



BOVA Intensive Master Course

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

4 ECTS

9-13 April 2018

Aleksandras Stulginskis University (ASU), Kaunas, Lithuania

Course description

The aim of the course – to deepen and to expand students' highly specialised knowledge in the field of sustainable agriculture and to develop students' competencies required for solution of complex problems of rural development through agricultural multifunctionality.

Agriculture is the main user of rural and, in particular, natural resources, while agricultural production processes are determined by the biological factors that have significant impact on the results of agricultural, food/fiber chain and many other rural economic activities. New functions of agriculture have come into sight like for example: ecological function, cultural function, information and education function, health and recreation function. Multifunctionality of agriculture and other rural economic activities determines the character of countryside infrastructure and provides a basis for life quality improvement of rural as well as all population of the country create favourable environment for foreign investments, for development of rural tourism. Increasing requirements for food quality, safety and security in local, the EU and world markets make the needs of environmental protection and conserving of natural resources increasingly actual. If properly managed the use of the multiple potential functions of agriculture and natural resources may be an asset for sustainable rural development.

After the course, students will be able to apply modern theories of economics and management for performing research in rural development; to diagnose scientific and applied problems of agriculture and rural development; to evaluate level of sustainability of agriculture and rural areas; to evaluate the process of rural development and the relevant policy changes; to make decisions related to the development of rural areas based on critical application of modern theories and recent scientific research results. This is the third renewal of the course, which was held in Aleksandras Stulginskis University November 2015. There are no substantial changes in the course.

Pedagogical approach: the course is based on the research and practical cases in the fields of economics, management and administration. The specific literature will be studied using Moodle-based e-learning. The course consists of lectures, case studies, discussions, and group work and study tour.

Teaching team: international team of teachers/researchers will represent Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMÜ), Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU) and Aleksandras Stulginskis University (ASU).

Course leaders: assoc. prof. dr. Bernardas Vazonis, lect. dr. Anastasija Novikova, Faculty of Economics and Management, ASU.

Financing: ASU as host institution covers the course costs. The host institution *is not covering the costs of accommodation, travel and meals* for incoming students. Please contact BOVA or NOVA coordinator at your home university regarding financial support.

Distance learning part: 12 March – 6 April 2018

Meeting in person: 9-13 April 2018

Information for registration: online registration

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10FYEQ6ZynxPcT8CtsstN8-506PREOX6AVpEc088BYQ/viewform?edit_requested=true

Additional course information: Anastasija Novikova, anastasija.novikova@asu.lt

Registration deadline: 5 March 2018.