

Current status of BOVA

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Short excursion back in history

- **Beginning in 1996 – NOVA input, NOVABA program:**
 - everybody enthusiastic, a lot of Nordic teachers coming – Nordic teachers are the main driving force, Baltic people assist
 - result: large number of master courses

Excursion continued ...



- 2000-2001 – No specific activities
- 2002 – NOVA come again with serious initiative and grant from K&A Wallenberg foundation. Two directions in 2002-2004:
 - creating and developing well functioning network administrative structure;
 - deep review of all joint Baltic and Nordic-Baltic activities, initiation of new areas;
 - less enthusiasm and much more work.



- 2005 -
 - members of EU – changing situation
 - **introducing basic internal funding for network administration**
 - **finished administrative structure;**
 - working on BOVA strategy – first draft in January 2005
 - thinking about NOVA-BOVA future

Strategic priorities



- Providing high quality studies in English language in the field of agriculture, forestry and veterinary using innovative teaching methods;
- Having strong academic networks who are a core driving force in the network;
- Known and reliable for external donors.

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Strategic objectives



1. Teacher and student mobility inside the Baltic States - Nordic students in Baltic countries - Attractive for Erasmus students
2. E-based learning to increase quality - good quality at reduced cost;
3. Training system for academics - focus to young English speaking teachers;
4. Rising of external funds appropriate to 1, 2 and 3 above.
5. Cooperation with NOVA UN - links between joint Baltic study programs (projects) and joint Nordic programs (projects).
6. Get BOVA recognized externally in the Baltic region.

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Priority areas



- master studies;
- post graduate (PhD) studies and research training;
- exchanges in practical training of BSc graduates

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Academic areas



- Agro-ecology and organic agriculture;
 - Bioinformatics;
 - Management of biodiversity and functional landscapes;
 - Veterinary medicine
 - Forest policy
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- New initiatives welcome but should be verified

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Supporting activities



- rising competences of teachers and academics;
- implementation of Bologna process in member universities;
- development of joint distance learning based on e-learning methods and use of ICT means.

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Main activities: present and near future



- Academic networks working on their plans;
- Secretariat, BOVA CC working on:
 - **strategy,**
 - **looking for a new model for master courses, starting to implement it;**
 - **exploring the use of Socrates mobility grants in the network;**
 - **preparing background for doctoral courses (probably starting from very general areas).**

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Funding



- Basic internal funding for secretariat (€ 18.000)
- Academic activities using external grants
- Small contribution to teacher education

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