



COOPERATION AGREEMENT

between BOVA University Network member institutions

General provisions

BOVA University Network (The Baltic Forestry, Veterinary and Agricultural University Network – BOVA UN) was formed in 1996 by four Higher Education Institutions providing higher education and research in the field of agriculture, forestry, veterinary medicine and related sciences. BOVA member institutions: Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU); Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU); Aleksandras Stulginskis University (ASU) and Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Veterinary Academy (LSMU-VA),

hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”:

- pursuant to the Agreement between BOVA universities signed in Jelgava on February 25, 2000;
- pursuant to the Agreement on Joint funding for BOVA cooperation signed in Kaunas on February 25, 2005;
- as a renewal of abovementioned agreements;
- based on the positive experience and outcomes of cooperation on the arena of higher education since 1996

have agreed to the following:

the Parties will continue to join forces for strengthening the development and implementation of joint educational and research activities for the mutual benefit of all parties.

Aims of the Agreement

The Parties agree that:

1. They maintain and further develop a solid educational and research network, where the “platform” of BOVA UN is an important instrument in increasing international competitiveness of studies and research in the member institutions.
2. The added value from participation in the network increases the quality of studies and competitiveness of graduates, extends the possibilities for joining study and research groups in the Nordic-Baltic and European arena.
3. The academic cooperation strengthens the partnership between member institutions in respective countries and facilitates a deeper understanding of their working conditions.
4. Exchange of experience enhances existing collaboration and raises the quality assurance of joint activities.

Framework of cooperation

5. BOVA University Network Strategy outlines priority areas and tasks. The results of BOVA Strategy implementation should be annually evaluated and the following steps shall be elaborated by BOVA Rector’s Board (BOVA RB).

6. Cooperation activities are planned, developed and implemented by joint forces in accordance with the Annual Action Plan involving all BOVA UN operational units: BOVA RB, BOVA Coordination Committee (BOVA CC), BOVA Secretariat, BOVA Working Groups (BOVA WG), BOVA Student Council (BOVA SC) and BOVA Academic networks.
7. The structure of the network and the ways of administration are described in the Statute of BOVA UN. All parties are fully committed to the tasks and responsibilities defined in the Statutes.
8. Every member's financial contribution is important to secure the core activity and coordination of the network. Joint internal funds are based on annual fees from the Parties. The size of the annual fee, division of funds between activities and other specific conditions on BOVA UN budget are the matter of annual RB decision.
9. External cooperation actions are primarily ensured by the implementation of the cooperation agreement between NOVA UN and BOVA UN signed on May 3, 2012 in Tartu and secondly by developing diverse educational and research projects with other countries.
10. Exchange of information within the network and at each member institution is provided by the BOVA Secretariat using BOVA web page and other communication means.

Period of Validity

11. The agreement comes into force on the date of signature by the four Parties and terminates the previous agreements.
12. Any amendments to this Agreement are subject to the approval of the four Parties.
13. The Agreement remains valid for three years and shall automatically be renewed for further three years unless one of the parties notifies other parties at a three months' written notice of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

In witness of thereof, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

Signed in Kaunas on December 6, 2012 in four (4) original copies in the English language, all copies being equally valid.

Parties

On behalf of Estonian University
of Life Sciences



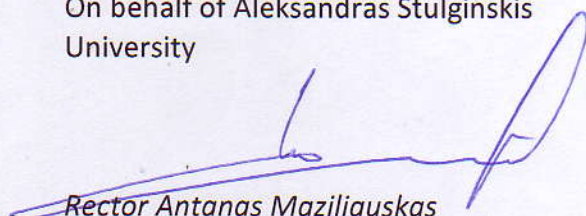
Rector Mait Klaassen

On behalf of Latvia University
of Agriculture



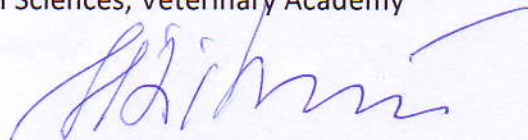
Rector Juris Skujans

On behalf of Aleksandras Stulginskis
University



Rector Antanas Maziliauskas

On behalf of Lithuanian University of
Health Sciences, Veterinary Academy



Chancellor Henrikas Zilinskas