

NEWS

LETTER

NEW PATHWAYS IN SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH

On 1 August 2025, our institution was admitted as a Regular Member of the **European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSSR)**.

This international network, coordinated by Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, brings together universities and research centers committed to advancing sustainability science, education, and practice.



By joining ESSSR, we strengthen our role in the global sustainability research community and create new opportunities to showcase our work on **climate change, circular economy, and sustainable development education**.

Learn more: [ESSSR official website](#)

SHOWCASING DIGITAL INNOVATION IN PARIS



In August 2025, Paris hosted the **9th International Conference on Applied Economics and Business (ICAEB 2025)** and the **9th International Conference on Sustainable Tourism Management (ICSTM 2025)**, gathering over 70 presentations from leading experts in **digitalisation, innovation, and sustainability**.



Ast. prof. **Dr. Kaspars Steinbergs** contributed with a paper "*Digital Transformation and Its Impact on Business Models in the Cultural and Creative Industries: Evidence from Latvia*", co-authored with Assoc. Prof. **Renāte Cāne** (Turība University) and **Eya Amamria**, Master's student in Business Management.

Read more: [EKA in Paris](#)

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Recent articles by **Dr. Ilona Lejniece** in *Multinews.lv* and *Aprīņķis.lv* highlight how universities can play a key role in tackling Latvia's challenge of low civic participation.

By adapting study approaches and integrating real societal issues into courses, such as economics

and management, students are encouraged to strengthen **civic competences** and explore how their ideas can shape decision-making.

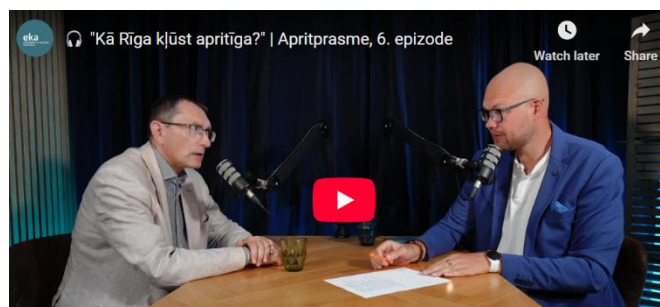
Dr. Lejniece stress that higher education institutions are not only providers of knowledge but also **mediators between young people and society**. This innovative model positions universities as drivers of democratic participation, empowering youth to become active, responsible, and engaged citizens.

Read more: [Multinews.lv](#) | [Aprīņķis.lv](#)

BUILDING A CIRCULAR RIGA

The latest episode of the *Apritprasme* podcast asks a vital question: *How can Riga become more circular, sustainable, and people-friendly?* Guest **Tālis Linkaits**, former Minister of Transport and now representative of the Riga Energy Agency, joins the discussion on smarter construction, greener mobility, and more efficient living.

This conversation highlights how urban policy and community engagement can reduce resource use while improving quality of life. By addressing real challenges in city development, the episode inspires dialogue on how circular solutions can shape a more sustainable future for Riga and beyond.



Watch full video [HERE](#)

EXPERT VOICE ON NATIONAL DEBATE AT TV24

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES: MISSION BEYOND PROFIT



On TV24's "Preses Klubs", Edgars Čerkovskis, Director of the Circular Economy Master's Programme, joined a broad discussion on Latvia's current challenges and global events. The debate touched on **statehood values, geopolitics, information space, and economic policy**, reflecting how these issues shape both public opinion and national development.

Among the highlights were reflections on the **Valstiskuma balva** as a symbol of civic participation, the role of **social enterprises** as innovation hubs, and the importance of balancing security, economy, and social cohesion.

Watch full video [HERE](#)

In *Dienas Bizness*, Edgars Čerkovskis, Director of the Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship programme, reflects on what it takes to build a successful social enterprise. Drawing on insights from the **European Social Enterprise Monitor**, he notes that while only one-third of Europe's social enterprises are financially profitable, their true value lies in their **social mission**.

Across Latvia and Europe, social enterprises play a crucial role in integrating vulnerable groups into the labour market, reducing pressure on social care systems, and strengthening communities.

As Čerkovskis writes, the leader of a social enterprise must combine **business acumen with social commitment** – "a little bit Richard Branson, and a little bit Mother Teresa" – to ensure lasting impact and innovation.

Read the full article: [Dienas Bizness](#)



CULTURE AS MISSION AND ENTERPRISE

CONTRIBUTING TO EUROPE'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE REPORT



In *Ir.lv*, Artūrs Homins, lecturer in the Master's programme *International Cultural Project Management*, explores the dual nature of culture as both **mission and entrepreneurship**.

He highlights how large-scale cultural events—from song and dance festivals to international art exhibitions—require not only creativity but also professional project management skills.

Through collaboration with students, the article stresses the need to train **creative leaders** who can balance cultural values with financial sustainability, define clear goals, and manage international projects at the highest level. This perspective underscores the role of higher education in preparing specialists who ensure that culture contributes to both **societal identity and economic growth**.

Read the full article: [Ir.lv](#)



The **European Social Enterprise Monitor (ESEM) 2023–2024** has been released, providing valuable insights into the state of social entrepreneurship across Europe.

EKA University of Applied Sciences actively contributed to the report's development, gathering data on the Latvian social enterprise sector.

ESEM is coordinated at European level by **Euclid Network** and supports the creation of **evidence-based policy and support mechanisms**. By participating in this international initiative, we ensure that Latvia's experience and challenges are represented in a broader European context, reinforcing the role of social enterprises as drivers of **innovation, inclusion, and sustainable growth**.

Read more: [ESEM Report](#)