

LATVIA UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES
FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

APPROVED
by the academic staff meeting of
Department of Environment and Water Management
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Environmental Policy I

Jelgava

Programme

Code of the study course at LLU IS Register: **VidZ4006**

2.0 CP (32 h): lectures 24 h, practical works 8 h, Examination.

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Compulsory course of the professional Bachelor's degree level study programme "Environment and Water Management"

Abstract

The main objective of the course is to provide students with increased and interdisciplinary understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects of the environmental policy. An interactive approach in the lectures and practical works is used to ensure a detailed insight in the concept of sustainable development, use of natural resources, main priorities of environmental policy and environmental problems in Latvia and the European Union, as well as legislation concerning environmental protection and management.

The aim of the study course:

The main aim of the course is to provide in-depth and interdisciplinary understanding of theoretical and practical aspects of environmental policy.

Learning Outcomes (knowledge, skills and competence)

Upon completion of the course students will gain:

1. **Knowledge** of content, development, principles, stakeholders, instruments of the environmental policy and their mutual interactions, as well as knowledge about environment as a substantial factor in the sustainable development;
2. **Skills** to overview the interdisciplinary character of environmental policy, and to identify and assess the causes of environmental problems and choose the suitable solutions;

3. Competence of collecting, evaluating, analysing and using the information in the field of environmental policy.

Relation of the study course with other subjects:

Ecology (Biol3015).

Requirements for individual work:

The report on the topical issue of environmental policy, individual studies of the theoretical material of the course.

Assessment of knowledge:

Four mid-term tests to check the knowledge of the environmental policy topics covered during the lectures.

Requirements for the admission to the examination/test:

The assessment of the students' progress is made up taking account their regular study work during the course. The final grade is formed using accumulative assessment in the following way: the attendance: 10 points, four tests (no repeated try): 40 points, the report: 10 points and the examination: 40 points. The total maximum number of points is 100. The students are admitted to the examination, if the report is submitted and all the tests are passed.

Final grade:

Obtained points	100	≥ 90	≥ 85	≥ 80	≥ 75	≥ 70	≥ 65
≤ 60							
The grade in 10-point system	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
							3

Procedure and requirements for settling missed lectures:

The missed lectures should be settled according to the procedures approved by the LLU Studies Regulation and internal regulation of the Faculty of Environment and Civil Engineering as well as in cooperation with the respective member of academic staff.

Extended content of the programme

The notion of environmental policy. The concept of policy. The place and role of environmental policy. Democratization of society and policy progress. Environmental policy system. The complex nature of the relationship between society and environment.

Development of environmental policy. Principles of shaping environmental policy. Objectives and preconditions for environmental policy, measures and instruments. Environmental education, its role in shaping environmental policy. Public awareness.

Factors influencing environmental policy. Overview of the history of Latvia. Natural conditions, distribution of land by land use types. Specific conditions and preconditions of agricultural production.

Implementation of environmental policy. Technology transfer. Science for sustainable development.

The role of main groups of society in the implementation of environmental policy. Non-governmental organizations. Local authorities. Business and industry. The role of farmers.

The concept of sustainable development. The course of history. The essence, features and basic principles of sustainable development. The relation between environmental, economic and social factors. Environmentally sustainable society.

Importance of the Rio Conference. Main stages of development of environmental protection policy. International Rio de Janeiro Conference (1992) on Environment and Development. Action plan for the 21st century (Agenda 21). UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Forest Principles and the Rio declaration on Environment and Development.

Nature resources in the context of sustainable development. Globalization. Fossil and alternative energy sources. Protection and management of land, atmosphere, seas, oceans and freshwater.

Climate policy. Solutions of greenhouse gas emission reduction. Adaptation to climate change.

Environmental policy of the European Union. The formation and institutional structure of the EU. Types of the EU documents. The main directions of the EU environmental policy.

Common agricultural policy of the European Union. The role of agriculture specialists. Diversity and quality of agricultural products. Support for rural areas. Agri-environment protection measures.

Agrarian policy of Latvia. Change of land ownership forms. Population, employment and income in rural areas. Development and analysis of agriculture and forestry. Agrarian policy after accession to the EU.

Guideline of Environmental Policy. Description Latvia's environment condition. Linking the guidelines with the priorities set out in the development programmes and strategies of the planning regions. The funding required for the implementation of the measures and objectives contained in the Environmental Policy Guidelines.

Priority environmental problems in Latvia. Air, water, the Earth, nature, climate.

Latvian environmental protection legislation. Laws "On Environmental Protection", "On Environmental Impact Assessment", "Natural Resources Tax Law", "On Specially Protected Nature Territories", "Protection Zone Law". Policy planning documents.

Summary

List of practical works: (8 hours)

1. Identification, obtaining and visualization of publicly available geospatial information characterizing environmental condition in ArcGIS software information.
2. Test No. 1. Notions of environmental policy.
3. Options for analysing of publicly available geospatial information characterizing environmental condition using ArcToolbox tools.

4. Test No. 2. The role of group of society and sustainable development.
5. Analysis and visualization of water quality monitoring results: an example of the Bērze river using ArcGIS software.
6. Test No. 3. The Rio Conference, the use of natural resources, the European Union and the European Union's environmental policy.
7. Analysis and visualization of air quality monitoring results: an example of Jelgava city using ArcGIS software.
8. Test No. 4. The European Union Common Agricultural Policy, Latvian agrarian policy and the priorities of Latvia's environmental policy.

Bibliography

Compulsory reading:

1. Meseršmits K., Meiere S., Ūsiņa E. Eiropas vides tiesības: mācību līdzeklis. Rīga: Latvijas Universitāte. 2003. 460 lpp.
2. Strautmanis J. Vides ētika un vides tiesības. Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC. 2003. 187 lpp.
3. Kļaviņš M., Zaļoksnis J. Vide un ilgtspējīga attīstība. Rīga: LU Akadēmiskais apgāds. 2010. 334 lpp.
4. Lazdiņa Ē., Bendere R., Ozola A., Brizga J., Kauliņš J. Vides komunikācija un vides politikas integrācija. Rīga: REC Latvija: Latvijas Universitāte, 2010. 136 lpp.

Further reading:

1. Andersen M.S., Liefferink D. European Environmental Policy. The Pioneers. Manchester: Manchester University Press. 1997. 340 p.
2. Dauvergne P. Handbook of Global Environmental Politics. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited. 2005. 538 p.
3. Vides politikas pamatnostādnes 2014-2020. gadam. [tiešsaiste] [Skatīts 21. 02. 2018.] Pieejams: <http://varam.gov.lv/lat/pol/ppd/vide/?doc=17913>

Periodicals and other sources of information:

1. Vides vēstis: Vides aizsardzības kluba žurnāls. Rīga: Vides aizsardzības klubs. ISSN 1407-2939.