



## BOVA Intensive Master Course **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

4 ECTS

3 – 7 April 2017

Aleksandras Stulginskis University, 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, group work and study tour.

**Financing:** covering travel expenses is the responsibility of sending university. Please contact your home institution. The hosting institution will provide accommodation and meals for incoming students.

**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 Vaznonis, assist. Anastasija Novikova, Faculty of Economics and Management, ASU.

**Distance learning part:** 6 March – 31 March 2017

**Meeting in person:** 3 – 7 April 2017

**Information for registration:** online registration

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10FYEQ6ZynxPcT8CtsstN8-506PREOX6AVpEc088BYQ/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10FYEQ6ZynxPcT8CtsstN8-506PREOX6AVpEc088BYQ/viewform?edit_requested=true)

**Additional course information:** Anastasija Novikova, [anastasija.novikova@asu.lt](mailto:anastasija.novikova@asu.lt)

**Registration deadline: 6 March 2017.**

# Preliminary Programme

3-7 April 2017

Aleksandras Stulginskis University,  
Kaunas Lithuania

Course place: 3<sup>th</sup> building, room 610

Address: Universiteto 10, Akademija, LT-53361, Kaunas district

<b>Monday, 3 April</b>	
9.00 – 9.45	Introduction to the course „Sustainable Agriculture for Rural Development”
9.45 – 10.30	Sustainable rural development
10.30 – 11.00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00 – 12.30	The position of agriculture in regional development
<b>12.30 – 13.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
13.30 – 16.30	Economic evaluation of agri-environmental goods and rural amenities
<b>Tuesday, 4 April</b>	
9.00 – 10.30	Finance of agriculture and rural development
10.30 – 11.00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00 – 12.30	Social and economic cohesion in rural development
<b>12.30 – 13.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
13.30 – 15.45	Economic evaluation of agri-environmental goods and rural amenities
<b>Wednesday, 5 April</b>	
8.00 – 17.00	Study tour – Experience of multifunctional rural development in Lithuania
<b>Thursday, 6 April</b>	
9.00 – 10.30	Marketing in agri-business
10.30 – 11.00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00 – 12.30	Role of social factors generating business for sustainable agriculture
<b>12.30 – 13.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
13.30 – 15.00	Cultural heritage as a product for rural farm tourism and rural development
15.00 – 16.30	Social marketing for sustainable development of rural communities
<b>Friday, 7 April</b>	
09.00 – 10.30	Final assessment of student achievements
10.30 – 11.00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00 – 12.30	Final assessment of student achievements
12.30 – 13.30	<b>Course closing, Lunch</b>