



**Elgars Felcis**  
sustainability  
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Permaculture  
Association



[www.permaculture.lv](http://www.permaculture.lv)

Going from urban to rural life doesn't mean going from prosperity to poverty, to the contrary, living in the countryside can be much richer both economically and spiritually.

The son of an agronomist and owner of a farm in the Latvian countryside, Elgars Felcis, as a child, used to spend his days playing in the fields between trees and animals, sleeping in the barn, and catching fruits from trees when he wanted a snack.

Elgars' story begins in a world where life is visceral-ly linked to nature, which is thus respected in all its forms. Growing up Elgars starts to travel, he abandons the countryside, and discovers that beyond rural life exists a world in which everything is faster, people work at frenetic rhythms, and food no longer comes from the trees and the fields but is found plasticized and packed in big and luxurious stores. Elgars discovers the industrialized world and he starts observing and studying it with attention.

The urban lifestyle seems to be founded on four fundamental pillars: work as much as you can, produce as much as you can, in order to earn as much as you can, to finally consume as much as you can. In this world nature is totally marginalized, brutalized, and subservient to the necessities of the system. Soon Elgars understands this is not the world he wants to live in, and his deep bond with nature awakens: the devastating environmental and social impact generated by the capitalist economy has to be blocked, fought, and reverted, or in not so long the world he knew as a child would be gone. And so Elgars started his struggle. Showing people that continuing to live to those standards of consuming, producing and polluting, is simply not sustainable for the planet, and that an alternative lifestyle is available becomes his mission.

Elgars starts studying, he sings up to the faculty of

Sustainability Science at Wageningen University & Research and tries to learn as much as he can on how human beings can live in a sustainable way. It is at this point in his life that he encounters the word "Permaculture" for the first time. The term comes from the English "permanent agriculture" and "culture". Permaculture is a method of planning and managing anthropized landscapes in a way that they are able to satisfy the needs of the population, as food, fibers, and energy, while at the same time presenting resilience, richness, and stability of natural ecosystems.

The main objective of this strategy is to allow individuals, families and local communities to enhance their self-sufficiency and self-regulation. Such an approach is based on the awareness that a part of society is ready, willing and capable of changing its behavior, if it believes this to be possible and relevant. This socially and ecologically motivated minority represents the cornerstone for a large-scale change.

This is exactly the strategy that Elgars wants to spread, sustain and realize. Nowadays we have learned about the benefits of the modern lifestyle, but science warns us on the consequences of such a way of living. Ignoring it wouldn't be wise, and it is thus necessary to go beyond it, combining the ancient values with the modern knowledge and possibilities.

After years of living in different countries, working and learning a lot about sustainable development and permaculture, Elgars has now become a professional in this field, and he is back to his beloved home country, Latvia. Here, in 2016, he becomes the leader of the Latvian Permaculture Association. This is an umbrella organization that embraces and sustains a high number of activists, theorists, and operators of the sector in Latvia since 2011, that contributes to diffuse and popularize Permaculture and a sustainable way of life. Every year, they organize lots of workshops that aim at teaching people how to live sustainably not only theoretically, but also practically.

To sum up, the activities brought about by Elgars and his association are a lot, and they are all different: Permaculture is a multidisciplinary approach whose objective is to deal with as many aspects of life as it possibly can. Today, the members of LPA are more than one hundred; the road is still long but hopefully, thanks to Elgars' determination the path to sustainability is closer than it looks.

