



BOVA UN IN FACTS AND FIGURES, 2012

BOVA UN activities in 2012 were offered according the Action Plan 2012 approved by BOVA RB on February 3, 2012 in order to achieve stated objectives in BOVA UN Strategy 2012 – 2014.

BOVA activities and operation is financially supported by all member institutions paying the member fee to BOVA joint pool, additional internal input of each member institutions and external support from different projects (this year mainly NORDPLUS and “DoRa”).

1. BOVA Intensive master courses (BIMC)

By BOVA CC and BOVA RB was approved 11 BIMC, and this is highest number of courses per year offered. Usually in the frames of BOVA there are organized 5-6 MSc level Intensive courses per year.

Some of abovementioned courses were decided to postpone to the year 2013 in order to keep the quality of offered BOVA courses and use rationally the allocated resources.

There are 8 BIMC have been successfully performed during year 2012 and 1 course will be run in December 2012. All courses were organized and performed using the traditional BOVA course model, division of courses: 3 at EMU, 3 at ASU, 2 at LLU and 1 at LSMU-VA.

The total number of courses, involved teachers and participated students in general is raised comparing with last year but there is difference observable in disposition of students participating in the courses. Some of courses had only students from 2 BOVA member institutions. Positive sign is that BOVA course are popular among non BOVA students, 15 % of total number of students come from NOVA side. See figures in the table below:

Table 1

BIMC in 2012

Title	Venue	Number of students	Number of teachers
Woody biomass plantation: option for cost-effective mitigation of climate change effects N+	LLU, Jelgava	20, incl. 8 LLU 1 EMU 6 HU-AF 5 UEF	9, incl. 3 LLU 1 ASU 1 EMU 1 Finland 1 Sweden (Skogforsk) 2 Latv. Forest RI Silava
Evaluation of quality of poultry and eggs production N+	LSMU-VA, Kaunas	19, incl. 2 LLU 7 LSMU-VA 10 HU-AF	7, incl. 3 LSMU-VA 1 HU-AF 1 Hohenheim Un. (Germany) 2 from industry companies (Lithuania)

Pomology and Fruit Science N+	ASU, Kaunas	14, incl. 6 EMU 5 ASU 2 HU-AF 1 UMB	7, incl. 6 ASU 1 LLU
Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Rural Development N+	EMU, Tartu	21, incl. 8 LLU 7 EMU 2 ASU 2 HU-AF 2 UEF	9, incl. 4 EMU 2 LLU 1 ASU 2 KU
Land Administration in Baltic Countries N+	LLU, Jelgava	13, incl. 2 ASU 8 EMU 3 LLU	12, incl. 4 EMU 4 ASU 2 LLU 2 Ministry of Env.prot. (Latvia)
Practical Animal Welfare Assessments	EMU, Tartu	13 incl. 6 LLU 2 EMU 5 LSMU-VA	8 incl. 6 EMU 1 LLU 1 Australia
Causes and consequences of pollinator decline N+	EMU, Tartu	13, incl. 2 LLU 5 EMU 1 HU-AF 3 Univ. of Daugavpils 2 Univ. of Tartu	9, incl. 1 LLU 3 EMU 1 SLU 2 HU-AF 2 Univ. of Daugavpils
Economics and Management of Rural Development	ASU, Kaunas	17, incl. 8 LLU 9 ASU	12, incl. 7 ASU 5 LLU
Game Animal protection and Management	ASU, Kaunas	14, incl. 10 LLU 4 ASU	8, incl. 7 ASU 1 LLU
	Total:	144	81

6 of these courses have been supported by NORDPLUS Intensive Course grant (Marked in the table 1 by N+) in the frames of the projects of NOVA-BOVA Nordplus network and 3 others had BOVA support.

2. NORDPLUS Intensive Master Courses.

NOVA courses: In cooperation with NOVA performing NOVA/BOVA Nordplus network projects activities additionally to 6 BIMC mentioned above which got NORDPLUS support, in autumn 2012 was offered 2 NOVA courses for Master level students:

Sustainable Pig Production, course initiator and leader is SLU.

Course consisted of 2 parts, 1st part at SLU, Alnarp and 2nd part at LLU, Jelgava.

Number of participating student is 9: 5 of them from BOVA side and 4 from NOVA side (3 EMU, 2 LLU, 1 –AU, 1 HU-V, 2 - SLU).

Number of teacher involved – 7 (3 from SLU, 2 LLU and 2 EMU).

Miljö och kommunikation, course at HU-AF on Swedish language.

No participants from BOVA.

3. Joint Master Study programs

3.1. International MP at EMU „Biolandman” or “Management of biodiversity and multifunctional landscapes”– no courses or any activities for BOVA students due to no new students in this program were admitted in 2011 and in 2012.

Originally this programme was developed from 2004 to 2007 in the frames of the Socrates CD project and the aim of the project was to develop the joint master programme (with partners from LLU and former LZUU). But results didn't meet the aim. Program was accredited as EMU program; LLU and ASU were involved just in offering some modules in the programme if such need appeared.

In 2012 EMU has decided to close this programme.

3.2. International Master Study programs at BOVA member institutions

Each BOVA member institution has started to provide a range of study programs on English language (in case of ASU as well on Russian) for foreign students.

Information about these study programs available as well on bova webpage: <http://www.bova-university.org/for-students/other.html>

No information about cooperation between BOVA member institutions academic staff in offering these programs.

3.3. BOVA Working Group on Joint Master Education (WF JME)

In 2012 by the decision of BOVA RB was established the new BOVA Working group on Joint Master Education (WF JME) with the aim to initiate work towards JMP between BOVA members institutions. WG started activities in May 2012 and will present their findings by the end of the year 2012. Leader of the group is appointed Dzidra Kreismane from LLU.

4. BOVA cooperation on Doctoral Education

4.1. BOVA Intensive Doctoral Courses (BIDC)

BIDC were started to organize in 2008, number of offered courses were low during all years but this year BOVA didn't received any application meaning that BOVA didn't offer any course on doctoral level.

Instead of it by BOVA RB decision all BOVA member institutions which offered International Doctoral study courses were asked to share information about these courses and distribute it among BOVA PhD students.

EMU has submitted information about 5 PhD courses run on English, this information have been spread among BOVA PhD students.

- Animal Ethics – From Laboratory to Wilderness (Estonian University of Life Sciences, Doctoral School of Earth Sciences and Ecology);

- Intensive PhD course: Analysing & Modelling Spatial Forest Structure – An Introduction (Estonian University of Life Sciences, Doctoral School of Earth Sciences and Ecology);

- Sustainable and Energy Efficient Building Design and Refurbishment (Summer school of the Doctoral School in the field of Building and Environmental Engineering);

- Philosophy of Science, EMU;
 - Doctoral course in a dairy herd simulation tool – SimHerd (EMU).
- Number of PhD students participated from BOVA member institutions in these courses are following:*
 LLU – 3; ASU -2.

4.2. BOVA Working Group for development of Doctoral education (WG DDE).

In 2012 by the decision of BOVA RB was established the new BOVA Working group for Development of Doctoral Education (WG DDE) with the primary objective to investigate the perspective ways of more intensive cooperation between BOVA member institutions and outside in the field of Doctoral education and propose concrete actions for BOVA. WG started activities in May 2012 and will present their findings by the end of the year 2012. Leader of the group is appointed Eda Tursk from EMU.

5. BOVA cooperation with NOVA on PhD level

5.1. Participation of BOVA PhD students at NOVA PhD courses.

NOVA offered 17 NOVA PhD courses in 2012. Starting from 2009 BOVA students are free of participation fee but sending institution is responsible for travel, accommodation and board expenses.

The number of participating BOVA PhD students in NOVA PhD courses this year is reducing however the precise number will be known by the end of the year.

Table 2

BOVA PhD students in NOVA PhD courses per institution (2004-2012)

Year	EMU	ASU(former LZUU)	LLU	LSMU-VA	Total BOVA
2004	14	11	7	1	33
2005	18	16	13	6	53
2006	28	14	10	7	59
2007	11	6	10	5	32
2008	20	10	13	1	44
2009	16	2	2	-	20
2010	15	5	7	3	30
2011	14	2	5	-	21
2012	7	-	2	-	9
Total:	143	66	69	23	301

Table 3

Proportion of BOVA students in NOVA PhD courses (2004-2012)

Year	Total PhD students	NOVA students	BOVA students	Other students	% of BOVA students
2004	257	193	33	31	12.84
2005	362	182	53	127	14.64

2006	334	212	59	63	17.66
2007	344	196	32	116	9.30
2008	386	267	44	75	11.40
2009	374	295	20	59	5.34
2010	444	348	30	66	6.75
2011	289	241	21	15	5.19
2012	261	213	9	39	3.45

5.2. Organization of NOVA PhD courses in Baltics

NOVA Ph course “**Applied statistics with R for the agricultural, life and veterinary sciences**”, course leader **prof. Jens C.Streibig, KU-LIFE**

This course in 2012 was organised for 5th time at LLU.

In this courses 35 students are participated, including 2 from EMU and 1 from LLU.

There are 5 teachers involved, none form BOVA.

Course leader prof. Jens C.Streibig during the NOVA/BOVA seminar in May in Tartu lead the minisymposia session where sheared experience of successful running of course at LLU with aim to show to other NOVA course leaders possible options of running courses by choosing the venue in Baltic in some of BOVA member institutions.

5.3. Involvement of BOVA professors in NOVA teaching teams

This process is highly depends on NOVA PhD course leaders and their interest to invite BOVA professors in the team. This process could be difficult to influence.

Information about involvement of BOVA lecturers in offering NOVA PhD courses presented in the Table 4.

Table 4

BOVA lecturers in NOVA PhD courses (2009-2012)

Year	EMU	ASU	LLU	LSMU-VA	Total BOVA
2009	-	-	1	-	1
2010	-	-	-	-	0
2011	3	-	-	-	3
2012	2	-	2	1	5
Total:	5	0	3	1	9

6. Cooperation with NOVA - NOVA/BOVA Nordplus network projects

NOVA/BOVA Nordplus network was established in 2008 when for the first time was submitted joint application to Nordplus HE program. Since this year NOVA/BOVA Nordplus network every year submitting and implementing Nordplus projects. Network is well recognized by Nordplus and almost all funds applied this network is receiving. By enlarging the Nordplus network with Baltic partners, students and teachers now have possibility to be mobile between Nordic- Baltic, Baltic-Nordic, Baltic-Baltic and Nordic - Nordic countries.

6.1. Completed project for study year 2011/2012

Besides 6 Intensive courses which were organised in the frames of this project and 4 of these courses were initiated by BOVA and offered in BOVA member institutions there were other activities:

6.1.1. Mobility of students and teachers for NOVA/BOVA Network

Normal mobility: 47 NOVA students and 8 BOVA students

Express mobility: 45 NOVA students and 32 BOVA students

Teachers' mobility: 3 NOVA teachers and 9 BOVA teachers

Budget used for Mobility: NOVA: 80.845 € and BOVA 18.885€

From the joint Mobility Grant received from Nordplus 50 000 EUR BOVA had available 23 000 EUR for mobility of teachers and students between NOVA and BOVA member institutions.

BOVA used 18 885 EUR, rest on 4 115 EUR used by NOVA partners. NOVA additionally paid to their students and teachers from NOVA guarantee - NOVA additional support is 49.730 €.

Table 5

Number of students and teachers used Nordplus mobility grant in 2011/2012 at BOVA member institutions

Institutions	Students		teachers	EUR, total
	Express to BOVA/to NOVA	Long		
LLU	8/1	1	8	7 580
EMU	4/13	7	1	9 925
ASU	-	-	-	-
LSMU-VA	5/1	-	-	1 380
Total:	32	8	9	18 885

6.1.2. Network meetings

NOVA/BOVA meeting at LBHI, Iceland: March 20-23, 2012

Network partners had workshop / exhibition where widely was presented study possibilities and exchange possibilities in NOVA and BOVA institutions. The event was addressed for LBHI students, teachers, and network coordinators and study advisors.

NOVA/BOVA meeting at HU-V, Finland: October 9-10, 2012

Nordplus coordinators had the meeting to discuss results of previous projects and plan the activities and spread the information on new project for 2012//2013 and well to shear good practice with other Nordplus networks coordinated by Helsinki University.

Other meetings (2) were organised in video-meeting mode and planned 1 more on December 12.

6.2. Project activities for study year 2012/2013 have been started

Project approval is received from Nordplus on May 25, 2012.

Total grant from Nordplus received is 100 00 EUR, including for mobilities 50 000 EUR and for Intensive courses 50 000 EUR.

Mobility grant on 50 000 EUR is divided between BOVA and NOVA partners according to the number of full time students:

NOVA's share = 57 % = 28 500 EUR

BOVA's share = 43 % = 21 500 EUR

Grant for Intensive courses will be divided according to the course budgets (in application). This grant is for 7 Intensive courses: 6 BOVA courses and 1 NOVA course. 3 BOVA courses supported by Nordplus are offered in autumn 2012 (see table 1), 3 courses will be offered in spring – summer 2013. NOVA course is running right now.

7. E-learning Development

BOVA WG of e-learning specialists established in 2008.

During the 2012 the main task for this group was to assist and help teaching staff to place distance part of the BOVA courses in the each respective home institution on virtual environment – Moodle and evaluate performance of distance part of BOVA courses.

Moodle platform was used and tested for organisation of largest part of BOVA courses: *ASU - 3 courses, LLU – 2 courses and EMU – 1 course. Not used for 1 course at LSMU-VA and 2 courses at EMU.*

WG has meeting at ASU on November 13, 2012.

In mean time WG communicated virtually.

The report from WG will be presented during BOVA CC meeting in Kaunas.

8. BOVA Student Council

By the end of 2010, on December 28 by the decision of BOVA Rectors' Board was established the BOVA Student Council.

BOVA Student Council has meeting on May 3-4, 2012 in Tartu in connection with seminar the NOVA-BOVA seminar "Bridging Countries - Bridging generations" in, they have meeting as well with NOVA Student Board.

Aleksandras Stulginskis University (ASU) Students representation organised the International conference "International academic training" on May 26-27, 2012 and invited representatives from BOVA member institutions' student unions for debates about student's academic and social life and exchange of good experiences. In the frames of this conference BOVA Student Council arranged separate meeting to continue discussions started during the seminar in Tartu. This time topic of discussion was focused on BOVA SC structure, BOVA SC statutes, presentations and promotional materials for BOVA.

In the frames of BOVA on December 10-13 will be organized course for BOVA SC and other active BOVA students about tutoring, promotion, marketing etc. Course venue – LLU but responsible for course are lecturers from EMU.

Report from BOVA SC and plans for 2013 will be presented during BOVA CC meeting.

9. Other projects

9.1. ERASMUS IP

In recent years at each BOVA member institution the activity to apply for ERASMUS IP grant has been intensified and brings positive results, especially at LLU. In study year 2011/2012 LLU coordinating 2 ERASMUS IP: "*Project-based Approach in the Development of Agriculture*" and "*Modelling in Systems Biology and Synthetic Biology*",

EMU 1 ERASMUS IP "*Pollution in Europe 2012*" and ASU also 1 ERASMUS IP "*Role of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Sustainable Rural Development*". For study year 2012/2013 LLU has received positive results on 3 ERASMUS IP applications, 2 of them renewal of above mentioned IP and additionally one new on "*Veterinary Public Health and Emerging Zoonotic Diseases*".

ERASMUS IP Project on **Veterinary Public Health and emerging zoonotic diseases** was submitted to the Latvia National Agency by the effort of BOVA Academic Network on Veterinary Public Health with help of BOVA secretariat and got grant on 24 292 EUR.

ERASMUS IP on **Veterinary Public Health and emerging zoonotic diseases** (EMU, LSMU_VA, LLU, HU_V, University of Copenhagen and 3 HEI in Germany are the partners in this project) is planned to start on August 28, 2013 at LLU. This is 2 weeks intensive programme. Project coordinator of IP is Gatis Kasparinskis (LLU), project assistants: Nicole Werner Keiss (LLU-VMF) and Margarita Terentjeva (LLU-VMF).

This project has rights to submit application for renewal 2 times more.

9.2. ERASMUS MUNDUS

BOVA had a challenge to prepare project for ERASMUS MUNDUS partnership aimed for mobility of students and teaching staff between HEI in EU and third countries (LOT 5- Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus).

A lot of preparatory work was done, ASU agreed to be the project main coordinator but main problem BOVA has faced, not enough partners willing to take part in new project from EU countries. The idea left unrealized.

10. NOVA-BOVA seminar "**Bridging Countries - Bridging generations**"

First joint NOVA-BOVA seminar was held on May 3 - 4, 2012 in Tartu. Estonian University of Life Sciences hosted the seminar. Traditional Annual NOVA seminar which always take place in some of Nordic countries this year have been modified to the joint Seminar of NOVA and BOVA University networks with the general aim to bring together Nordic and Baltic representatives from NOVA and BOVA member institutions (leadership, administration, teaching staff, students) which are curious about the development of higher education in the field of life sciences and interested in the strengthening of cooperation between the countries and between the generations.

There are 131 participants in total, including 64 form BOVA side and 67 form NOVA side.

11. Meetings

11.1. BOVA CC meetings:

-BOVA CC meeting, April 2, 2012 at LLU

Main outcomes: Preparation of proposals to the NOVA KUF and BOVA CC meeting participants about joint Master and PhD level activities. Discussions on processes, which should be developed in the frames of BOVA UN in order to fulfill stated tasks in BOVA UN Strategy 2012-2014.

- BOVA CC& NOVA KUF meeting at EMU, May 4-5, 2012 in connection with NOVA BOVA Seminar.

Main outcomes: Discussed many items and proposed actions for further information of NOVA and BOVA teachers about Nordplus possibilities, creation of course packages for students, investigation of areas of joint PhD courses. Motivation of teachers for cooperation is still open item for further discussions.

BOVA CC meeting, November 13, 2012 LSMU-VA.

Main items: Evaluation of new BOVA courses for 2013 and 2014, renewal of Statute of BOVA University Network and renewal of cooperation agreement, reports from WG and BOVA SC and other items.

11.2. BOVA RB meetings.

- BOVA RB meeting in Jelgava, LLU on February 3, 2012.

Main outcomes: Approved BOVA University Network Strategy 2012 -2011; BOVA Action Plan for 2012 and additionally working plan of BSC; agreed on establishment of 2 new BOVA WG; approved BOVA UN budget 2012 corrections; “Guidelines to apply for support of BOVA academic network” is approved and the first support to BOVA AN is granted. BOVA RB agreed with proposed draft on “Cooperation agreement between NOVA University Network and BOVA University Network” and forward to be signed during the NOVA/BOVA Seminar in Tartu on May 3-4, 2012 by BOVA rector Mait Klaassen. There were other items discussed and respective decisions were made.

- BOVA RB meeting in Tartu, EMU on May 3, 2012

Main outcomes: Discussed 1st drafts of renewed Statute of BOVA University Network and renewed cooperation agreement with decision to further development at each member institution and final approval and signing on BOVA RB in December 2012.

- NOVA Board and BOVA RB meeting on May 3, 2012 in connection with NOVA/BOVA seminar

***Main outcome:* The renewed cooperation agreement between NOVA University network and BOVA University network was signed which is the base for further cooperation between 2 related networks.**

- BOVA RB meeting in Kaunas, ASU on December 6, 2012

Main items: Rotation of BOVA leadership and secretariat to ASU, report on 2012, approval of action plan 2013, BOVA budget 2013, approval of renewed Statute of BOVA University network and signing of renewed cooperation agreement between BOVA member institutions, future cooperation with St-Petersburg State Agrarian University.

11.3. BOVA coordinators meetings

There were weekly sessions via Skype. These sessions are taking place in order to organize better the BOVA daily activities, discuss and solve problematical issues etc. BOVA coordinators are the main persons who binding other in BOVA involved persons with BOVA secretariat. BOVA coordinators had short meetings in connection with other events where all coordinators took part.

All other conversation is taking place via e-mails.

12. Other activities

12. 1. Academic Networks

“Guidelines to apply for support of BOVA academic network” is approved and the first support to the BOVA network on Veterinary Public Health is granted.

BOVA Veterinary Public Health network had their first meeting in Jelgava on February 17, 2012.

The purpose of the meeting of Baltic veterinary specialists in food hygiene and infectious diseases is to discuss and prepare a proposal for ERASMUS IP project where public health, epidemiology of infectious diseases, food safety issues will be integrated.

Leader of the BOVA academic network on Veterinary Public Health is elected representative of LLU, assist.prof. Aivars Bērziņš.

*Outcome: prepared, submitted and approved ERASMUS IP on **Veterinary Public Health and emerging zoonotic diseases***

12.2. Visibility of BOVA

BOVA webpage <http://www.bova-university.org> is continuously updated by BOVA Secretary with latest information.

The last modification will be done in December 2012 before movement of webpage to ASU.

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