



Linking maritime education with the changing job market for a new generation of Baltic Sea experts



Looking back on the Rostock Weekend Course Module

Kick-off for Generation BALT Supplementary Maritime Study Programme

Generation BALT has started its supplementary training programme for the maritime sector with the first weekend module towards 'Aquaculture, offshore wind energy and combined solutions'. The weekend course was held at the University of Rostock from 28.02. - 03.03.2013. 27 international students from the South Baltic Region were chosen among numerous applicants from Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden, and were invited to Rostock.

International, interdisciplinary and hands-on

During the four days in Rostock the participants were informed about recent developments and trends in the maritime sectors aquaculture, maritime technology and offshore energy. Scientific lectures were given by invited speakers from the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (Bremerhaven) as well as by professors and research assistants from the University of Rostock. The participants achieved knowledge on actual trends in mariculture, sustainable aquaculture farming (e.g. integrated multitrophic systems) and combined solutions with offshore wind energy facilities. Further, they were informed about recent innovations to produce energy offshore, and juridical as well as socio-economic aspects of using marine resources. This combined approach aimed at training and sensitise the participants in multidisciplinary thinking. In addition to the lectures, excursions to a local wind energy company and a closed aquaculture plant complemented the theoretical knowledge. Further, in hands-on exercises the students acquired new soft skills towards intercultural exchange, job application or working abroad and entrepreneurship.



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The Programme

Thursday, 28.02.2013



The official opening of the Generation Balt Study Programme and with that, of the weekend course module in Rostock took place in the International Guesthouse (IBZ). Prof. Gerhard Graf welcomes the participants, introduces the Department “Maritime Systems” and the EU-project ‘Generation BALT’, and summarizes the aim of the project and the study programme. Afterwards Prof. Bela Buck held an introductory lecture about multi-use concepts with the focus on aquaculture.

After dinner break, the participants attended a workshop towards intercultural exchange led by Sabine Brüser. This was a good opportunity for the participants to get in touch with each other and to exchange and share cultural specifics or peculiarities.



Friday, 01.03.2013

The morning lectures on the second day thematically focused on aquaculture. Lectures were given in course rooms of the Institute of Biological Sciences (Südstadt Campus). In his presentation, Dr. Adrian Bischoff-Lang gave insight into the history of aquaculture, its actual development and potential in Europe & the Baltic Sea, and common methods or technologies. Subsequently, Prof. Bela Buck talked about options to combine offshore wind energy production with aquaculture in Europe.

After the lectures the participants were invited to take part in an excursion either to a company involved in the production of wind mills for wind energy production or to an onshore aquaculture plant using industrial waste heat from biogas plants for fish production.

Having returned from the excursion, the participants were informed by Dr. Gerd Niedzwiedz about the work of professional scientific divers and their relevance for scientific research.



The lectures were followed by two workshops. Anja Klütsch led a workshop on job application in Germany, talking about particular preferences of German employers and training the participants how to write customised applications. Michael Lüdtkke led a workshop on networking and public relations, focussing on how to use social media for establishing business network and how to write press releases.



Saturday, 02.03.2013

The morning lectures on the third day thematically focused on offshore energy and maritime technologies. Lectures were given in course rooms of the Institute of Biological Sciences (Südstadt Campus). Dr. Sebastian Schreier talked about possibilities to produce energy offshore e.g., by using wind, waves or mineral fuels. His presentation was followed by a talk of Prof. Mathias Paschen, who gave insight into marine technologies and the potential for innovation, global interactions and challenges in this field for the Baltic Sea States. Afterwards, Dr. Gesche Krause presented socio-economic aspects of using marine resources.



In the afternoon, the participants learned from Dr. Stefan Forster how hydrodynamically active structures, such as platforms or fish cages, influence the structure of the sediment and with that, the organisms living in and on the sediment.



In an workshop towards Entrepreneurship at the IBZ, Kathrin Krüger-Borgwardt and Martin Setzkorn trained and assisted the participants by developing ideas to establish their own business.

The day closes with a joint dinner in cosy atmosphere in the restaurant LOM.

Sunday, 03.03.2013

On the last day of the weekend course the participants were asked to accomplish a SWOT-analysis towards a given scenario from aquaculture and production of energy in the South Baltic region. Divided into three groups they had to identify strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threads for combining energy production and aquaculture onshore, offshore and in the Oder estuary. Prof. Gerhard Graf, Dr. Stefan Forster and Dr. Frank Hansen assisted the groups. During the discussions. The session ended with presentations of the results of the analysis from the respective groups. After this session, the first of five weekend courses closed with a joint lunch and a farewell from the course organisers.

