

Farmers University Exchange Program

Following the Lima-Paris Agenda adopted 2015 in Paris, we are [obliged to raise the humus content of our soils](#). Sustainable agriculture is likewise [key for mitigating eutrophication](#) and pollution of the Baltic Sea and loss of biodiversity – and for development of the bioeconomy. Ecological Regenerative Agriculture (ERA) can play a major positive role for all the above mentioned aspects. However, in order to unleash this potential integrated competence is needed, and actual farm practice is very important.



The aim of the project is to inspire and educate youth, farm workers and farmers in the basics for Ecological Regenerative Agriculture based on practice on farms, and in the long term to create job opportunities and educate youth for the growing job market, entrepreneurship and innovation in this area.



The project is based on [a pilot education initiative](#) with six month international practice on organic farms and the results of the [BERAS projects](#), and in particular the education package for farmers and advisors “[Guidelines for Ecological Recycling Agriculture](#)”.

The short time plan is to extend the practice to farms and students in the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Partnership countries and develop preparation courses and higher courses for the graduates, for the host farmers and for potential host farmers. The longer term plan is to develop local clusters or hubs of host farmers to develop themselves as instructors, inspirators and stimulate on farm research connected to ERA, sustainability and rural development.

Partners today are: [BERAS International](#) (Sweden), [Ekologiska Lantbrukarna](#) (Sweden), [Young Farmers Club](#) (Sweden), [Alexandras Stulginskis University](#) (Lithuania), [Baltic Foundation](#) (Lithuania) and [Grodno State Agrarian University](#) (Belarus) and International Information Centre (Ukraine). Potential partners exist already in the network in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Poland, Germany, Estonia and Russia.

Concrete next steps:

- Startup Farmers University for farmers in Sweden 14-15 mars 2016 in connection with Organic Farmers national meeting and open day
- Application to ERASMUS+ Capacity Building – april 2017
- Farmers University Practice Course (FUPC) – april-sep 2016
- Launch improved and widened FUPC 2017 august 2016

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