

**STSM Applicant:** Ms Ilona Feklistova, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu (Estonia)

**STSM Topic:** Social aspects of community gardens and urban allotments in the context of post-Soviet cities

**Host Institute:** Warsaw University of Life Sciences - SGGW, Warsaw (Poland)

**Work Plan Summary:**

The overall objective is to study the role of urban allotment gardens in providing social and community benefits to the allotment holders. The research comprises four key stages.

The first stage, already underway, includes the literature review and collection of background information about allotment gardens in Estonia and the case study sites that provides the intellectual and practical context for my work. The second stage involves the data collection, principally through site visits, on-site interviews and observations in Estonia, scheduled to take place during June and August 2013.

The third stage is to conduct field work in a similar manner to the Estonian investigation in Warsaw, Poland during July 2013.

This would be undertaken with the help of a Polish student who is willing to act as a go-between and translator of the questions and interviews. The experience of the Estonian data collection phase will be used to refine the questions to be used in Poland.

The analysis of the data will take place later in the academic year (as a result of the programme requirements where the thesis is mainly written in the spring semester) and the thesis will be written up and defended in June 2014. The data collection phase need to take place when there are people using the gardens, which is why it takes place well before the writing up phase. As result the study will expand our knowledge on the current social-cultural perspective of allotment gardens in Estonia from and enable me to evaluate the relevance of past and present qualities and future tendencies.