

BOVA activities in 2007
Report to the BOVA Rector Board

Jelgava, January 2008

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1 Background

BOVA University network, on its activities, followed documents approved by BOVA Rector Board in January 2006 and December 2006:

- BOVA University strategy for 2006-2008;
- BOVA action plan for 2007.

Basic evaluations and conclusions of progress are drawn comparing actual achievements and stated tasks.

Different financial sources were used in the BOVA activities in 2007:

a) Internal BOVA funds from member universities for administration and part of academic activities as well as teacher's rewards.

b) The biggest part of academic activities was offered based on academic network activities and their internal projects and resources available from grants (mainly Nord+ and Socrates CD funds). Doctoral activities on NOVA UN side were financed by NordForsk (application and grant managed directly by BOVA Secretariat).

c) For teachers mobility were used Lifelong learning programme/ERASMUS funds.

d) Some national funds were attracted for some special activities.

This report aims to provide a concise review of all activities in the BOVA network during 2007. Results are generally estimated by both quantitative and qualitative indicators reflecting achievements in the network. Suggestions for improvement of network activities are proposed.

2 Organisational objectives

BOVA University network activities during year 2007 were aimed as in the previous years to strengthen international educational processes in the member universities building a joint platform in selected areas. The model of academic networks joining a certain area of competence and administrative support from BOVA secretariat and established BOVA bodies (Rector Board, BOVA CC) were used to achieve this major objective.

BOVA University network has the organisational structure which is stated in the Statute of the BOVA university network and the present organizational structure functions quite well so any changes during year 2007 are not needed.

There were a lot of positional changes due to the rotation principle in the BOVA University network. Following the Statute of the BOVA University network and based on BOVA Rector Board decision (12.12.2007) rector of LLU, prof. Juris Skujans was elected for the three years period to the position of Rector of the BOVA University network. The rector ship period started on 1st of January 2007. To make the administrative work more effective it was decided to move by the same time the BOVA Secretariat and appoint a new person for this position. Those, BOVA Secretariat have moved from January 1, 2007 from LVA to LLU for period of three years. And by the end of year 2007 the present BOVA CC chairmanship period was expired and BOVA CC on their meeting on October 15, 2007 has nominated a BOVA CC member from LZUU, Dr. Steponas Raudonius for BOVA CC chairman position for period of two years.

BOVA strategy for three year period (2006-2008) developed and approved in 2006. During 2007 BOVA university network continued to achieve defined tasks. Results shows that some of tasks are complicate to achieve and probably revision of strategy or development of new strategy is needed.

Since January 1, 2007 also NOVA UN has radical changes. But this not stopped our joint cooperation nerveless that we lost a good and valuable support due to a stop of position of NOVA-BOVA coordinator. BOVA and NOVA Secretariats stayed in tight communication to sustain achievements in the NOVA-BOVA network. On the May 10, 2007 the Letter of Intent on cooperation between NOVA and BOVA was signed by BOVA rector and Chairman of NOVA Board those clearly showing interest for future cooperation between two organizations. As well NOVA Secretariat made effort for cooperation visit of NOVA coordinators to LLU to meet and introduce BOVA Secretariat and BOVA coordinators with aim to develop exchange of information and support in the future.

Following BOVA University network strategy these basic activities were proposed for 2007 and approved by Board in January 2007:

- Development of joint master education (full programmes or semesters);
- Continuation of intensive international master courses (on the base on internal funds);
- Development of BOVA Doctoral courses (on the base on internal funds) or NOVA-BOVA PhD courses (on external funds);
- Continuation with mobility of Baltic doctoral students to the NOVA PhD courses;
- Assure information services inside network, increase flow of information from member universities;

- Arrange BOVA seminar to evaluate achievements made by academic networks for 3 years period.

This report estimates the level of achievement of each activity.

3 Academic activities

In the beginning of the year 2007 BOVA Rectors Board made extreme importance decisions regarding continuation of BOVA activities on internal funds base.

These two major decisions are following:

- a) BOVA rectors Board agrees on 6 master degree courses based on internal funding of students mobility and basic course expenses arranged in the BOVA network in 2007. Rectors agree to provide necessary funds for this activity. Erasmus mobility grants must be used for teachers mobility;
- b) Basic internal funds shall be allocated at member universities for their students' participation in 4 BOVA Doctoral courses from specific research areas and at least 1 from general research (academic writing, research methodology). Before applying for internal funds, course leaders/ coordinators should apply to all possible external donors, including NordForsk when relevant.

Based on this BOVA Secretariat has worked up the application procedure for course organisers to apply for organization of BOVA Master level course or BOVA Doctoral level course. At the mid of January 2007 the call for application was announced by BOVA Secretariat for both tips of activities. All applications were collected and send to the evaluation and approval to BOVA CC.

BOVA CC has approved proposed courses with some recommendations for the improvement on their meeting on March 27 and a list of courses was available from April 2007.

As BOVA network have introduced such system which were new for all involved sides it appears shortage in time and for next year this planning procedure should be started almost by the end of year 2007.

Possibility to organize BOVA courses have used a few most active teachers from BOVA member universities and also mainly based on active discussion work made by BOVA coordinators. Such situation can be explained also by big overloud of most active persons, still low teacher motivation at member universities but most feasible explanation is that all academic networks had external funds for their activities for the first half of 2007 and all of them are worked hardly on finalisation of their internal projects.

Academic activities in BOVA network based

firstly on activities performed by academic networks working under the BOVA umbrella and

secondly by independent groups of teachers implementing joint activities but not acting as a network yet.

During 2007 four academic networks continued their activities;

1. Development of International education for master studies was a main aim of 3 below mentioned academic networks:

- **Nordic – Baltic – Russian Academic Network in Agroecology** (LZUU);
- **Management of Biodiversity and Multifunctional Landscapes – BioLandMan** project (EMU);
- **Nordic-Baltic-Russian Academic Network in Bioinformatics** (LLU);

2. Development of International education for doctoral studies is a general direction of activities by following network:

- **Nordic-Baltic-NW-Russian network for the promotion of veterinary postgraduate training** (EMU).

All four Baltic coordinated networks were utilising financial resources provided by Nord+ Neighbour program (NCM) and Socrates Curricula Development program (EU) given to develop studies in their area.

Table. Grant received/available by networks under BOVA umbrella in 2007

Network name	Coordinating university	Received amount
Management of Biodiversity and Multifunctional Landscapes	Estonian University of Life Sciences	40 000 EUR
Nordic – Baltic – Russian Academic Network in Agroecology	Lithuanian University of Agriculture	22 700 EUR
Nordic-Baltic-Russian Academic Network in Bioinformatics	Latvia University of Agriculture	24 800 EUR
Nordic-Baltic-NW-Russian network for the promotion of veterinary postgraduate training	Estonian University of Life Sciences	25 000 EUR
Total:		112 500 EUR

3.1 Master level education

3.1.1 Joint master programs

In this field working three networks led by professors from BOVA member universities. This year was final for their internal projects towards joint Master education. As well here should be mentioned a fourth network (led by SLU – NOVA member university) - a network of sustainable forestry, great achievement of this network is ongoing Master programme EUROFORESTER in which actively taking part BOVA master students as well as some teachers are involved in teaching process.

The network on Management of biodiversity and multifunctional landscapes had a final year of pilot-project and a wide range of short courses were organised within this

network. The curriculum of the Joint program is developed and by the end of spring semester all courses was implemented by EMU and by the partner universities.

This is a big joint achievement but indisputable that the biggest effort was made by EMU side. Now BOVA network is faced to second round of joint programme development - to run this joint programme. Students for this program were admitted by September 1 2007 at EMU (unfortunately only 1), other interested students are took part in separate courses during autumn semester 2007 and will be able to continue it in the spring semester 2008.

By the middle of 2007 two other networks (Bioinformatics and Agroecology) have finished their projects and the main product was development of new short intensive courses. The network on Bioinformatics worked out two new courses but network on Agroecology has offered 2 of planned 3 courses. Network have had final network meetings where have summarised achieved, unfortunately both of these networks do not succeeded to develop full joint program on respective fields mainly because of lack of interest form partner side, but still the achieved is evaluated by BOVA network very highly and there are a suggestion these developed courses to offer for BOVA students on internal BOVA funds in coming years.

BOVA secretariat tried to provides all necessary support to networks for their activities. Three basic activities connected with networks are:

- consultation in the process of preparing good applications and reports (basically to NCM);
- assuring information flow in the network, spreading information about the courses and other events by newsletter and announcing them in BOVA website;
- together with BOVA CC assuring a common platform for implementation of network results in partner universities.

Not everything all and not every time worked well and should be made improvements on communication level between BOVA administration and academic networks.

3.1.2 International master courses

International Master Courses were organised based mainly on:

- the academic networks achievements and development of their internal projects;
- the implementation of pilot project of Joint Master Program “Management of Biodiveristy and Multifunctional landscapes” (JMP “Biolandman”);
- some courses were planned to arrange on internal BOVA member universities funds;
- one of NOVA Master course were arranged at LLU involving BOVA lecturers and invited BOVA students were supported by sending universities. This course we can call true joint NOVA-BOVA course.

18 short intensive MSc courses (cf. Table below) were prepared by course teaching teams and biggest part was provided for students form BOVA member universities and others in 2007. Two of planned course were cancelled due lack of students and two are postponed for the next year period.

Totally, 14 Intensive master courses were offered by BOVA member Universities, involving 154 students and 62 lecturers. 6 courses took place at EMU, 6 at LLU, 1 at LZUU and 1 at Tartu University (non-BOVA member University).

Students' distribution participated at the BOVA Intensive master courses by universities are following: EMU- 98; LLU- 31; LZUU - 10; LVA-4; others - 11.

Teachers' involvement in courses by universities is following: EMU - 20; LLU - 18; LZUU – 5; LVA - 0; others – 19.

Comparing with 2005 and 2006, number of intensive international master courses is highest but this is happened due to final implementation stage of JMP “Biolandman”.

Typically joint Baltic teaching teams including invited Nordic teachers provided these courses. Almost all courses were held by networks, two courses planned by independent groups were postponed for next year.

Table. Short intensive MSc courses in Baltic Universities in 2007

No.	Course	Network	Course period	Course place	Number of students	Number of teachers
1.	Biological data analysis	Bioinformatics	January 29-February 3, 2007	Tartu University	26	7
2.	Academic writing	JMP “Biolandman”	February 19-25, 2007	EMU	15	1
3.	Principles of world climate formation and changes	JMP “Biolandman”	February 19-25, 2007	EMU	15	1
4.	Ecotoxicology of water bodies	JMP “Biolandman”	February 26-March 11, 2007	EMU	4	2
5.	Technologies of organic animal husbandry	Agroecology	March 12-16, 2007	EMU	10	5
6.	Impact of environmental factors on behaviour, health and welfare of animals	JMP “Biolandman”	March 12-18, 2007	EMU	20	3
7.	Ecology of infectious diseases	JMP “Biolandman”	March 19-25, 2007	EMU	cancelled	-
8.	Game management and use	JMP “Biolandman”	March 26-30, 2007	LZUU	12	4
9.	Forest regeneration in contrasting ecosystems types: wetland and mineral soils	JMP “Biolandman”	April 9-22, 2007	EMU	8	10
10.	Landscape ecology and analyses	JMP “Biolandman”	April 23-29, 2007	LLU	7	2

No.	Course	Network	Course period	Course place	Number of students	Number of teachers
11.	Environmental issues in rural development, landscape planning and management	JMP "Biolandman"	April 30 – May 5, 2007	LLU	5	4
12.	Crop production in ecological agriculture	JMP "Biolandman"+ Agroecology	May 7-13, 2007	LLU	9	7
13.	Bioinformatics	Bioinformatics	May 7-12, 2007	LLU	11	3
14.	Management of rural landscapes, regional development and policy	JMP "Biolandman"	May 14-21, 2007	LLU	3	5
15.	Sustainable rural development	Agroecology	May 14-17, 2007	LZUU	cancelled	-
16.	Forest tree breeding	BOVA	October 1-5, 2007	LLU	postponed	-
17.	Beekeeping techniques in cold climates	NOVA-BOVA	September 2-8, 2007	LLU	9	8
18.	Management innovations	BOVA	December 3-7, 2007	LLU	postponed	-
Total:					154	62

All courses were supported publishing all information on course at BOVA website as well spreading the information with BOVA coordinators help and preparing a course leaflets. Course leaders and teaching teams were strongly assisted by BOVA coordinators with distance learning part and meetings in person organisation; those allow them pay more attention to professional side not to organizational. Financial part of each course was typically completed by each member university and local BOVA coordinators. Good management of financial side is established between BOVA member universities and proposed to be continued in the same way.

Each course was evaluated by students and teachers using a common questionnaires provided from BOVA secretariat. These questionnaires are summarised by BOVA coordinators and course reports were sent to BOVA Secretariat based on which all abovementioned information is presented.

Majority of students and teachers evaluated these courses in a positive way and they would like more such courses in future. Overall evaluation of the master courses on a 10-point scale is 8,2 by participants.

3.1.3 Teachers mobility using ERASMUS grants within Lifelong learning programme (previously SOCRATES)

BOVA network for their activities continued to use available financial sources from LLP/ERASMUS. Agreements for teacher mobility in the frame of this programme were

signed by BOVA member universities in wide range with other BOVA member universities, NOVA member universities and other HEI of EU countries.

Baltic, Nordic and other involved in BOVA activities teachers were traveling using ERASMUS funds. The mobility figures are presented in the table below. Such management helped to save project money and make course relatively less expensive for BOVA network.

Many of BOVA activities have available financial sources for teacher mobility from internal projects (networks' grant from Nord+, NordForsk etc.), it explains why the mobility situation now is not very active, but in the next years this financial source should be used more effectively.

Table. Teacher mobility acting in the BOVA activities within LLP

BOVA member university	Number of mobility's to other BOVA member universities	Number of received teachers from Nordic and other EU countries	Total number of mobility's
EMU	1	2	3
LLU	1	3	4
LZUU	1	-	1
LVA	-	-	
Totally:	3	5	8

3.1.4 Evaluation of achievements and further actions

BOVA network have arranged working Seminar “Academic networks development and importance for valuable running of BOVA activities” on October 15-16 at the Forest Research Centre Järvselja in Estonia. As it was mentioned previously many times the major activities in the BOVA network are going on in four academic networks and all for networks reached the stage when they summarize their achievements and reporting to financial supporters. On other hand, new period and future may look foggy for them and one of the duties of BOVA network key decision makers -BOVA CC is to support networks further development. This seminar was aimed to share gained experience, evaluate the progress and discuss the future on strategy level.

There were a number of reasons for arranging a working seminar engaging the key decision makers in BOVA and main persons acting in existing academic networks:

- BOVA university network starts activities on own financing therefore searching for high quality courses which are already prepared and can be repeated using internal funds;
- Academic networks running their educational project form the core of the BOVA University Network and this process should be further developed and stimulated;
- Self-evaluation of academic network activities is needed to maintain good quality and keep good face among involved partners;
- Initiation of new academic networks is absent at the moment and probably it is a time to pay attention to stimulate this process.

This was excellent possibility for involved in activities persons to speak about problems, to try finding common solutions etc. During the “Brain Storm” session everybody

has the rights to put on the table their opinion and BOVA CC has a task to "listen and hear" and make further step for improvement of existing situation.

Among many of conclusions made by joint BOVA team should be mentioned following on implementation of which should be paid more attention in nearest years:

- Teachers and network leaders should be motivated for their work in BOVA network on: a) administrative level and b) teacher's level.
- Students lack of international thinking. Adding courses to curricula is a bit complicated, recognition should be guaranteed in Transcript of Records and Diploma Supplement.
- Strategy has to be developed for growing interest of students. Topics of courses have to be important for study programs.
- Doctoral courses should change master courses by the time. Master courses have to have 1-2 weeks "open window" planning system during the semester. Courses for bachelors' students should be left under the future consideration.
- Suggestion is to ask Rectors Board for financing for 10 courses not dividing them into Master or Doctoral as situation year by year can change.
- Existing networks might come up with applications to BOVA secretariat for arranging course on internals BOVA funds those ensure that their work will not "lay on the table".
- Survey should be done in order to find out the need of the new academic networks, the most important is the idea and academic value instead the number of participating universities. For the beginning BOVA could stimulate new academic networks by seed money from join pool and later look for the external money.

By the middle of 2007 the information started to come about expected changes in Nord+ programme (NCM). New possibilities for future Master level activities as well as mobility possibilities for Master students which will give new Nordplus Framework program 2008-2011 rise big interest among NOVA and BOVA and many actions have been made in this direction to learn about this programme and future possible actions:

NOVA Secretariat & Nordplus coordinators have visited BOVA Secretariat and met all BOVA coordinators, learn about experience form NOVA side and discussed possible ways for new applications, at the same meeting the representatives from the Academic Program Agency from Latvia (responsible for coordination of Nordplus programme in Latvia) have been invited and they have presented all available information and new application forms and rules etc. By the end of the year it was possible for BOVA Secretariat and BOVA coordinators and other interested persons to participate in different Contac seminars which were arranged in Riga and Vilnius by NCM related to the new Nordplus programme those BOVA administration make investigation on new applications.

It is more than clear that by the March 1, 2008 BOVA should submit an application related to the mobility of master students (because it is also allowed to apply for short mobility's) what is suits very well to our short intensive courses. But as regards other activities, as joint short courses and other project, have been made proposal to make joint NOVA and BOVA application. On this matter BOVA and NOVA secretariat decide to meet in the beginning of February in Helsinki with draft of an application.

3.2 BOVA doctoral courses

Doctoral degree courses stands among three prioritised areas in the BOVA activities. The big steps for development of these courses have been done during 2007.

Totally 4 BOVA doctoral courses have been offered to Doctoral students as well interested PhD student from other counties where invited to participate. Table below shows some figures regarding this activity.

Table. Intensive Doctoral courses in Baltic Universities in 2007

<i>No.</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Initiators and leaders</i>	<i>Course period</i>	<i>Course place</i>	<i>No. of participants</i>	<i>No. of teachers</i>
1.	<i>Methodology of research</i>	EMU, visiting lecturer Dubourguier Henri-Charles, France	February 19- 23, 2007	Tartu, EMU	35	1
2.	<i>Bovine and Horse Reproduction</i>	EMU, Vetnetwork; prof. Kalle Kask	May 14- 18, 2007	Tartu, EMU	15	9
3.	<i>Weed biology and Management</i>	LZUU, assoc.prof. V.Pilipavičius KU, LIFE, assoc.prof. J.Rasmussen	May 20- 27, 2007	Druskininkai, Lithuania	14	11
4.	<i>Biomodelling in combination with NJF seminar Modelling in Agriculture</i>	LLU, assoc.prof. E.Stalidzāns prof. P.Rivža	October 15-20, 2007	Jelgava, Latvia	18	3
Totally:					82	24

For the first time BOVA offered BOVA Doctoral courses and many of BOVA member universities have see the great future for it. This kind of activity probably in the future can supersede the main activity of BOVA network – Short master courses.

Importantly to mention here that listed above courses were arranged using different financial sources and it proves that many kind and combination of financial mean can be used for BOVA activities.

Course 1 was financed by internal BOVA funds and an initiative for such course organisation was showed by EMU.

Course 2 was carried out due the Nordic-Baltic-NW-Russian network for the promotion of veterinary postgraduate training (lead by EMU) activities and received by network grant from Nord+.

Course 3 was successful implementation by LZUU and involved partners of activity granted by NordForsk (first NOVA-BOVA course which was granted by NordForsk which is applied and managed by one of BOVA member universities - LZUU).

Course 4 was interesting combination of doctoral course with student's participation at the NJF seminar where they had possibility to listen presentation of other researchers in the field of interest as well as could do own presentations. Initiation of such course was proposed by LLU, accepted by BOVA CC and implemented by LLU and partners from Finland and Estonia. Course funds are internal BOVA funds and the subsidy from the Latvia Ministry of Agriculture.

Students' distribution participated at the BOVA Intensive doctoral courses by universities are following: EMU- 45; LLU- 14; LZUU - 11; LVA-8; others – 4.

Teachers' involvement in courses by universities is following: EMU – 12; LLU - 2; LZUU – 3; LVA - 0; others – 7.

3.3 Baltic doctoral students in the NOVA PhD courses

NOVA PhD courses were opened for Baltic doctoral students also in 2007. BOVA Secretariat took full responsibility for dissemination of information about available NOVA PhD courses, for contact with course leaders on NOVA side regarding organizational points of participation of Baltic students and further actions. Based on agreements with course leaders and received applications from Baltic Doctoral students, BOVA Secretariat have applied for grants twice during 2007. In case of need NOVA Secretariat were in time with support.

Two rounds of application were announced by NordForsk in 2007 with deadlines in March 1 and September 17. Thanks to the active BOVA coordinators work the information reached interested students in time and BOVA network was able to collect a big number of Baltic doctoral students willing to attend NOVA PhD courses. Number of students and received grants are presented in the table below. In the first round granted sum was less as applied (difference - 7 458 NOK), but in the second round all applied sum was received. 6 students (from the first round) who were granted by NordForsk were unable to participate at respective courses, unused funds NordForks allowed to use in year 2008 for participation of other Doctoral students (not listed in application) at NOVA PhD courses (written agreement between NordForsk and BOVA Secretariat).

Table. Results of Baltic PhD student applications to NOVA PhD courses.

Deadline for application	Accepted PhD students	Received scholarships, NOK
March 1, 2007	26	245 000**
September 17, 2007	27*	198 700**
Outside applications	2	
Specific course ***	3	
Total:	58	443 700**

Note: * - two postdoctoral researchers were accepted to application.

** - includes also administrative costs

*** - this specific course on “ Crop production” received direct NordForsk grant.

Number of applications is increased comparing with previous year showing big interest in attending NOVA PhD courses. Regardless of this great interest and competition as well for some of courses a big number of dropouts were observed for the first round (6 applicants). This can be explained by very late answer from NordForsk on submitted application, so BOVA member universities were asked decided by them selves sent or not their students to respective courses not knowing exact answer from main donor. Most of students state in their short reports being pleased by many reasons for participation in NOVA PhD courses. They stress high scientific level, “know-how” and very valuable general experience from high level international PhD course. A number of students apply for second or even third time to attend other NOVA PhD courses.

Table. Distribution of granted doctoral students to NOVA PhD courses among BOVA member universities.

University	Accepted PhD students (first round +second round)	Scholarships, NOK	Euros, (approx.)
EMU	11+16 (27)	219 767	27 962
LLU	8+9 (17)	99 211	12 623
LZUU	4+2 (6)	40 948	5 210
LVA	5+3 (8)	67 772	8 623
Administrative costs	-	16 000	2 036
Total:	58	443 700	56 454

Doctoral student distribution among member universities shows that the most active is the Estonian University of Life Sciences. Their students make around 46% from total number of applicants and this tendency is continuing year by year.

Despite good relations between NOVA and BOVA and the opening courses by NOVA side to BOVA doctoral students, NordForsk have informed BOVA Secretariat by the end of year that NordForsk take a decision in the matter of course scholarships to stop this support instrument and it will not be any call for application next spring. Whether this will be a pause only or a permanent arrangement, it is not known yet.

BOVA network have scholarships grants by the middle of year 2008 from NordForsk, for the second half of the year and next years BOVA network should search all possibilities to support Baltic Doctoral student’s participation at the NOVA PhD courses.

BOVA network as well actively inviting NOVA course leaders to organize courses in Baltic’s by this supporting more student’s participation from home country. One NOVA PhD course took place this year in Riga and was very positively evaluated by course leader and participants and grateful to local BOVA coordinator for support in all organisational work.

Next steps for success and guarantied financial support from Nordic funds require further steps, such as Baltic or Nordic-Baltic PhD courses in the Baltic States.

One of such NOVA-BOVA courses “Weed biology and management”, which was succeeded to get a grant form NordForsk have been held in Kaunas this year. Course initiators of another course “Forest ecology” was applied for support from NordForsk but didn’t get a grant, this picture shows that all possibilities tried to be used to get external financing but we should take in to account that competitions is very high.

3.4 Teacher education

BOVA network in the 2006 started with new activity that concerns rising of competences of Baltic teachers and scientists and get a very high and positive evaluations. Unfortunately in the year 2007 BOVA network was unable to offer some courses for teachers or scientists.

Only in course aimed for Doctoral students “Research methodology” one teacher from LLU took part for exchange of knowledge and competence development.

Lack of possibilities for teachers have been marked by BOVA Secretariat based on lot of interest shown from teachers side and will be raised on the nearest BOVA CC for possible solutions. Biggest interest is shown on course of Academic writing for supervisors.

4 Development of information services and raise of visibility of BOVA network

4.1 BOVA website

Due to the movement of BOVA Secretariat to LLU BOVA webpage also have been transferred from LZUU server to LLU server. Probably this process took more time as it was expected thus effective development of webpage seems like back off. Domain registration was prolonged to 2011; the registrar name is the same: GKG.NET, Inc.

BOVA website has been used to assure information flow in the BOVA University network. Number of visits to website (around 15.000 in 2007) is approximately on the same level as in previous years and it proves that webpage is valuable resource for cooperation needs and information spread outside and inside the network.

4.2 BOVA leaflet

In the first half of year new design of BOVA leaflet was worked out describing development, activities and structure of BOVA University network and giving short statistics of each member university as well presenting contact information of BOVA coordinators, BOVA Secretary and BOVA Rector. The leaflet were printed out on amount of 3 000 copies, each member university have a part of them for distribution among students, teachers and other interested persons thereby popularizing the BOVA University network.

4.3 BOVA jubilee publication

Jubilee publication “BOVA – 10 years of successful cooperation in studies of agriculture, forestry and veterinary” was published in October 2006. Publication comprises around 20 articles describing past and future of BOVA University network. This publication still is available at BOVA Secretariat and at local BOVA coordinators offices and handing out during the seminars and other correspondent occasions thereby disseminating results of BOVA cooperation.

5 Fund-raising activities

Joint funding of BOVA secretariat was agreed among member universities in 2006. Some of academics activities were performed from internal funds of BOVA member universities.

Funds for major part of activities in the BOVA network from external donors were raised in two ways:

- by academic networks mainly from Nord+;
- by BOVA secretariat mainly from NordForsk.

Three academic networks leading by professors from BOVA member universities have grants from NCM Nord+ program. One Socrates CD project granted from EU and tightly connected to BOVA and NOVA-BOVA cooperation were continued and finalised in 2007 “Academic network in Management of biodiversity and functional landscapes” (project managed from EMU).

The Latvia University of Agriculture submitted an application to the Latvia Ministry of Agriculture and received grant for partly cover of participation of BOVA doctoral students at NJF seminar “Modelling in Agriculture” which were in close connection with BOVA Doctoral course on Biomodelling.

Summary of raised funds is presented in the table.

Table. External funds in 2007, rounded numbers.

Purpose	Donor	Amount in Euro
Baltic PhD students in NOVA courses (raised by BOVA)	NordForsk	56 200
NOVA-BOVA Doctoral course “Weed Biology and Management” (raised by LZUU)	NordForsk	19 200
Application for NJF seminar (by LLU)	Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia Rep.	1 800
Project “Preparation for NOVA-BOVA cooperation in the Nordplus framework 2008-2011 (raised by NOVA)	Nord+	6 300
	Total:	83 500

The table above does not include funds raised by networks, operating under BOVA umbrella.

The internal funds of each BOVA member university for support of BOVA activities are shown in chapter 7.

6 Administrative capacities

BOVA administration capacities in 2007 were BOVA rector working in voluntary basis, and 1.0 full time secretary’s position. Member universities took care on BOVA coordinators at home universities trying to keep available working capacities equal to

approximately 0.25 -0.5 positions. BOVA CC works on voluntary basis (2 members for each member university) and has a minimum 3 meetings per year. This year BOVA CC one of their meetings has organised using videoconference facilities which are now available at each member university (except LVA), so saving time and recourses. This kind of communication is modern and useful and will be used also in future.

7 Budget for BOVA administration

The BOVA administration was funded from internal BOVA funds. A joint pool of € 18.000 was made by shares from member universities. All internal BOVA funds aimed for costs related to BOVA Secretariat, BOVA meetings on various levels, cooperation with NOVA and over events useful for BOVA network development. In case of possible external funds mentioned above events can be covered in this way, thus saving the BOVA funds. (This year participation of BOVA Secretary, BOVA CC chairman and BOVA coordinator from EMU at the NCM Seminar regarding join Master programmes in Tampere, Finland was covered by funds received by NOVA from Nord+).

A summary on the use of internal BOVA funds is presented in the table below.

Table. Available funds

Source	Amount in Euro
Contributions from member universities	18,000
Savings from 2006	3,568
Total:	21,568

Table. Use of internal BOVA funds (approx. figures in Euro).

List of expenses	Amount used
Salaries (BOVA secretary)	11,000
Administration costs	2,500
- BOVA leaflet, BOVA webpage, office costs	800,-
- BOVA meetings	2,000
- annual BOVA seminar	
Total	16,300

Amount of € 5.268 remained as savings from year 2007. It appeared because of still available possibility to use some NOVA support and introducing videoconference for the BOVA CC meeting as well using other occasions for the BOVA Secretariat and coordinators meetings etc. It is proposed to transfer this amount to the year 2008 and utilise it for BOVA activities and most probably for NOVA and BOVA Rectors Boards meeting in Baltic's.

Here should be added that each member university took responsibility to support part of BOVA activities such as participation of teacher and students in courses, meetings, remuneration of teachers etc. The financial contribution by each member university is following: *“hard money”* EMU - 1 270 EUR; LLU – 2 240 EUR; LZUU – 1400 EUR; LVA – 480 EUR. Additionally to that *“soft money”* form each member university is added value to the BOVA University network activities.

This situation is highly depends on each involved part participation in BOVA network activities and level of available external funds.

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