



Juris Skujāns,  
Rector of the Latvia University  
of Agriculture

## University Working in the Largest Baltic Palace



Latvia University of Agriculture  
Lielā iela 2, Jelgava, LV-3001  
Latvia  
Tel.: +371 63022584  
Fax: +371 63027238  
e-mail: [rektors@llu.lv](mailto:rektors@llu.lv)  
[www.llu.lv](http://www.llu.lv)

Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU) is an independent legal, autonomous entity with self-governance rights and its main goal is to provide students with knowledge in academic and professional higher education, develop science and culture, promote intellectual potential in Latvia, and especially for a sustainable development of the Latvian countryside. LLU mission is to become a modern and internationally recognized university which actively joins the European higher education and science arena.

In order to reach its goal, there are nine faculties with more than 70 accredited different level study programs. There is a statement that LLU offers the largest number of study programs among the related higher education institutions in the Baltic and Nordic countries. LLU is the third largest public university in Latvia, with more than 6000 students, including 200 doctoral students.

It is historical that only in Jelgava where more than 70 years ago the Latvian Agriculture Academy and later – university, was established, students can acquire such unique directions of studies as veterinary medicine, agriculture, food technology, forestry, wood-processing, landscape architecture and food hygiene. During the last years the demand for knowledge in machine building, programming, catering and hospitality industry, environment and water management, public administration, economy, building, environment protection and other fields has grown. LLU prepares specialists in four branches out of seven prior export branches with the highest added value defined by the Ministry of Economics – food industry, wood-processing, production of metal and metal products, as well

as transport and communications. These branches coincide with the Zemgale regional priorities. Zemgale planning region includes such development centers as Jelgava, Jēkabpils, Aizkraukle, Bauska and Dobeles as well as their rural areas, and it has been defined as the region of knowledge based on business incubators, science, technological and industrial parks.

LLU is the only university in Zemgale region and almost half of its students are coming from towns and districts of the region. Even during the economic crisis, in order to ensure high intellectual potential for a balanced and sustainable regional development, LLU tries to maintain a wide spectrum of study programs and develops a close cooperation with Zemgale municipalities, entrepreneurs and educational institutions.

The research themes developed by the university bachelor, master and doctoral students are based on topical issues of the national and Zemgale region economy. LLU research and training farms and research centers' infrastructure has been modernized using EU structural funds' money. The Center of Renewable Nature Resources, laboratory planning and construction of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and infrastructure modernization of the study and research farm „Vecauce” are also planned using EU structural funds.

The research farm „Vecauce” cultivates 2 000 ha of land, it produces cropper, rape and corn. In its scientific research it is traditional to test various sorts of cultivated plants and plant protection means. Business relations have been developed with many production companies – clients trust in „Vecauce” researchers and are satisfied with the obtained research

