

NEWS

LETTER

ADVANCING FINANCIAL LITERACY IN HIGHER EDUCATION



EKA Professor Jelena Titko has launched a **public initiative on the ManaBalss.lv platform calling for financial literacy** to become a compulsory course at all higher education institutions in Latvia. The initiative proposes a practical 3 ECTS course covering personal budgeting, savings, responsible borrowing, taxes and pensions, investment fundamentals, financial security and the use of digital financial tools.

SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE

The initiative responds to the critically low level of financial literacy among young people and highlights the importance of equipping every graduate with the skills needed to make informed financial decisions and secure their long-term financial well-being.

Media coverage: [Apollo](#) | [Liepājniekiem.lv](#) | [1188.lv](#)

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE IN POLAND

Dr. Kristine Uzule represented EKA at the International scientific conference **LEADER 2050: Future Sustainability in the Face of Systemic Resilience, Ecological and Socio-Economic Crises**, held on 18-19 June at WSB Merito University in Wrocław, Poland.



The conference brought together international researchers and experts to discuss future leadership, sustainability and responses to ecological and socio-economic challenges. Dr. Uzule presented the research paper **Developing Sustainability-Oriented Leadership Competencies for Social Entrepreneurship in Higher Education**.

More about [LEADER 2050](#)

EKA STUDENTS DRIVE SOCIAL CHANGE



On 20 June, the [Social Responsibility and Civic Engagement Initiative](#) Project concluded.

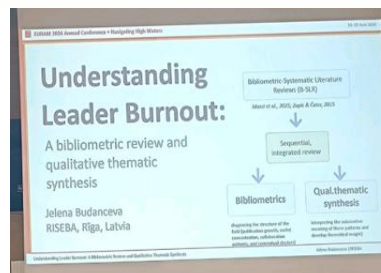
Throughout the project, students researched pressing socio-economic challenges and developed practical proposals aimed at improving housing accessibility, supporting families and strengthening

youth participation in the labour market.

Congratulations to all participants for turning research and civic engagement into positive social change!

1st place earned proposal to improve Latvia's municipal housing assistance system (by team "Housing Is Not a Luxury"). 2nd place - Family Support Fund (by "Society Development Specialists @SAS"). 3rd place - youth employment subsidy programme (by "Youth Voice in the Labour Market"). Laura Paskalova and Unda Vīksna also received special recognition awards.

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE IN POLAND

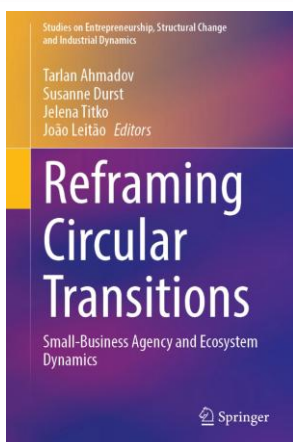


Jelena Budanceva participated in the **EURAM 2026 conference**, held on 16-19 June at the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway. Under the theme "Navigating High Waters: Managing in an Age of Disruption," the conference explored how organisations can respond to technological, geopolitical and societal disruption.

She presented her research **Understanding Leader Burnout: A Bibliometric Review and Qualitative Thematic Synthesis** and participated in the EURAM Doctoral Colloquium.

Learn more about [EURAM 2026](#)

EKA SCHOLAR CO-EDITS SPRINGER BOOK



Circular economy is one of EKA's strategic research areas, exploring how businesses can create long-term value through sustainable entrepreneurship, responsible production, efficient resource use and innovative business models.

Reflecting this research focus, **EKA Professor Jelena Titko** is a co-editor of the forthcoming Springer book **Reframing Circular Transitions: Small-Business Agency and Ecosystem Dynamics**, together with Tarlan Ahmadov, Susanne Durst and João Leitão.

The book examines how small businesses navigate the transition towards a circular economy and how entrepreneurial agency interacts with wider business ecosystems. It offers research-based insights into circular value creation, sustainability strategies and the specific challenges faced by resource-constrained enterprises.

Explore [SPRINGER BOOK](#)

ENAI WELLBEING AND INTEGRITY SESSION

Prof. Jelena Titko represented EKA in Session 4 of the **European Network of Academic Integrity (ENAI)** online series **Wellbeing & Integrity in Higher Education**.

The workshop, **“Supporting Student Wellbeing Without Lowering Standards,”** brought together lecturers and researchers to discuss how universities can combine high academic expectations with effective student support.



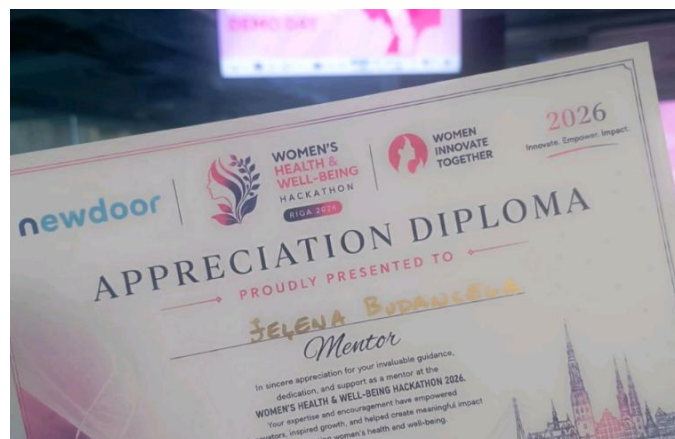
Prof. Titko contributed to the discussions, supporting the international dialogue on student wellbeing, responsible academic practices and a culture of academic integrity.

Read more about [ENAI SERIES](#)

WOMEN'S HEALTH HACKATHON IN RIGA

On 6-7 June, the **Women's Health & Well-being Hackathon Riga 2026**, organised by **NewDoor** and led by Diana Pershtein-Lapkis and Maria Povilaitė, brought together professionals, researchers, students and innovators to develop technology-based solutions for women's health and well-being.

EKA was represented by **Jelena Budanceva** and **Dr. Kristine Uzule**, who contributed to the hackathon as mentors, supporting teams in refining their ideas and communicating their value clearly.



During the two-day event, multidisciplinary teams transformed ideas into practical prototypes addressing real-life challenges – from personalised well-being predictions and improved access to healthcare to support for young mothers.

Participants combined expertise in technology, research, design, marketing and entrepreneurship, while mentors helped them refine their solutions and prepare final presentations.

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