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**BIP INTERNATIONAL SUMMER
SCHOOL –
Rooted Sustainability: Agroecology,
Community, and Cultural Heritage
2026**



Partners: Universidad de La Rioja, Universidad de Valladolid, Instituto Politécnico de Viseu, Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik, University of Catania



Venue: Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu, Estonia

BIP ID: 2024-1-EE01-KA131-HED-000220938-4.

Course Dates:

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- Online: From 11/05/2026 to 12/06/2026
- Onsite/face-to-face: From 24/05/2026 to 30/05/2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun							
May																																			
Day					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Duration																																			
June																																			
Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
Duration																																			

Online, synchronous

Online, asynchronous

Presential week in Tartu

Registration is open until April 15.2026

For more information about the application procedure please contact the International Office of your institution.

For detailed questions about the course please contact:

Prof. Reet Karise: reet.karise@emu.ee

Ms. Karoli Kõiv: karoli.koiv@emu.ee

Online component:

Course materials will be open starting from Monday, 11th of May.

For asynchronous study, the students need to select at least 5 topics and work through at least 3 modules within each. The detailed list of the modules will be provided before the start of the course. Task is to work the materials through, fill the self-control materials of worksheets provided with each teaching material. The modules will be available in the Moodle platform.

Once a week there is online synchronous session during which short lectures but active discussions occur. Students need to attend at least 3 synchronous online sessions out of 4. Synchronous sessions will take place each Tuesday at 17.30 (CET) on the video conference room (the access to the link will be provided with the detailed information before the course starts).

The topics covered:

- Foundations of Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems
- Agrarian History, Knowledge and Future Readiness
- Farming Practices: Soil, Crops, Livestock and Food Processing
- Rural Entrepreneurship, Integration and Community Value
- Nature-based Solutions, Agritourism and Rural Resilience
- Social Movements, Rights and Political Dynamics in Agroecology
- Communication, Culture and Advocacy in Rural Contexts

Presential week:

The presential in Tartu week includes daily activities from the evening of Sunday 24th of May until 30th of May. Students need to participate at least on 5 days of this period. The week activities include several participative and collaborative sessions to discuss the topics, field visits, recreative and cultural events. The detailed programme will be available by the start of course.

On the 30th of May we will visit and participate in a local song-festival “Kodavere laalupido” organized by Kodavere Heritage Center. We will ask students to bring along materials to introduce different cultural traditions. Students from each country should co-work in order to

offer local people some new experience. The selection and type of materials will be selected by student groups. The translation to Estonian language will be provided.

During the presential week, the welcome event will be in the evening of may the 24th. The days from May the 25th to 29th will be started at 10.00. We will use the bus to go out of town to events, thus we need timely arrival to the point of gathering. On May 30th, we will visit the festive outdoor event, for which proper clothing is appreciated. The arrival back to Tartu is planned to be around 18.00-19.00, allowing (joint) free activities.

Outdoor activities will take place. To ensure that the activities are comfortable and enjoyable, we recommend wearing comfortable clothing and shoes (we will go to landscape), applying sunscreen, wearing a hat or cap. We strongly recommend using some insect repellent, while depending on the weather, Estonian nature offers refuge to many mosquitoes and ticks. The weather forecast should be checked prior to the presential week in order to supply with proper clothing. Estonian weather can be with very sunny and warm but also rainy and cool in May.

Students are encouraged to take photos and share the experiences. Commonly shared and documented time will be the basis for collective learning.

Final assessment and evaluation

To receive the final certification, students need to:

- Attend at least 3 of 4 synchronous sessions.
- Assist and complete at least 3 modules of at least 5 topics that are available on the platform.
- Take part at least 5 days out of 7, preferably including May, the 30th.
- Participate in the activities proposed during the presential week.
- Deliver and present the final assessment (will be agreed during the course)

Learning outcomes:

- has knowledge of sustainable food production methods
- understands the roots of traditional and modern food production
- can analyse how rural enterprises integrate into local communities
- can evaluate the social value of agriculture of community and individual wellbeing
- has broader view on variable options for rural livelihoods including rural tourism
- understands the role of social movements in advancing agroecology
- recognises the importance of human rights and gender equality in food systems
- understands the connection between cultural management and rural living

Tentative program

Date	Timing	Activity
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May 24 th	19:00-21:00	Welcome event at Baer's house
May 25 th	10:00-18:00	Opening of the course, visit to Estonian Agricultural Museum, Visit to A. Le Coq Beer Museum. The history of agrarian society. Landscape and adaption to availability. Food and Drink as daily needs.
May 26 th	10:00-18:00	Climate change and adaption. Northernmost viticulture. Sales activity. How to integrate rural entrepreneurship into society. Dairy production and farm management. Smoke sauna and its importance in rural society.
May 27 th	10:00-18:00	Agriculture, rural enterprise and society. Visit to enterprises whose activity largely is supporting the local life.
May 28 th	10:00-18:00	Soil as source and substrate. Compost. Peat production and berry cultivation. Wetland. Soomaa National Park, the land of 5 seasons, hiking trails in bog.
May 29 th	10:00-18:00	Cultural organization. Human alienation from nature. Open Farm Days – how to keep contact between people and living in farms. Farm-tourism. Rural reputation.
May 30	11:00-16:00	Kodavere laalupido. A festive event, local cultural event. Keeping touch with own's roots. Student activity – introducing your own cultural heritage to local people.

