



Alecu Russo State University from Bălți



SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- **A tradition to carry out education and investigation;**
- **Promotion of competitive educational services, which determine the expansion of National Scientific Community;**
- **Continuous improvement of educational services in order to increase graduates' integration into the labor market;**
- **Educational offer, tailored to meet the needs of different categories of professionals, it is updated by the latest concepts, theories, methods;**
- **Well-trained teachers;**

Strengths

- **National accreditation of 31 specialties / specializations (2008, 2011) as a scientific and innovation organization with all the rights to carry out research, innovation and transfer in 5 profiles;**
- **Prolific scientific activity of the university community;**
- **Promotion of doctoral studies;**
- **ISO 9001:2008 certification;**
- **Negotiating and making partnerships with social and economic environment;**
- **Accommodation for students;**
- **Commissioning of new educational facilities;**
- **Existence of modern laboratories, equipped with electronic devices, necessary to carry out teaching and research activities;**

weaknesses

- **Superficial understanding of the mission of the university;**
- **Partial visibility of the academic community both within the University and outside it;**
- **Insufficient funding of university research, as a result it is not oriented to achieve applicable outcomes, it leads to a breach between the university and the economic society;**
- **Lack of international research programs;**
- **Unsatisfactory students' involvement in the research process;**
- **Insufficiently diversified educational offer and lack of continuity between the educational programs (licentiate, master's, doctorate);**

Opportunities

- **Effective cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance;**
- **Advantageous geographic location of the University (it is the only institution of higher education in the north of the country);**
- **Compact campus (the only one in Moldova);**
- **Existence of a Consolidated Strategy for Educational Development for 2011-2015 and a legislation with regard to the public-private partnership;**
- **Existence of demand for skilled labor in education;**
- **Free internet access for students, including dormitories (WI - FI);**

Opportunities

- **Membership in various agencies and interuniversity consortia, partnerships with other academic institutions in the country and abroad, the possibility to start such collaborations;**
- **A public-private partnership to renovate dormitories and complete the construction of new educational facilities;**
- **University staff training (courses of foreign languages, information technology, psycho- pedagogical module etc.).**
- **Free and unlimited access to the resources of the scientific library;**

Threats

- **Global and local recession;**
- **Legislative barriers in achieving university autonomy;**
- **Lack of a well-defined Research, Development and Innovation System at the national level;**
- **Unpopularity of the teaching profession in the society;**
- **Precarious demographic situation in Moldova (which leads to a lesser number of potential students);**
- **Insufficient training of school leavers.**

Master's program: Agricultural Ecology

It is implemented as part of the general field of study under the code No.42 Natural Sciences.

It is a Graduate Student Professionalization program for students majoring in Agricultural Ecology, based on the admission of licenta diploma holders.

The educational program is organized in four semesters, according to the academic calendar. The total number of credits is 120 per year, full time education is required.

The degree awarded at the end of studies is Master of Natural Sciences. The Department of Natural Sciences and Agroecology is responsible for the implementation of the educational program.

Strengths

- **The curriculum includes specialized disciplines with a wide range of applicability;**
- **All the courses are taught by teaching staff with scientific degrees and didactic titles;**
- **The teaching staff develop and publish monographs, scientific articles, participate in national and international conferences, carry out research;**
- **Scientists from the Research Institute for Field Crops "Selectia" (Balti) are involved in the implementation of the curriculum. In accordance with the collaboration agreement, the equipment of this institution can be used in the implementation of the educational program;**
- **Courses are taught combining classic and modern teaching methods;**

Strengths

- **The profile of scientific research covers the area of agroecology;**
- **High professional development of the teaching staff, most teachers deal with research in agroecology on a regular basis and / or have been trained abroad;**
- **The students are involved in research activity throughout their study;**
- **There is an optimal ratio between the number of courses / seminars and there is no overlapping of different disciplines or unnecessary repetition;**
- **There is a beneficial and lasting tradition to cooperate with profile faculties from the country and abroad (Italy, France, Switzerland, Romania, Ukraine, Russian Federation), promoting synthesis lectures by invitation;**

weaknesses

- **Insufficient correlation of the educational offer and the requirements of the labour force market;**
- **Insufficient flexibility, needed to determine permanent openness to change;**
- **Low student and teacher mobility;**
- **Low level of student motivation and responsibility for student learning outcomes;**
- **Poor cooperation with economic agents.**
- **Insufficient number of international research programs;**

Opportunities

- **Development of international relations, bilateral research and cooperation agreements;**
- **Enhancing the scientific work of students at the department level, involving students in programs / projects, carried out by the teaching staff;**
- **Stimulating the use of learning platforms;**
- **Fostering mobility of teachers and students;**
- **Outfitting scientific laboratories with up-to-date equipment;**
- **Completing the university library holdings for the specialty of agroecology;**
- **Improving the technical equipment of laboratories, used to carry out the theoretical and practical classes;**
- **Increasing the adaptability of the university curricula to labor market requirements;**
- **Providing for partnerships with businesses for internships and elaboration of master thesis.**
- **Conducting teaching in foreign languages.**

Threats

- **Insufficient equipment of laboratories diminishes the quality of teaching and research;**
- **Decreased motivation to learn as a result of insufficient wages, as compared to the labour effort; diminished prestige of specialty;**
- **The economic and social environment is less favorable for the implementation of a high level educational process;**
- **Demographic problems.**

Thank you!