

Faculty of Social Sciences: Results – Achievements – Prospects

S. Bremze

Faculty of Social Sciences

Abstract. A wide range of scientific activities was carried out at the Faculty of Social Sciences during the time period from 1990 to 2009 and they are reflected in the following paper. The establishment of new structural units: the Department of Pedagogy and the Group of Sociological Researches, dealing with social sciences, testifies to the scientific potential of the teaching staff of foreign languages and social sciences. The establishment of the Faculty of Social Sciences, one of the youngest of the nine faculties of the Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU), testifies about the necessity to fulfil the mission of the development of the contemporary highly educated, well trained practitioner–public manager. The University graduate has to be a leader, well equipped with the highest quality knowledge on the latest scientific achievements in public management, the management of social sciences, having good foreign language skills and using these skills on a daily basis and communicating them, applying information technologies while carrying out the mission of being a citizen and patriot of the Latvian State. The LLU is a study process oriented higher education institution therefore the results of investigations are student oriented. Therefore, the description of the scientific activities which focus on the creation of valuable and contributing members of modern society, and on the sustainable development of urban and rural areas, is carried out. The most significant scientific activities for the development of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the society and their results are described.

Key words: scholars, science, dissemination of knowledge, rural areas, higher education.

Introduction

Contemporary socio-economic conditions and lifestyles have determined the establishment of the unique Faculty of Social Sciences at the Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU). At present there are three departments at the Faculty of Social Sciences: the Department of Sociology (at present 30 faculty members) has grown to be the largest and the second largest is the Department of Languages (28 faculty members) and the Department of Philosophy has 8 faculty members. In 2009 the Department of Languages celebrates its 65th anniversary.

The departments have defined the main directions of their research. The organization of international scientific forums and the publication of the proceedings has become one of the most effective means of disseminating the innovative knowledge.

In the time period from 1990 until 2008 the completion of eight Doctoral Papers testifies to the scientific potential of the Departments and the lecturers. The main aspects or criteria by which the Departments can be assessed are the following: research contributions, contributions to international scientific conferences, completed doctoral and master papers, published books and articles, participation in international projects, international research collaboration.

Publications and the reviewing of research papers, articles for international scientific journals and dissertations, participation in international projects, writing and publication of books are the results to be recognized as being academically worthy and of scientific value.

Although many scientific activities were carried out, only the most meaningful were selected for discussion.

The Main Areas of the Research

The Faculty of Social Sciences has a special mission and role at the LLU. The teaching staff of the Faculty takes part in the scientific activities of the University being represented by philologists and pedagogues, philosophers and sociologists who focus their scientific interests on the activities of the society and the development of the community, paying special attention to the treatment of socio-economic and culture problems not only in urban and rural areas but also in higher education.

The scientific activities of the scholars of the Faculty of Social Sciences have had and have at present a complete strategic function. They are mainly aimed at the recognition and study of social phenomena which are topical in social life at the moment of research and have some impact on higher education as well. Research work has not been guided or managed between the Departments of the Faculty. It is initiated by the researchers themselves. Some scholars have been carrying out research in accordance with their own scientific interests. Nevertheless it is possible to define the main directions of the research carried out by the faculty members.

The Department of Sociology has defined 3 main areas for research:

1) public management and the sociology of organisations; 2) social inclusion and exclusion; 3) regional and rural development.

The priorities of the scientific activities of the teaching staff of the Department of Philosophy are the following:

1) philosophical problems of human personality and culture; 2) research in the philosophy of science, bioethics, the philosophy of education and the philosophy of religion; 3) studies on Latvian and European philosophical thought.

The priorities of the scientific activities of the Department of Languages are:

1) life-long education; 2) development of professional competence; 3) content and language acquisition integrated learning studies.

Public Management and the Sociology of Organisations

The Department of Sociology organized the international scientific conference "Social Capital" in 2002 in order to draw scholars' attention to the phenomenon of "social capital" and to disseminate innovative knowledge on the positive effect of synergy and its impact on the further development of society.

Objective rules as being essential in the field of public management which should be taken into account in organisational management are discussed by associated professors of the Department of Sociology J. Ābele and V. Bariss in their books on public management: "Strategic Management" (2006) and "Organizations" (2008). The authors point out that "all can be regarded from the organisation theory point of view, for example, state institutions, labour environment, family, etc. Successful functioning depends on the competent application of organisation theory" (Ābele, Bariss, 2008).

A high level of application competence of innovative knowledge in the field of societal organisations means better communication. Associate professor V. Bariss, to underline the necessity to satisfy the need for better communication stresses, that it is important to think about the impression the speaker wants to make upon the listener. Practical advice in the application of contemporary social, psychological knowledge, methods, language culture and the art of rhetoric have been elaborated by V. Bariss. He has developed his theories in the book "Applied Public Speech". In the introduction the author stresses that his "aim is to form better communication skills" (Bariss, 2008).

Innovations in public management and innovative public management processes in the state institutions of higher education have become the subject of D. Štefenhāgena's PhD research.

Social Inclusion and Exclusion

To promote the quality of the social environment in order to develop communication for the establishment of social contacts and partnerships with social institutions and public organisations is some of the research being carried out by the researchers of the Department of Sociology. Research on the social inclusion and exclusion situation in Jelgava was carried out under the guidance of professor A. Zobena, associated professors V. Bariss, J. Ābele, J. Ķūsis, assistant professors M. Krūzmētra and S. Dobelniece by V. Kronberga, L. Rasnača, L. Barisa, L. Paula, G. Kronberga, I. Liepiņa, D. Bite and L. Janmere with the assistance of specialists of the Jelgava city government. In such a way the plan for further social development was elaborated as a programming document to receive EU SF financing for 2004-2006. The strategy for the activities of the Latvian state government and priorities for the investment of EU structural means were elaborated. The results of the research provided the basis for the united document according to which financing is assigned and which was unilaterally adopted by the European Commission. EU financed activities became a substantial landmark for the elaboration of the plan. Researchers developed substantial substantiation for the further development of projects of corresponding institutions of selfgovernments for the time

period 2004-2010 to eliminate social alienation. The research was elaborated within the framework of the cooperation programme of the Baltic sea region 2001 financial support (Socioloģiskais ..., 2004).

In 2008, in the Department of Sociology two dissertations were completed concerning social inclusion and exclusion: by the lecturer L. Brokāne on social psychology, and by the lecturer S. Dobelniece on social work.

The lecturer of the Department of Sociology V. Korpa, being a doctoral student of the Latvia University, is carrying out her doctoral research on the harmonization of family life and work planning, focusing on family friendly jobs. The doctoral student and lecturer of the Department of Sociology, J. Millere is researching the life quality in families with children having special needs and the lecturer A. Grīnfelde is developing her Doctoral theses in economics on the life quality of pensioners in different regions of Latvia.

To cover several aspects of social inclusion and exclusion, S. Dobelniece, E. Caune and V. Korpa, lecturers of the Departments of Sociology and Philosophy, are working on the joint grant project of the Latvian Council of Science "Formation of the Family Friendly Work Environment in Latvia: from the Point of View of Business Organizations".

Regional and Rural Development

The importance of communication among the people, different ways of communication, the development of communication technologies, the significance of infrastructure and logistics for regional and rural development were the key topics of the international scientific conference "Communication and Community" in 2001, which was organized by the Department of Philosophy.

The need to pay more attention to regional and rural development has captured the researchers' interest. The lecturers of the Department of Sociology focus on research concerning employment problems in rural areas and regions of Latvia. Co-operative research takes place at 6 universities of Latvia on the labour market in Latvian regions under the guidance of associate professor V. Bariss.

The problems of women in rural areas, their readiness and possibilities to form businesses are being researched by assistant professor M. Krūzmētra. The problems of local governments are being researched by V. Kronberga and L. Barisa.

The purpose of the research which was carried out was to promote social partnership, to restructure institutions and organisations in order to empower them, to provide assistance, to design models of development, and so on. At present nine former doctoral students of the Department of Sociology are working on their doctoral theses, five of them in the field of regional and rural development: L. Rasnača on unemployment problems and their treatment in small towns; L. Paula on partnership as social innovation for rural development; Ž. Krūzmētra on the restructuring of the society of small towns; D. Bite on models of regional development; D. Kaufmane on tourism systems' models in different regions of Latvia.

The group of researchers: J. Ķūsis, D. Bite, Ž. Krūzmētra, L. Rasnača, A. Putnieks and N. Pauliņš have been investigating the sustainable development of small towns since 2006. The main objective of the research is to ascertain if and how municipalities use new possibilities created by the administrative territorial reform to become centres of employment and services. Scientific discussion about the problem of the definition of a small town was initiated during the investigation. The group has begun to develop the Resource Centre of Small Rural Towns and has developed the web page www.mazpilsetas.lv in 2008.

Currently Assistant Professor S. Dobelniece is carrying out research on social inclusion policy in rural areas of Latvia.

Philosophical Problems of Human Personality and Culture

The notion of culture and the theories of culture, paying attention to the phenomena of culture crisis and marginalism have been investigated by assistant professor Z. Andersone. Her investigations on the "history of culture from the postmodernists point of view" are presented in the books "Culturology" Part I (Andersone, 2001) and "Culturology" Part II "on the philosophy of culture as discourse into culture" (Andersone, 2002).

The problem of consciousness in Latvian philosophy during the nineteenth century has been studied by I. Leikuma. The results of the research are presented in the book "The

Problem of Consciousness in Latvian Philosophical Thought at the End of the Nineteenth – the Beginning of the Twentieth Centuries” (2002).

Philosophical and psychological problems of human personality both theoretically and practically, including problems of self-awareness, alienation and life position were examined by the professor of the Department of Philosophy A. Strods and the lecturer I. Leikuma. The results of the studies of alienation are contained in the book by A. Strods “Alienation and We”. In his book A. Strods concludes, that “alienation is not only a social, but also an antropological and ontological phenomenon” (Strods, 2005).

Research in the Philosophy of Science, Bioethics, Education, and Religion

The essence of religions and the description of various religions have been studied and elaborated by the lecturer of the Department of Philosophy I. Trepšs in the book “Philosophy of Religion” (2000).

Two years later research on the historical development of the philosophy of science, on the development of positivism and neopositivism was carried out by assistant professors of the Department of Philosophy K. Lūsis and L. Leikums. The results of the studies on methodological problems, scientific reasoning and the issues related to sociology, the organization and psychology of scientific work were reflected in the book “Philosophy of Science” (2002).

The lecturer of the Department of Philosophy G. Brāzma defended his PhD theses on bioethics and the philosophy of life sciences in 2007. The manuscript of the monograph “Bioethical aspects of the Creation and Termination of Human Life” has been prepared for publication.

The lecturer of the Department of Philosophy E. Caune has carried out research on the philosophy of education, particularly concerning higher education. J. Vuguls researches philosophical aspects of the religions of the world. The main topic of his research is the practice of hesychasm – the philosophy on the basis of/according to which the unity of the world is stressed.

The lecturers of the Department of Philosophy have tried to compare “contemporary views on problems discussed in the context of Western cultural traditions and the topics related to reasoning, consciousness, ethics, religions, history, personal values and issues of postmodernism from the point of view of contemporary philosophy” (Praktiskā filosofija, 2008). As a result, the book “Practical Philosophy” (2008) was written by the academic staff of the Department of Philosophy L. Leikums, K. Lūsis, E. Apsīte, G. Brāzma, E. Caune, I. Leikuma, S. Poča and J. Vuguls within the framework of the scientific research project of the Ministry of Education and Science.

Studies on Latvian and European Philosophical Thought

It has become a good tradition for the lecturers of the Department of Philosophy to study the Latvian historical and scientific heritage and to reflect it not only in lectures but also in publications.

It should be noted that on the basis of comprehensive long-term investigations several articles and prefaces for books on the history of philosophical ideas in Latvia during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including the New Latvians movement and one of its leading exponents K. Valdemārs, have been written by assistant professor of the Department of Philosophy K. Lūsis.

The researcher and lecturer of the Department of Philosophy I. Trepšs organized scientific conferences dedicated to the outstanding Latgalian scholars K. Raudive in 1999 and N. Trepšs in 2003 as well as the conference dedicated to the distinguished twentieth century Latvian philosopher and interpreter of the E. Husserl’s phenomenological movement, T. Celms, in Valka in 2007.

At present, the lecturers of the Department of Philosophy are carrying out comparative research of the philosophical thought of Germany, France, Russia, UK and the USA. The major area of research is devoted to the history of Latvian philosophical thought. I. Leikuma in her research is focusing on Latvian identity in the context of historical developments. L. Leikums, S. Poča, A. Strods, I. Trepšs, Z. Andersone have studied history of Latgale (Eastern Latvia) concerning philosophical thought and the contemporary problems of culture of Latgale.

Members of the Department of Philosophy, assistant professors G. Brāzma, E. Caune, L. Leikums have had the possibility to describe the results of their researches and participate in discussions on themes such as bioethics and the philosophy of life

sciences, the philosophy of education, particularly higher education and its problems, the methodology of scientific reasoning and the issues related to the sociology of organizations and the psychology of scientific work and other themes, organized by Latvian Radio and other mass media.

Life-long Education

Research on the development of young lecturers' pedagogical skills was carried out and The Young Lecturers' School of Pedagogical Proficiency at the Latvia Academy of Agriculture was organised by associate professor of the Department of Languages S. Bremze.

The research and the activities of The Young Lecturers' School of Pedagogical Proficiency stimulated the establishment and development of the Department of Pedagogy. The teaching of pedagogy and psychology allowed the Latvia Academy of Agriculture to reorganize into the Latvia University of Agriculture in 1995 (Bremze, 1991).

Since 1990, two members of the staff of the Department of Languages, S. Bremze and D. Grasmane, have investigated the problems of the study process and adult education, students' and labour market needs regarding foreign language skills, students' competences, cross-cultural communication and other relevant subjects.

Associate professors S. Bremze and D. Grasmane have had joint publications with the visiting professor of Surrey University (UK) J. Hobrough, on the recognition of cultural diversity and the impact of the Bologna process on the development of the higher education system and its reforms in Eastern Europe at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st centuries.

The processes in the higher education system were highlighted from the university instructors' point of view by S. Bremze and J. Hobrough and they carried out research on "Changes in the Lifelong Education of a Lecturer" (Bremze, Hobrough, 2007) which concluded that higher education in Latvia (and Eastern Europe as well) is more focused on the improvement of the study process and less on scholarship and its dissemination.

The staff – associate professors S. Bremze and D. Grasmane of the Department of Languages assisted in the maintenance of the international scientific projects "Changes in Higher Education in an Expanding Europe" (Surrey University, Great Britain), "Food Choice and Eating Habits" (Roehampton University, Great Britain), and "Latvia on its Way to EU" (Latvia, Germany, UK, the Netherlands, Finland, USA, Lithuania).

Content and Language Acquisition Integrated Learning

Research on the choice of the lexis or vocabulary for the organisation of the conference in English and in German was carried out by the lecturers of the Department of Languages S. Bremze and M. Kaltigina. A book was developed on international scientific conference organization in a multicultural environment in the Latvian-English-German languages "Konference-Conference-Konferenz". The book was published twice (1996, 1998). It is widely applied in the study programme "External Relations" and in international conference organisation as well (Bremze, Kaltigina, 1996; Bremze, Kaltigina, 1998).

On the basis of social partnership within the framework of the international scientific project the Department of Sociology together with The Higher School of Informatics and Economics of Olstyn Society of General Studies researched "Changes in Human Values" after Latvia and Poland joined the EU. To draw attention to necessity of an intercultural approach in social life, which also meant learning and recognizing the differences of cultures, traditions and values, the conference "Multicultural Communication and the Process of Globalization" was organized in 2003. Attention was paid to the advantages and disadvantages of the processes of globalization. The conference was organised by the Department of Languages together with the Sonnenberg Organisation, Germany. The main topics for the discussions were the multicultural environment, the assessment of values and the teaching/learning of professional language and the role of communication.

Professional foreign language teaching was also promoted by the German language lecturer R. Sipoviča and English language lecturer D. Skrupska. Selections of contemporary terminology developments in publications in German on water and air pollution, the protection of the environment including publications on chemistry, biology, geology, medicine were determined in several dictionaries, such as:

"German-Latvian Dictionary for Landscape Protection" 6000 words (Sipoviča, 1998);
 "German-Latvian Dictionary for Construction Works" 18 000 words (Sipoviča, Ozola, 2005);

"German-Latvian-Russian Dictionary for Scientifically Technical Translations" (Sipoviča, 2009). The dictionary created a well elaborated basis for teaching German and English in the speciality "Rural Construction".

The lecturer D. Skrupska, being a member of a work group, took part in the development of the "English-Latvian-English Forest Sector Glossary" (2007).

To stress the importance of the role of the Latvian language as the official state language, the role of its history and development in the history of the development of the Latvian state, in 2007, the Department of Languages arranged the conference of the Latvia State Language Commission "State Language: Semantic Aspect". Presentations were also made by the lecturers of the Department of Languages M. Putniņa and O. Mališeva.

Most of the teaching staff of the Department of Languages are involved in the realization and interpretation of scientific projects and papers on multifunctional agriculture, agrobiotechnology, animal welfare and health, the power industry, material science, forestry sciences, humanitarian sciences, environmental science, issued by all the Faculties of the LLU.

The lecturer of the Department of Languages A. Gaters is the indispensable reviewer and English language editor of all the research papers published in the English language.

J. Hobrough, visiting professor from the Surrey University, UK, has become not only a regular guest lecturer but also organizes international scientific events in order to disseminate the obtained knowledge in international scientific forums in Europe and Asia. He is also an indispensable editor and reviewer of the publications in English at the LLU.

As it was shown by S. Bremze and J. Hobrough (Bremze, Hobrough, 2007), Latvia University of Agriculture was mainly oriented toward the study process and therefore all scientific activities of the university lecturers were also study process oriented. Therefore the development of study programmes was made possible by the sound theoretical foundations of previously carried out researches and written dissertations by D. Grasmane, S. Bremze, and L. Majinovska.

The teaching staff of all departments of the Faculty of Social sciences supervise and review Doctoral, Master and Bachelor papers, as well as teach philosophy, sociology and foreign languages in all study programmes of all the Faculties of the LLU.

The development of the study programmes for the Departments of Sociology and Languages became a crucial point in their existence. The elaboration of the study programmes of the departments was a logical consequence for survival at LLU for sociology and languages.

The teaching staff of the Department of Languages has had traineeships at Oxford University, UK; Sheffield University, UK; University of Wales, UK; University of Surrey, UK; Salzburg University, Germany; Dronen University, the Netherlands. On the basis of scientific research in such fields as sociology, philosophy, pedagogy and psychology and obtained doctoral degrees, contacts, visits and studies in Latvia and at universities abroad, as well as scientific research concerning labour market needs, several study programmes were open at the Faculty of Social Sciences, and at the Department of Languages two study programmes were created and received accreditation being the first of such a kind in the Baltic states: Bachelor's programme "External Relations of Organisations" and the Master's programme "Project Management".

The Department of Sociology opened two study programmes "Sociology of Organizations and Public Administration" and "Public Management".

On the basis of the developed doctoral papers in sociology, the Department of Sociology plans to open a Doctoral Study Program in Sociology in 2010.

Development of Professional Competence

From 1990 to 2009, four doctoral dissertations have been completed by the teaching staff of the Department of Languages: D. Grasmane, S. Bremze, M. Kaltigina, L. Majinovska. Four more are getting prepared. 14 lecturers of the teaching staff have received a Master's degree.

Before Latvia entered the European Union there were several scientific conferences which were given international recognition and they were of great importance for the Latvian academic community as well, for the role of Latvian, English and Russian languages and their relationships were widely discussed at the conference: "The Role of

Languages and The Process of Integration into Europe” in 1996, which was organised by the Department of Languages.

Development of professional competence, the equality of women and men were the key issues of the conference “Woman Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” organized in 1999, by the Department of Languages.

Higher education institutions carry out the function of the professionalization of the young specialists, therefore the lecturers of the Department of Languages in their researches pay great attention to the acquisition of methods of teaching, which assist the students of the study programme “External Relations” acquire professional and scientifically methodological competences in the university study process. The development of professional competences of the students of “External Relations” is the theme of assistant professor L. Turuševa’s PhD theses, which she is currently working on.

Former doctoral students of the Doctoral study programme in Pedagogy, lecturers of the Department of Languages O. Turuševa, I. Gode and O. Mališeva are carrying out their doctoral researches. O. Turuševa-Čivžele is carrying out her doctoral research on the development of study competence for the first year students of the LLU.

In order to raise the quality of the teaching/learning process and to develop students’ learning competence, I. Gode’s Doctoral Paper is on hypertexts as a means for the development of the students’ ability for independent studies and O. Mališeva’s is on the history of the development of professional foreign language competences.

M. Parčinska, the lecturer of the Department of Languages, has participated in 17 scientific projects as a researcher, in the following fields: agricultural and veterinary higher education food hygiene and quality control; parasitic and infectious diseases; animal physiology, welfare, laboratory examinations; farm animal reproduction problems.

N. Ogurcova has assisted in the maintenance of joint international scientific projects of The Agricultural Technique Institute of the Technical Faculty with Germany on the development of milk production technologies (2001-2004) and the provision of up-to-date sustainable milk production (2005-2008).

Initially the philosophy of conference organisation was to stimulate the research work of the departments, to motivate all scholars, including young lecturers, to be involved in scientific activities and to develop publications in order to promote scientific work and increase the quality of the scientific papers of the faculty members. It was decided to organize scientific conferences by the departments in succession annually. Well organized conferences and the Jelgava palace as a conference venue became an attraction for scholars from abroad. The global idea or goal of the organisation of the international scientific conferences was to provide the possibility to meet, to discuss and to disseminate innovative knowledge.

Since 2004, by the proposal of the Department of Languages, the name of annual International Scientific Conferences of the Faculty of Social Sciences has been “New Dimensions in the Development of Society”. Starting with 2007, the conferences are organized by a work group formed of the members of all the three departments of the faculty.

International recognition was given to the LLU Faculty of Social Sciences 4th Annual International Scientific Conference “New Dimensions in the Development of Society”, which was held on September 25-26, 2008. The participants were from such countries as Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Ukraine, England, the Czech Republic and Finland, and they presented reports, had scientific discussions and workshops: “Sociology”, “Rural and Regional Development”, “Pedagogy”, “Public Administration and Philosophy”. The themes for discussions were: Administrative Territorial Reform and Small Towns; Social Capital; NGO Network’s Role in the Multicultural Environment and Tolerance; Dichotomies of Values in Public Administration, Innovative Administrative Processes; Cultural Diversity; Further and Life-long Education, Changing Thinking Patterns as a Resource; Development of the Personality in the Changing Social Environment; Application of Innovative Knowledge in Practice Using Interdisciplinary Approaches.

The results of scientific research of the faculty members of all the departments were reflected in the scientific papers presented in international conferences and were published in the Proceedings of all international scientific conferences organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences. International recognition of the conference Proceedings would be an advantage also for opening of the Doctoral programme in sociology.

The lecturers of the Department of Languages have had presentations not only at local scientific conferences but also in Bulgaria, Finland, Portugal, Spain, Greece, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, Belarus, the Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, and the Baltic States.

Every year students' scientific conferences are held at the LLU to promote students' research abilities in foreign languages. In the spring of 2009, the Department of Languages is organizing the annual International Scientific students' conference "Youth in Science and Professional Practice". In the meantime students' scientific conferences are organized in sociology and philosophy as well by the Departments of Philosophy and Sociology.

Students' papers from the USA, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, and Latvia are submitted regularly.

Associate professors of the Department of Languages S. Bremze and L. Maļinovska take part in the reviewing of scientific papers for international scientific journals on the development of professional competences, the further education of teachers and lecturers in the system of life-long education, the enhancement of foreign language skills of future specialists, hospitality business, changing thinking patterns and work place improvements, competitiveness as a pedagogical concept, project management, organizational culture, the dynamics of the professional development of a specialist and the development of IT. Associate professor D. Grasmane has reviewed several doctoral dissertations dealing with the importance of mutual relationships in the study process.

S. Bremze, D. Grasmane and L. Maļinovska have had publications on their researches in the UK, Portugal, Colombia and other countries in internationally recognized journals.

Conclusions

The outcomes of the researches are reflected in a number of books, booklets, articles, projects and study programmes developed by the staff of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the LLU in which university orientation on study process was substantiated. The main directions of the scientific activities from 1990 to 2009 were the following: public management and the sociology of organisations; social inclusion and exclusion; regional and rural development; philosophical problems of human personality and culture; philosophy of science, bioethics, education and religion; Latvian and European philosophical thought; life-long education; development of professional competence; content and language acquisition integrated learning studies.

Results of the researches on philosophical issues on innovative thinking in the 21st century which were studied and discussed are regarded as a basis for the development of innovative thinking for the future politicians and practitioners, professionals whose competence should be applied as a basis of innovative thinking, investigation and innovative activities.

Research and developments in foreign language acquisition and studies of foreign language learning and teaching as professional languages has been the evidence for the necessity of foreign language acquisition for the development of the communicative competence in Latvian and international labour market as well. Carried out researches on introduction of innovations into the development of regional development, small towns, application of innovations in administration processes as well as in higher education – not only for the Department of Sociology but also for the Department of Languages – make a good foundation for further development of study programmes in external relations, sociology, public administration and project management in English, German, Russian, French and Spanish languages, and new study programmes for ERASMUS and NOVA/BOVA as well.

References

1. Andersone, Z. (2001) *Kulturoloģija*, 1. Rīga, RaKa, 3. lpp.
2. Andersone, Z. (2002) *Kulturoloģija*, 2. Rīga, RaKa, 3. lpp.
3. Bariss, V. (2008) *Lietišķā publiskā runa*. Jelgava, LLU, 3. lpp.
4. Bariss, V., Ābele, J. (2008) *Organizācijas*. Jelgava, LLU, 3. lpp.
5. Bremze, S. (1991) *Jauno pasniedzēju pedagoģiskā sagatavotība un viņu pašizglītība tehniskajā augstskolā (uz lauksaimniecības augstskolas bāzes)*. Doktora disertācija. Viļņa, Viļņas Universitāte, 10 lpp.

6. Bremze, S., Hobrough, J. (2007) Changes in the Lifelong Education of a Lecturer. *Proceedings of the IASK International Conference "E-Activity and Leading Technologies 2007"*, Porto, Portugal, 2-6 December, 459-465.
7. Bremze, S., Kaltigina, M. (1996) *Konference-Conference-Konferenz*. Jelgava, 3. lpp.
8. Bremze, S., Kaltigina, M. (1998) *Konference-Conference-Konferenz*. Rīga, izdevniecība "Vārti", 3. lpp.
9. *Praktiskā filosofija*. (2008) LLU, Jelgava, 6. lpp.
10. Sipoviča, R. (1998) *Vācu-latviešu vārdnīca vides un ainavu aizsardzībā*. LLU, Jelgava.
11. Sipoviča, R. (2009) *Grūti tulkojamu leksikas kategoriju skaidrojošā vārdnīca vācu zinātniski tehniskās literatūras tulkotājiem*. Vācu-latviešu-krievu valodā. SIA "Izglītības soļi", Rīga, 39 lpp.
12. *Socioloģiskais pētījums par sociālās iekļaušanas situāciju Jelgavas pilsētā un rīcības plāna projekts 2004-2010 sociālās atstumtības mazināšanai*. (2004) Izdots ar "Sadarbības programmas Baltijas jūras reģionā 2001" finansiālu atbalstu. Jelgava, 53 lpp.
13. Strods, A. (2005) *Atsvešināšana un Mēs*. Jelgava, LLU, 73 lpp.
14. *Vācu-latviešu būvniecības terminu vārdnīca*. (2004) L. Ozola, R. Sipoviča. LLU, Jelgava, 4. lpp.