Nordic Association of Agriculture Science (NJF) Continuous international scientific conference "Challengers of Economics, Education and Society Development in the Nordic – Baltic Countries and beyond" organised by Section of Economy, Education and Society Programme for the virtual seminar on November 8th, 2023 (Wednesday) 13:00 to 14:30 Eastern European time (12:00 to 13:30 Central European time) *The link for joining the conference event presented at the end of this programme*

Presentation 1

Title: Remote work platforms as an opportunity for women to successfully become employed

Speaker: Liva Grinevica, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Authors: Liva Grinevica, Baiba Rivza Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

<u>Annotation:</u> Women's economic opportunities can make the development process more inclusive through several channels, such as increasing the level of women's education, promoting work efficiency, thus contributing to the growth potential of the economy.

In the age of digitalization, women have more and more opportunities to successfully enter the labor market. In a sense, digitalization promotes greater gender equality and inequality, which affects future inclusion.

Considering that many workers face discrimination in the traditional labour market, platform work is a way to reduce discrimination by offering opportunities, for example to new mothers with small children, young women, long-term unemployed women, women with health problems, women from rural areas, etc.

The research seeks answers to questions such as:

• What problems do women face when they want to join the labor market?

• Can platform work be a creative opportunity for women to successfully enter the labor market in rural regions?

• What problems do platform workers face to successfully enter the labor market?

• What are the possible solutions for tax regulation of platform workers in Latvia?

The platform economy is one of the solutions for successfully entering the labor market. Although platform work raises more and more questions, it is a very good and attainable opportunity to become employed and successfully combine everyday life with work responsibilities, which are especially challenging for women. Keywords: women, digitalization, platform economy, labor market, inclusion, Latvia.

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Presentation 2

<u>Title:</u> Costa Rica's Sustainability Efforts towards a Circular Economy

Speaker: Lilita Abele, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

Authors: Lilita Abele, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies

<u>Annotation</u>: The Costa Rican administration fully understands the connection between the circular economy and sustainability. In the last quarter of 2021, a guide was published to promote the transition to a circular economy, mainly aimed at local authorities. The main goal of the manual is to spread the approach to what the circular economy is and to provide local actors with tools and guidelines on how to implement the circular economy through activities at different levels: public administration, social and business. As a first step in the evaluation of implementation, there is a collection of practical examples and the role of universities in ensuring the further process.

The author will look at the best examples from the University of Technology of Costa Rica, both in the involvement of students in ensuring the circular economy and the effectiveness of public education measures. Insights were gained by visiting the municipal and TEC campuses of several cities in Costa Rica.

Keywords: circular economy, Caribbean region, partnership, university, local communities.

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