

**Nordic Association of Agricultural Science (NJF)**  
**Section of Economy, Education and Society**  
**Programme for the virtual seminar on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**  
**12:00 to 13:30 Central European time (13:00 to 14:30 Eastern European time)**  
**Web address: <https://ac.vdu.lt/vk1>**

### **Presentation 1**

**Title: Sustainable Economic Growth in Baltic and Nordic Countries.**

**Speaker: Aija Pilvere-Javorska, Latvian University of Life Sciences and Technologies**

**Abstract:** Current global economic changes, Paris Agreement, United Nation's Environment program defined 17 sustainable development growth goals calls for empirical assessment. In the presentation are evaluated key macroeconomic and financial system indicators against the main required indicators by UN SDG goal eight: decent work and economic growth. Regression and correlation analysis was performed in order to determine current and historical development trends in three Nordic (Finland, Sweden and Denmark) and Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), as well as how comparable are their results when evaluating against main UN indicators for sustainable economic development goal eight.

### **Presentation 2**

**Title: The Aspects to Promote Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities.**

**Speaker: Zaiga Oborenko, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies**

**Authors: Zaiga Oborenko, Mg.hist.; MSc, Baiba Rivza, Dr.habil.oec., and Peteris Rivza, Dr.habil.ing., Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies**

**Abstract:** The employment of people with disabilities has multidimensional aspects - economic, social, legal, human rights, discrimination, psychological, ethical and responsibility aspects - with different actors involved representing various kinds of interests. The European Union Disability Action Plan and Strategy specifies the objective of promoting the employment of people with disabilities in the open labour market (EC, 2010). Equality of opportunity is the objective of the European Union's long-term strategy on disability. This aims to enable persons with disabilities to enjoy their right to dignity, equal treatment, independent living, and participation in society (ILO, 2015). In order to better exploit the potential of the labour market, Latvia's National Development Plan for 2021-2027 provides targeted measures to support those facing increased risks of long-term unemployment, including people with disabilities (CSCC, 2020). Therefore, it is important to analyse the employment factors of people with disabilities and to study employment promotion opportunities in Latvia. Balancing supply and demand is always an issue in the labour market. Both employers and employees have their own interests, therefore the efficient and fair use of human resources in the economic development of the country requires various support mechanisms, including regulatory framework, active involvement of local governments, coordinated measures of state institutions and European Union support.

The study examines the problem of possible ways to promote the employment of people with disabilities. The purpose of this study is to explore and substantiate the possible scenarios associated with promotion employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Latvia. The research methodology employed for this study is based on the Analytic Hierarchy Process (Saaty, 2008; Saaty & Shang, 2011), and expert interviews are used to analyse the interests of all involved parties, in order to determine the best possible scenarios as to how to stimulate employment for people with disabilities. Data from the State Employment Agency and the Latvian Ministry of Welfare were used in the study.

As a result, three scenarios to promote the employment of people with disabilities were developed: the first is an employee-supportive scenario - a cooperation scenario between individuals and state institutions and municipalities; the second - an employer-supportive scenario - is a collaboration scenario between entrepreneurs, municipalities and state institutions; and the third - is a scenario incorporating European Union participation. Although the results showed slight differences between the three developed scenarios, the European Union participation scenario was considered the optimal one for the promotion of employment of disabled people.