



BOVA – 10 year experience of cooperation

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10 years in 6 lines

- 1991, “de-facto” recognition by Nordic country
- First contacts with Nordic countries in 1989-1991
- Establishment of BOVA (1996)
- NOVA-BA program 1996-2000
- K&A Wallenberg project 2001-2004
- Continuing on internal resources 2005-?

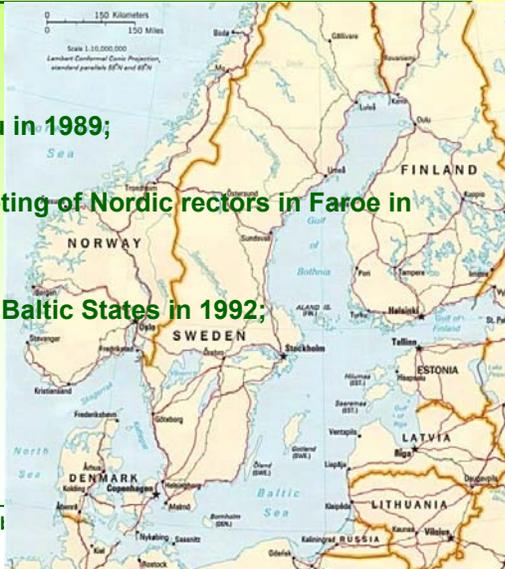
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First contacts



- **Contacts before NOVA:**

- **Marten Carlsson in Tartu in 1989;**
- **Baltic rectors in the meeting of Nordic rectors in Faroe in 1991;**
- **KSLA and SLU group in Baltic States in 1992;**



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Establishment of BOVA



- Nordic initiative willing to have a reliable partner already in 1993;
- Meeting of the Nordic and Baltic rectors in Kaunas in December 1995 (agreement to start NOVA-BA program)
- Meeting in Tartu in September 1996, establishment of BOVA University network



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NOVA-BA program



- led by NOVA
- concentrated on short international master courses at BOVA member universities.
- Near 50 courses and first real experience on tight international cooperation
- High initiative from Nordic countries, just few Baltic teachers involved to teaching
- Baltic students happy for new experiences – total enthusiasm



NOVA-BA results



	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
No. of courses	6	6	12	14	9	47
No. of teachers	24	26	44	51	32	177
No. of students	120	118	196	262	150	846

Source: Vilis Brukas, et al. *Joining Efforts for a Sustainable Development*, 2002

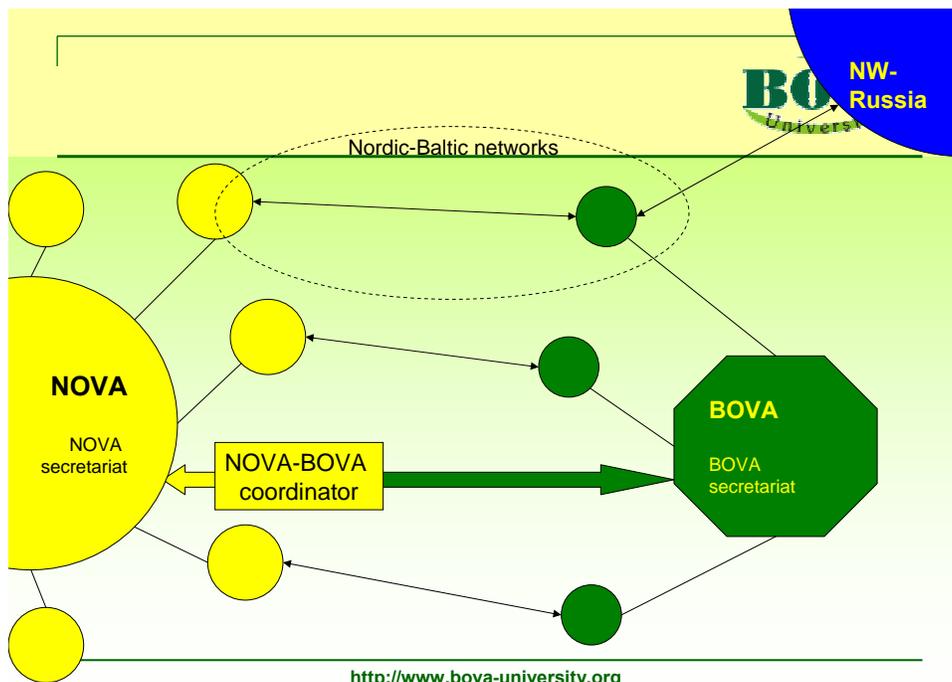
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Build up administrative capacities for the NOVA-BOVA cooperation (2002-2004).



- NOVA initiative
- Targeted mostly to Baltic side
- Euro 240,000 by the K&A Wallenberg Foundation
- Totally new administrative schema
- Focus not only to administration but also to academic activities

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Key activities in the BOVA in 2002-2004



- Short intensive master courses
- Baltic PhD student participation in NOVA PhD courses
- Survey of potentials and establishment of networks activities
- Development of BOVA visibility and information management, website
- “From top to bottom” approach in academic activities



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New trends and activities comparing with NOVA-BA (1)



- continuing with success story in short intensive master courses:
 - decreased enthusiasm of Nordic teachers observed and role of them diminished;
 - increasing awareness of Baltic teachers, first courses organized by totally Baltic teaching teams;
- extending the scope to building the networks with aim for continuous joint education

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New trends and activities comparing with NOVA-BA (2)



- Ambition for the use of ICT in joint education;
- Success story in collaboration with NOVA- mobility of Baltic PhD students to NOVA courses
- Permanent secretariat:
 - **keeping everyday activities**
 - **assuring information flow**

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Academic networks – key driving force



- Starting from 14 identified and initiated in 2002 →
- → 4 networks by the end of 2004:
 - **Agroecology and organic agriculture;** **LT-LŽŪU**
 - **Bioinformatics;** **LV-LLU**
 - **BioLandMan project;** **EE-EMU**
 - **Veterinary sciences.** **EE-EMU**

All four sustaining on external donors since study year 2004/05

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Some hindrances highlighted by real academic activities



- Lack of tradition for cooperation – the use of “top-down” approach still necessary to keep cooperation alive
- English language – some top quality teachers and researches use other foreign languages
- Sometimes weak motivation tools for internationally active teachers
- Different understanding of value of international studies by master students – low motivation, working master students – lack of time to leave to other country

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The results from 2002-2005



Short intensive master courses (includes courses by networks working on joint master programs)

	2003	2004	2005	Total
No. of courses	8	9	8	25
No. of teachers	70	74	60	204
No. of students	125	157	116	398

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The results in 2002-2005



Baltic students at NOVA PhD courses

	2003	2004	2005	Total
No. of courses	12	16	14	42
No. of students	47	40	52	139

Yearly distribution of courses and students is based on application periods which differ for some courses from its actual time.

NordForsk is supporting Baltic student participation in the NOVA courses.

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Internal and external evaluations of NOVA-BOVA network



- Internal by NOVA-BOVA Self-Evaluation Team: Vilis Brukas, Knut Wälstedt, Alvidas Sarlauskas, Paul Jensén and Henrikas Zilinskas
- External by Dr Cees M. Karssen, former rector of Wageningen University
- Mostly targeted to the evaluation of Baltic side
- Positive marks for academic activities
- Noticed:
 - uncertain future,
 - lacking strategy on the Baltic side,
 - big potential for further cooperation.



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New stage since 2005



- The end of K&A Wallenberg project
- The usefulness of cooperation recognized and the decision to continue approved by BOVA Rector Board
- Internal joint funds to keep BOVA administration
- Administrative structure reviewed and BOVA CC established
- Thinking about BOVA strategic objectives

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Activities since 2005



- Continued activity, mostly in the frame of NOVA-BOVA
- Building own organisational structure:
 - **First draft of BOVA strategy;**
 - **Approved BOVA Statute;**
 - **Agreements on joint funding;**
 - **BOVA CC started activity;**
 - **Considered perspectives for NOVA-BOVA cooperation;**
- Evaluation from administration point of view:
 - **BOVA network has a functional organizational structure.**
 - **Structure has been verified in action and proved as able to solve appointed tasks.**

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The vision.

– **BOVA is:**

- a connecting network for member universities aimed to strengthen higher education in agriculture, forestry and veterinary;
- introducing innovative study methods and studies in English language;
- strong academic networks running their educational projects.

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BOVA mission

- Advanced high quality studies in English for advanced Baltic and especially visiting students:
 - active cooperation among academic staff - “collaboration instead of competition”, “win-win”;
 - platform for development of academic staff competences and the use of innovations;
 - development of studies in English language and attraction more international students to Baltic universities.



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How we look by the end of 2006

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Joint master education

- 
- **Little participation from Nordic or EU side**
 - **Three networks operating on external funds**
 - **Pure Baltic programs - positive and negative aspects:**
 - positive: strong enough to work independently and have sufficient critical mass for that
 - negative: i) limited capacities (both people and regional context) for good application seeking EU grants; ii) inventing already invented.

Administrative support to educational processes



- BOVA and Socrates mobility group – Baltic project
 - report ready in Autumn 2006
- ICT and development of e-learning – in close collaboration with NOVA:
 - Working seminar “Use of ICT in distance learning” - Kaunas
 - Course for teachers on scientific writing - Tartu
 - Course for teachers in modern pedagogy: “Problem based Learning (PBL) and Information Technology in Teaching” - Tartu



The outcome



- Successful Baltic applications:
 - Management of Biodiversity and functional landscapes (EMU) – Socrates project
 - Nordic - Baltic -North - West Russia Academic Network in Agroecology (LZUU) – Nord+ Neighbor;
 - Nordic-Baltic-Russian Academic network in Bioinformatics (LLU) – Nord+ Neighbor;
 - Nordic-Baltic-NW-Russian network for the promotion of veterinary postgraduate training - – Nord+ Neighbor.

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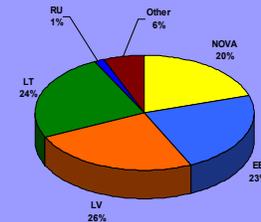
Unique model of master courses in the Baltic countries



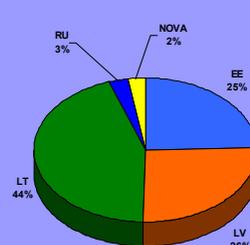
- Typical one week course
- Good distance learning part
- Joint teaching team
- International student class

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Teacher distribution by country in international master courses 2003-2005



Student distribution by country in international master courses 2003-2005



Experienced BOVA coordination staff



- Gained experiences in team working;
- Well functioning administrative procedures in short master courses and Baltic doctoral student mobility;
- Wide ICT use seeking for more efficiency:
 - BOVA secretariat extended to member universities by use of online ICT technologies;
 - everyday contacts and live online meetings – “virtual online BOVA secretariat”;
 - online collaborative platform “ACollab.”

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Seeking for “State of Art” in cooperation

- Proud about achievements - a lot has been done in BOVA cooperation. Success story in the Baltic and Nordic-Baltic cooperation.

BUT

- Recognising challenges - even more has to be done in order to use BOVA potentials efficiently
- Every member (institutionally and personally) is responsible for benefits created in the network
- How BOVA should look in 5, 10 or more year?

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