



## ECOTOURISM AND NATURE PROTECTION

<b>Credit Points:</b>	<b>3 CP</b>
<b>Study course annotation</b>	<p>Ecotourism is a well-known and well-developed tourism sector in Europe, which is growing very rapidly thanks to the interest of the people and the political and financial support of the European Community, which is increasingly directed towards the conservation of traditional landscapes and biodiversity, including in urban areas, as well as the development of innovative and intellectually intensive forms of entrepreneurship.</p> <p>The course includes lectures, illustrations and examples from the field of ecotourism and environmental protection. The following methods are used: discussion, analysis of different situations.</p>
<b>Aim of the study course</b>	To raise awareness of environmental issues and ecotourism as a sustainable tourism segment based on the nature tourism sector. To create awareness of its importance for the preservation and development of the environment, the principles of its organisation and the social role of ecotourism.
<b>Tasks of the study course</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-to introduce the concept and types of environmental protection and ecotourism;</li> <li>-to develop an understanding of environmental and nature protection policies and their implementation;</li> <li>-to develop an understanding of the impact of ecotourism on nature and protected areas;</li> <li>-to introduce international organisations in the field of ecotourism;</li> <li>-to develop an understanding of the trends and perspectives of ecotourism worldwide;</li> <li>-to test and consolidate the knowledge and skills acquired through self-assessment questions.</li> </ul>
<b>Study results</b>	<p><b>Knowledge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- knowledge of eco-tourism and environmental protection in different countries;</li> <li>- organisations and documents drawn up by them in the field of environmental protection and eco-tourism;</li> <li>- familiarise themselves with the laws governing the development of eco-tourism and environmental protection;</li> <li>- knowledge of the importance of eco-tourism for the preservation and development of the environment, the principles for organising it, the fundamental motives of eco-tourism, the social nature of eco-tourism</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Abilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to apply theoretical knowledge in practice when analysing the environmental protection problems of a particular country and ecotourism resources and developments;</li> <li>- skills to ensure compliance with regulatory enactments regarding environmental protection in an undertaking;</li> <li>- skills in shaping, evaluating, pricing services and determining and analysing economic performance of ecological tourism business.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Competences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be able to select, evaluate and systematize necessary information for the development of ecotourism in the county, region, country;</li> <li>- be able to develop an ecological route, calculate its expenditure,</li> <li>- to focus on regulatory documents and regulatory enactments.</li> </ul>
<b>Study course plan:</b>	
<b>No.</b>	<b>Topics</b>
1.	Ecological fundamentals. Ecology, ecosystems and components therefor. The concept of habitat, habitat types, sensitive habitats.
2.	Environmental and nature protection policies and their implementation.



3.	Eco-tourism: concept, characteristics, principles.
4.	Types of ecological tourism.
5.	Environmental impact of tourism on nature Special areas of conservation.
6.	International ecological Tourism organisations (TIES, CESD, Econtrance, UNEP, ECEAT, WTO)
7.	Ecological certification. Types of certificates and criteria for obtaining them.
8.	Trends in ecological tourism and prospects for global development
9.	Special features and perspectives of the development of ecological tourism in Latvia
10.	The concept of rural tourism. Characterisation, development of the rural tourism sector in Latvia today and Outlook.
11.	Greenways: an innovative approach to the development of green tourism.

**Form of final examination:**

Exam

**Mandatory literature of the study course:**

1. Weaver, D. Ecotourism / David Weaver. - 2nd ed. - Wiley, 2008. – 348p.
2. David A. Fennell. Ecotourism. 3rd Edition. Routledge. 2007.
3. Ecotourism and Sustainable Development, by Dr. Martha Honey.2008.

**Study course supplementary literature:**

1. Latvijas Republikas likumdošanas akti un Latvijas Republikas standarti..
2. Lauku tūrisma termini un rokasgrāmata / Latvijas lauku tūrisma asociācijas "Lauku ceļotājs" izd. - 2001.
3. Loomis, J.B. & Walsh, R.G. (1997). Recreation Economic Decisions, Comparing Benefits and Costs. 2 nd Edition, Venture Publishing.
4. Romancing the Wild: Cultural Dimensions of Ecotourism (New Ecologies for the Twenty-First Century) 2014
5. Trauer, B. (2006). Conceptualizing special interest tourism - framework for analysis. Tourism Management, 27,183-200.
6. R Buckley. Ecotourism. International Centre for Ecotourism Research, Australia. 2008.
7. M Luck. The Encyclopedia of Tourism and Recreation in Marine Environments. AUT University Auckland, New Zealand, 2008.
8. John Neil, Stephen Wearing. Ecotourism: Impacts, Potentials and Possibilities? Butterworth-Heinemann. 2009.
9. Ryan Plummer. Outdoor Recreation. An Introduction. Routledge. 2008.
10. Колбовский Е. Экологический туризм и экология туризма. Учебное пособие. 2011.-256 с.
11. Bērziņa I., Karnīte R. Tūrisms Latvijā: Attīstība un perspektīvas, tūrisma satelītkonti. - Rīga: BO SIA "LZA EI", 2001.

**Periodicals and other sources of information:**

- [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)
- <http://www.latvia.travel/ru/ekoturizm>
- [http://www.viss.lv/ra/katalog/ehkoturizm\\_v\\_latvii](http://www.viss.lv/ra/katalog/ehkoturizm_v_latvii)
- <http://www.latvia.lv/ru/library/priroda-i-ekoturizm-v-latvii>
- <http://www.ecotourismrussia.ru/>
- <http://www.celotajs.lv>

During the study process changes and additions to the program and the list of references are possible