



BOVA University Network activities in 2009

Report to BOVA Rector's Board meeting
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Tartu, EMU

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Base for activities

BOVA UN continued its activities for 13th year

Activities and operation of BOVA UN in 2009 based on:

- BOVA University Network strategy for 2009-2011;
- BOVA UN Action plan for 2009.

Financial base:

- Annual member fee (join pool);
- Internal funds from each member institution;
- External funds (NORDPLUS, other national sources).

Organisational objectives

Organizational structure of BOVA UN remained the same as in previous years (established in 2006) and based on the Statute of the BOVA University (approved in 2006).

Basic Activities

- BOVA Intensive Master courses (internal & external funds);
- Jointly developed Master program (internal funds);
- BOVA Doctoral courses (internal & external funds);
- Mobility of Baltic doctoral students to the NOVA PhD courses (internal funds);
- Cooperation with NOVA UN (Nordplus Network, NOVA/BOVA seminar);
- Competence rising activities for teaching staff;
- Development of e-learning system;
- Information services;
- Searching for external sources.

Academic activities

3 main areas:

- Master level education;
- Doctoral level education;
- Competence rising for teaching staff.

BOVA Intensive Master courses (BIMC)

Following the accepted procedure in the frames of BOVA UN were approved 7 BIMC courses, 1 of them was postponed to year 2010, 1 cancelled therefore totally BOVA UN offered **5 BIMC**.

1 of these courses got external support on 50 % from Nordplus programme;

All other courses run in combination of funds (ERASMUS for teachers, Nordplus scholarship for students and teachers, internal sources for other expenses). Big part of course expenses covered by NORDPLUS.

BOVA Intensive Master courses (BIMC)

Venue of offered 5 courses:

EMU – 1; LLU – 2; LZUU - 2

**All courses have involved
104 students and 50 lecturers.**

*Comparing with last year the number of students and teachers has raised.
2008: students 95, teachers 38.*

Students' distribution:

EMU – 11; LLU – 44; LVA – 8; LZUU – 36; other – 5.

Teachers' involvement:

EMU – 6; LVA – 1; LLU – 17; LZUU – 12, other – 14.

*LZUU and LLU have risen participation,
LVA almost on the same level,
EMU have reduced.*

International master courses in cooperation with NOVA

NOVA/BOVA course for Sustainable pig production
(leader Dan Rantzer, SLU)

2 weeks course – 1st week in Sweden , 2nd week in Estonia.

Teachers team: SLU (4), EMU (3) and LLU(1).

Students were accepted: 15 (1 SLU, 12 EMU, 2 LVA).

Course financially supported by Nordplus 50 %, NOVA as well EMU and LLU.

Offered second time.

Joint Master programmes

Jointly developed master programme

“Management of Biodiversity and Multifunctional Landscapes”

Offered by EMU, partners LLU and LZUU.

Intensive courses were offered during spring semester 2008/2009 and autumn 2009/2010

Some big modules were conducted at LLU (4 weeks + 4 weeks) and LZUU (4 weeks), other modules at EMU.

Course were open as well to other BOVA students and ERASMUS students.

BOVA Intensive Doctoral courses (BIDC)

Following to the certain procedure just 1 BOVA doctoral course “**Procedure for Writing a CC Journal Scientific Article in English**” has been approved and offered for the BOVA doctoral students on EMU attracted external funds and internal BOVA funds.

Totally have participated 13 Doctoral students from all 4 BOVA member universities:

EMU – 9, LLU – 1; LVA – 1; LZUU – 1.

Baltic doctoral students in the NOVA PhD courses

NordForsk is not giving any support and not foreseen such support at all.

NOVA UN relieve BOVA doctoral students from participation fee (200 EUR) at the NOVA PhD courses for the 2009.

Cooperation with NOVA UN on Doctoral level

20 NOVA PhD courses were offered in 2009, in 8 of them have participated Baltic students, mainly from EMU (13) and LZUU (2).

EMU has special "Doctoral Studies and Internationalization Programme "DoRa".

Other universities didn't have similar possibilities and participating students should cover their expenses by themselves.

Cooperation with NOVA UN on Doctoral level

**1 NOVA course took place in BOVA member
institution:**

Applied Statistics with R for the Agricultural, Life
and Veterinary Sciences

LLU, Jelgava, Latvia.

*Very positive evaluation from course leader
side and students, asked to be run again by
course leader next year in Jelgava.*

Cooperation with NOVA UN and other networks on Doctoral level

I. Involvement in NOVA PhD course teachers team:

[NOVA PhD course: Forage evaluation in small ruminant nutrition](#)

Teacher from LLU: Elita Šelegovska

II. Participation of BOVA PhD students at other Nordic PhD courses:

Leaving footprints: Ethical, social and legal issues in connection with the impact of food production on climate change.

Course organizers – Nordic network on Agriculture and Food Ethics. (NordForsk)

3 BOVA PhD students, all from LZUU.

NOVA/BOVA Nordplus Network

Approved projects in 2008, continued in 2009:

1. NOVA/BOVA Nordplus network In 2008/2009 the BOVA universities where added in NOVA Nordplus application:

a) mobility

BOVA UN used mainly the express mobility for mobilities inside Baltics.

BOVA have used 22 student mobilities and 4 teachers' mobilities in total 26 mobilities.

Total number of mobilities was for NOVA/BOVA: 127

b) network meetings

EMU has hosted Nordplus meeting in Tartu on March 23-24 for Nordplus coordinators and study advisors.

c) NOVA/BOVA seminar in Kaunas "Development and Planning of Joint Intensive master courses" held in August 17-18, 2009 at LVA participated 40 persons from NOVA and BOVA.

BOVA projects/Intensive courses financed by Nordplus

- Held 1 course at LZUU "Renewable Energy sources"
- Other 2 courses „Forest tree breeding” and „Evaluation of quality of poultry and eggs” were offered in 2008.
- In 2009 year were performed the financial management of projects, summing up and reporting to Nordplus on all three courses.

Joint NOVA/BOVA project

Intensive course „Sustainable Pig Production” held in 2008 – summing up and reporting to Nordplus made by previous NOVA General Secretary Knut Wålstedt

NEW Application

- On March 2 was submitted new application for the academic year 2009/2010 (rules have been changed);
- Submitted by Nordplus central coordinator Stina-Lena Hellgren, BOVA Secretariat helped in the project writing process and preparation of the part regarding Intensive courses, mobility and general information;
- Application consisted of 3 parts:
 - 1) mobility
 - 2) network meetings
 - 3) intensive courses.

Results on Nordplus pr. project

Results:

- mobility 31 000 EUR
- Network meetings: 6 000 EUR
- Intensive courses: 13 500 EUR mainly for NOVA/BOVA course “Sustainable Pig production” (other mainly BOVA courses “Economics and management of rural development”, “Pomology and Fruit Science” and “Technology and Safety of Plant Food” are not granted).

Distribution of grant

During the Nordplus meeting in Kaunas it was decided received grant for mobilities divide accordingly to the number of full time students, based on these figures BOVA UN have get: 48 % of received grant or **15 000 EUR.**

Distribution of available Mobility grants on BOVA side is following based also on the number of full time students:

LLU - 4 444 students/ 4 700 EUR

EMU - 4 379 students/ 4 700 EUR

LZUU - 3 844 students/ 4 400 EUR

LVA - 1 189 students/ 1 200 EUR.

As BOVA UN using these grants mainly for BOVA courses, travel grant between Baltics was suggested to reduce from 250 EUR to 130 EUR in order to send more students on available funds.

Other activities within Nordplus project

- On November 18 BOVA secretary have participated at the Nordplus Meeting in Uppsala representing all BOVA coordinators, meeting mainly was aimed for exchange on information about recent changes as regards international studies at partner universities, results of the application, planning of the new application and planning of the Nordplus coordinators meeting where should take part all BOVA coordinators.
- The suggested place and time is following: March 8-9, Norway, UMB and NVH and visit both institutions. This meeting is planned together with study advisers.

Teachers competence raising activities

- This year activity for teachers was almost absent.
- Partly BOVA UN members tried to implement teachers education related to the e-learning tools, but this activity we couldn't count as real BOVA activity.
- On other hand the priority was given to development of e-learning system for BOVA UN activities and activities for teachers wasn't easy implement as it was planned.

BOVA Working group of e-learning specialists

- Established by the end of the 2008.
Leader: Prof. Sigitas Daukilas (LZUU)
Members: Andrejs Zujevs (LLU), Violeta Saladiene (LVA), Meeli Voore (EMU).
- *Main task was given to the WG: development of the quality requirements for BOVA Intensive courses*
- Group had one meeting at LZUU partly combined with videoconference with EMU.
- Draft of quality requirements was presented to BOVA CC and planned to be finished by the January 2009.

Information services

- Website (responsible for information update is BOVA secretary)
- BOVA leaflet (used this year, almost finished)
- BOVA jubilee publication (almost finished)
- NORDPLUS – “Nordic and Baltic educational Cooperation starts with Nordplus”, (limited example left)

Fund raising

- Nordplus one joint application with NOVA - total applied sum was 246 785 EUR!!!

Grant received 50 500 EUR for all NOVA and BOVA.

Almost 5 time less as applied.

BOVA UN Budget

- The BOVA UN administration was funded from internal BOVA UN funds by BOVA Rector's Board decision and based on Agreement of Joint Funding for BOVA cooperation (signed on February 2005).
- A joint pool was made by shares from member universities (EMU:LLU:LZUU:LVA = 3:3:3:1).
- In year 2009 shares were reduced:
- EMU - 5 000 EUR; LLU- 5 000 EUR;
- LZUU - 5 000 EUR; LVA - 1 670 EUR.
- **Total: 16 670 EUR**

This funds are aimed for the cost related to BOVA secretariat, BOVA meetings on various levels, cooperation with NOVA UN and over events useful for BOVA UN development.

BOVA UN Budget

Available funds in 2009 was **21 438 EUR**
(member fee 16 670 EUR + reminder
from 2008: 4 768 EUR)

Use of funds -	18 195 EUR
Reminder from 2009 -	3 243 EUR

Internal BOVA funds from each member university

Funds used to support BOVA activities such as participation of teachers and students in courses, meetings, remuneration of teachers and other related to the activities costs.

Financial contribution by each member university if following:

EMU - 14 000 EUR;

LLU - 5 275 EUR;

LZUU - 2 645 EUR;

LVA - 500 EUR.

Total contribution to BOVA UN activities is around **22 420 EUR**.

Comparing with last year this amount reduced on 1/3.

External Sources

All 4 member universities

- LZUU (from LR Education Exchange Support Found),
- LVA (from LR Education Exchange Support Found),
- EMU (from "Doctoral Studies and Internationalisation Programme "DoRa").
- LLU from joint project with Illinois University

have attracted additional funds or used attracted in 2008 external funds which covered a part of expenses of running BOVA activities.

Approximate sums used from external funds in 2009:

- EMU 15 000 EUR
- LLU 6 000 EUR
- LZUU 1 574 EUR
- LVA 1 070 EUR

Total: 23 644

Administrative activities

- BOVA Rector's meetings - 2
- BOVA CC meeting – 1 in person, others by electronic means
- BOVA CC & NOVA KUF meeting, Norway, April 23.
- BOVA coordinators meetings combined with other activities, weekly MSN sessions