

**Saint-Petersburg State Agrarian University  
The Baltic University  
University of Helsinki, Institute for Rural Research and Training  
Association for Assistance for Field Investigations and Rural Development**

**invite**

master students, PhD students, junior researchers, and practitioners in  
tourism, rural development, history, sociology, law science, agriculture,  
ecology to take part in the *International Summer Course*  
in St.-Petersburg – Leningrad region

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT – TOWARDS WELFARE IN RURAL AREAS**

**2 –14 July 2006**

The rural areas have a special significance in the life of a country. They are important for supply the food and forestry products as well as for people recreation and preservation of historical and cultural traditions. After fundamental reformation in Russia the situation in rural areas is far from sustainable: only few profitable agricultural enterprises and farms are left, the unemployment and poverty are very high, the young people move to the cities.

Obviously it is possible to use historical and natural potential of the rural areas for the development of new activities, including different types of tourism. In this context tourism seems to be one of the most promising activity because it does not require large initial investments and makes possible to organise new working places and consequently raise employment, recover social situation and, finally, reach welfare in rural areas.

During the first week the participants will have lectures on rural development, sociology, law science, ecology, etc. held by foreign and Russian lecturers. The participants will also meet with representatives from local administration and public organisations, go on excursions to historical and unique nature places in Saint-Petersburg and Leningrad region.

In the beginning of the second week the participants will be divided into several international groups that will work with projects on ways of tourism development in one of the counties of Leningrad region as an example.

Each participant will receive portfolio with lectures and additional information.

**Language of the course – English**

Note that the number of participants is limited! Apply as soon as possible!

For more detailed information about the course, please contact  
the Organizing Committee through Dr. Alexandra Izosimova  
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