

**Programme for the first seminar on May 6th, 2020 at
13:00 Eastern European time (12:00 Central European time).**

Presentation 1

Title: Analyzing economics of animal health in the intensive pig production sector.

Speaker: Jarkko Niemi, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke).

Abstract: Competition in the livestock sector is intense and challenges related to animal health and welfare can have play an important role when the competitiveness of the pig sector is concerned. In this talk, a value chain analysis to the financial effects on food chain actors of interventions to improve animal health and welfare in the intensive pig sector will be presented, and illustrated for two interventions. Data on the sector were collected, and the effects of interventions were assessed at market level using economic welfare analysis for Finland and the UK. The results point out that for instance hygienic measures can play a substantial role in generating value to the sector. The implications of animal health and welfare improvements in the sector will be discussed.

Presentation 2

Title: Innovation and Cooperation as key Factors for Polycentric Regional Development.

Speaker: Dace Štefenberga, Ventspils University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)

Abstract: Global, external environment is changing rapidly and everyone has to take correct and right decisions in this *VUCA* world (volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity). Readiness to take changes should be at high level, we have to make decisions already today, based on perspectives of tomorrow.

“Innovation” is phenomena, defined by researchers, economists and philosophers in different ways from ancient times, during J.Schumpeters *creative destruction* until nowadays wider than product, process, service or organizational innovation. Right now this is *systemic approach* or *innovation systems*. It is possible to evaluate the role of innovation in development in different perspectives and different levels of global economy.

Challenge for regional development in Latvia is, that Latvia is a very monocentric state. Polycentric regional development idea is to promote development in all regions and for national level and regional level development it is crucial to encourage inhabitants of region to stay or return in rural areas and create knowledge and enterprises in region and their hometowns. Strengthening living environment close to nature boosts creativity and new ideas. Cooperation between universities as knowledge creation centres, local communities and entrepreneurs as individuals is one of key aspects. Seeking for more effective cooperation models between individual and institutional level and approbation of them. Key questions usually are what, why and how? Why, how we should interact and cooperate together with partners (national institutions, entrepreneurs, local communities, NGOs, local government) and what we can do to achieve overall goals, defined in Latvia National Development plan and Latvia 2030 strategy.

Way of learning, new approaches of personal development, reconfiguration of the role of education and universities. New way of thinking and knowledge creation and acquiring in the business education, emphasizes approach “learning by doing”. At this level of cooperation, among the most important tasks are development of creativity and knowledge-building.