

NEWS

LETTER

APRITPRASME PODCAST EXPLORES SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In January 2026, a new episode (9th) of the *Apritprasme podcast* featured **Agnese Rakovska**, who shared insights on the development of social entrepreneurship and the role of creativity in addressing societal challenges. The discussion explored how socially oriented initiatives emerge and what motivates entrepreneurs to combine economic activity with social impact.



The conversation also highlighted practical aspects of building a social enterprise, including balancing sustainability, innovation, and community engagement.

This episode will be particularly valuable for anyone interested in purpose-driven entrepreneurship, social impact, or understanding how an idea can grow into a sustainable initiative.

Learn more: [HERE](#)

ADVANCING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY INDEX



In January 2026, discussions on the further development of the **Circular Economy Index** highlighted the need to adapt its methodology to current economic and environmental conditions. Researchers from EKA University of Applied Sciences contributed to the discussion, emphasising the importance of improving indicators that help measure the progress of circular economy practices in Latvia.

The initiative aims to support evidence-based policy-making and sustainable business development by providing reliable data on resource efficiency and circularity. EKA's involvement reflects the university's growing research focus on sustainability, circular economy, and socially responsible innovation, contributing to broader national and international discussions on the green transition.

Learn more: [HERE](#)

SUPPORTING SPACE INNOVATION IN RIGA

From 30 to 31 January 2026, the **International Innovation Hackathon ActInSpace 2026** took place in Riga, bringing together students, researchers, entrepreneurs, developers, and technology enthusiasts for 24 hours of intensive work on solutions based on space technologies and satellite data.

A total of 17 teams developed projects addressing challenges related to space, defence, sustainability, and data use.

EKA University of Applied Sciences supported the event alongside other Latvian higher education institutions and innovation partners.



EKA also contributed through expert participation: Assoc. Prof. **Jevgenija Dehtjare** served on the jury, and the university awarded a special prize to the team Icarus for its idea of using satellite data to support decision-making in the insurance sector. The event highlighted the role of universities in fostering innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and science-based entrepreneurship.

Learn more: [HERE](#)

EXPLORING DIGITALLY ENRICHED EDUCATION

On 29 January 2026, the **Annual Methodological Conference**, organised jointly by **Alberta College** and **EKA**, brought together academic staff to discuss digitally and ethically enriched education.



The conference focused on contemporary teaching methods:

- How to transform your study course into a multimodal format?
- How to integrate CLIL elements without fully restructuring the course?
- How to use artificial intelligence tools for designing assignments and assessment? And
- How to increase student engagement in the online learning environment the use of artificial intelligence in the study process, and the ethical and legal aspects of the academic environment.

The programme included a presentation by a representative of the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia **Gundega Bruņeniece** on recognising and preventing sexual harassment in education.

As well as practical examples of integrating digital and AI tools into course design within an Erasmus+ project (Nr. 2024-2-LV01-KA210-VET-000280127) by **Sandra Tetere**, Alberta College.



The event concluded with a masterclass on transforming courses into multimodal formats, integrating CLIL elements, and using AI for assignment and assessment design, reinforcing EKA's commitment to innovative and responsible higher education. Learn more: [HERE](#)

EXPLORING THIRD PLACES IN FRANCE

From 22 to 23 January 2026, Assoc. Prof. **Jevgenija Dehtjare** and PhD candidate **Anna Strazda** participated in the International Conference **"Third Places: Spaces for Citizen and Organizational Innovations"** (supported by EUMMAS) in France.

During the conference, the researchers presented two papers:

- Universities as emerging third places: Academic staff perceptions of informal learning spaces and stakeholder engagement (by Dehtjare).
- Digital third places for academic staff: Spaces for support and collaboration (By Strazda).

Their contributions highlighted the role of supportive, collaborative environments in higher education and strengthened international dialogue on organisational innovation, stakeholder engagement, and academic well-being.



Find more about the event: [HERE](#)

