned ships is coming to an end this year, but another Tekes-funded project 'Design for Value' (D4V) dealing with similar issues from a broader perspective has already started. Both the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi participate in D4V. While many of the reports made in the context of the AAWA project are not in the public domain, a summary of the legal challenge work is made in the 'white paper', which is available [here](#).

As was already mentioned, the outcome of the CompMon project is available on the project's website www.compmon.eu/reports.

PAST ACTIVITIES

Since the previous edition of this Newsletter, BALEX has taken part in several events and activities. Among other things, BALEX gave a presentation of its function at the European Glögg Event of the Schuman Society in December in Turku and BALEX experts were sharing their experiences in Baltic Sea Future congress in Stockholm on 6-7 March 2017.

The Finnish Maritime Law Association, chaired by Henrik Ringbom, organized a new 7 ECTS pro bono course on maritime law for the universities in Turku in November. The initiative was closely linked to BALEX and was very successful with the course being fully booked. The lecturers were practicing maritime lawyers and persons linked to Finnish universities. A presentation of BALEX was given to the course by Saara Ilvessalo.

A Finnish book on Maritime Law and Baltic Sea (“Merioikeus ja Itämeri”) by Henrik Ringbom and others and has been published and is available.

A list of publications with a close link to BALEX and its projects is available [on our website](#).

NEW IDEAS FOR COLLABORATION PROJECTS ARE WELCOMED

BALEX’s main idea is to become a hub to connect the researchers of and the experts in Baltic area legal matters and to connect this expertise with the concrete needs of the Baltic Sea region; its countries, regions and cities, students, officials, NGO’s and other players. BALEX is constantly looking for new research projects and is also willing to offer its legal expertise for assignments related to the Baltic Sea region and to participate with a legal perspective in on-going research projects. The expertise of BALEX and its actors can also be utilized as background information in news, external topical events and smaller research projects. BALEX warmly welcomes new associates, scientific partners and other partners in cooperation. Feel free to contact us with any ideas or suggestion!

With all inquiries related to BALEX and suggestions for collaboration, please contact our personnel!



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Wishing all BALEX collaborators a relaxing summer!

