

# Experience with preparing a Twinning proposal in Latvia University of Agriculture

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Latvia University of Agriculture

# Latvia University of Agriculture



- ▶ Third largest university in Latvia;
- ▶ Number of students ~5000;
- ▶ 8 faculties, offering studies in agriculture, veterinary medicine, food technology, engineering and forestry sciences, economy and social sciences, information technologies and environmental management



# Twinning proposal

## BioeconomyAdvance

- ▶ BioeconomyAdvance - Twinning for Advancement of the Research in Bioeconomy
- ▶ The project proposal aimed to advance the research capacity of Latvia University of Agriculture to implement advanced, innovative research in agricultural, environmental and economic sciences and transfer knowledge on the use of agricultural and natural resources for development of bioeconomy industries

The proposal was prepared with a financial aid from the EU structural funding

# Participants of the proposal

- ▶ Latvia University of Agriculture



Latvia University of Agriculture

- ▶ University of Helsinki



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

- ▶ Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences



- ▶ Wageningen University



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY  
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# Project directions

## ▶ 5 directions

- ▶ Agriculture - *Sustainability and innovations for high value agricultural production* - farm diversification by production of potentially profitable new crops, especially for small and medium farms
- ▶ Food safety - *Sustainable food production and public health* - the interaction between the food control inspectors and the food producers in small scale and farm based food production
- ▶ Environment- *Sustainable management of water resources - Bio productivity and environmental aspects* - nutrient runoff from agricultural catchments
- ▶ Food - *Food and biobased production* - Two directions - mild biorefining technologies and thermodynamic assessment of production and processing systems
- ▶ Economics - *Regional aspects in the development of bioeconomy*

# *Conceptual approach*

The twinning exercise was planned to join forces of LLU with the internationally leading counterparts to strengthen the research capacity in the five above mentioned areas solving the research problematics of each area within a separate work package (WP) and join the obtained experiences in the dissemination WP that will be participated by all project partners.

# Main planned activities

- ▶ short term staff exchanges;
- ▶ expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training;
- ▶ workshops;
- ▶ conference attendance;
- ▶ organization of joint summer school type activities;
- ▶ dissemination and outreach activities - joint publications, elaboration of a common strategy for advanced research in bioeconomy, joint final conference

# Evaluation results

- ▶ Total score: 13.00 (Threshold: 10)
- ▶ Criterion 1 - Excellence - 4.5
- ▶ Criterion 2 - Impact - 4
- ▶ Criterion 3 - Quality and efficiency of the implementation - 4.5



# Positive feedback

- ▶ The strong background of the high-performing institutions in collaborative networks is an asset and the proposed approach is credible in effectively implementing the project.
- ▶ The concept is of very good quality, with tasks well thought through and described in detail.
- ▶ The division of research topics into several thematic areas contributes to a clear and concise work plan.
- ▶ Partners contribute, at various levels, to the knowledge transfer and Twinning efforts thereby effectively bringing in their own expertise.
- ▶ The work plan has the potential to form the foundation for an effective implementation of the project, is coherent and easy to understand.

# Critics

- ▶ There are too many research domains involved to be successful in every single domain.
- ▶ A clear distinction between actual research activities and Twinning activities is not always visible
- ▶ It is unclear, if some of the objectives are focused solely on increasing the scientific level of the initiating institution or whether their impact will be primarily on the overall agricultural sector of the host country.

# Thank you for your kind attention!

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