

EKA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

**SCIENTIFIC AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY
2025/2026 ANNUAL REPORT**

Riga 2026

“The Annual Report of the EKA University of Applied Sciences on scientific activities 2025/2026” is issued in accordance with the Law on Scientific Activity of the Republic of Latvia.

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Annual Report on the Scientific Activity of the EKA University of Applied Sciences, 2025/2026

Riga: EKA University of Applied Sciences, 2026.

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INTRODUCTION

The development of science and research is a priority axis for the overall development of the country, governed by a number of strategic and normative documents at national level:

National Development Plan of Latvia for 2021-2027 (NDP 2027). NDP2027 is hierarchically the highest national medium-term development planning document. It also sets medium-term priorities in the field of education and science, highlighting the direction of action: Science for the development of society, the economy and security.

The Science, Technology Development and Innovation Guidelines 2021-2027 (STDIG2027). STDIG2027 contributes to the achievement of the strategic objectives set out in NAP 2027 in line with the goals and objectives of the directions "Science for the Development of Society, the Economic and Security" and "Quality, accessible and inclusive education" of the priority "Knowledge and Skills for Personal and National Growth".

Education Development Guidelines 2021-2027 (EDG 2027) are related to STDIG ZTAIP 2027 regarding activities to strengthen research-based higher education, to introduce research-based and innovation-oriented doctoral studies and promotion processes and the provision of opportunities for the development and growth of academic staff.

The Law on Scientific Activity (in force since 19.05.2005) stipulates that higher education institutions have the obligation to perform scientific activity and to provide a study process where the research activity and/or artistic creativity of students would be an integral part.

EKA Research Mission:

EKA promotes and supports research that ensures a positive impact on the economy and society.

EKA Research Vision: In 2028, the EKA University of Applied Sciences is a science-based and innovation-oriented higher education institution recognized in Latvia and Europe:

- where academic staff and students are actively involved in research and creative activity,
- where international scientific and creative activities are regularly hosted,
- which actively cooperates with other universities, institutions and employers in Latvia and abroad to ensure the strengthening of research capacity,
- the research results of which contribute to the sustainable development of the country's social, economic and cultural fields.

EKA conducts research in the field of its strategic specialization - "Economics and Entrepreneurship", as well as in other fields of science - "Education", "Law", "Computer Science and Informatics" and "Other Humanities and Arts, including Creative Industries" - which correspond to the study directions and activity specifics of EKA.

The development of scientific and creative activities is one of the EKA's priorities, which is defined as the Strategy of the EKA University of Applied Sciences 2028 ("Ekonomikas un kultūras augstskolas stratēģija 2028"). In order to achieve the objectives for the development of science and research, the Development Strategy for Science and Creative Activity of the EKA University of Applied Sciences 2024-2028 ("Ekonomikas un kultūras augstskolas zinātnes un radošās darbības attīstības stratēģija 2024.-2028.gadam") has been developed.

The **main strategic goals in research and artistic activity** of EKA University of Applied Sciences:

1. Increasing research impact, by conducting research in close collaboration with non academic partners to address societal and business needs.
2. Strengthening research capacity by developing academic staff, engaging students in research processes, and modernizing infrastructure to build a sustainable, competitive, and innovative research ecosystem.
3. Enhancing EKA international recognition

THE PRIORITIES OF THE EKA UNIVERSITY IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

In order to achieve the scientific and research development objectives, a strategy for the development of science and creative activity (ZRDAS2028) of the EKA University was developed in 2024. ZRDAS2028 is a university-level medium-term planning document, developed within the framework of the "Development Strategy of the EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvian abbreviation - EKAAS)".

ZRDAS2028 defines EKA's priorities in research and creative activities:

Priority "Strengthening and involvement of staff's research capacity in research and creativity in each study direction" (Pr1)

Higher education institutions have the duty to perform scientific activity (Article 19(1) of the Law on Scientific Activity). For the purpose of carrying out the scientific activity, a higher school requires academic staff with scientific qualifications, which is evidenced both by a doctor's degree and an expert status of the Latvian Scientific Council, as well as high quality scientific publications. The evaluation of the quality of research and creative activity is also based on the achievements of the academic staff and students, as well as on the achievements of EKA in project implementation and funding attraction.

One of the criteria for assessing a study direction is "The involvement of academic staff in scientific research and/or artistic creation". In order to achieve results in this area, EKA is planning to introduce new practices for establishing international research teams. In addition, it is envisaged to set up an academic staff assessment system, where the research and creative activity criteria will play an important role, as well as a corresponding financial motivation system.

Priority "Strengthening and involvement of student's research capacity in research and creative activity in each study direction" (Pr2)

"Student involvement in scientific research" is an important criterion in the assessment of study directions.

The EKA University of Applied Sciences implements study programmes in five study directions:

1. Economics
2. Business management, administration and real estate management (hereinafter referred to as "Management")
3. Information technology, computer engineering, electronics, telecommunications, computer management and computer science (hereinafter referred to as "IT")
4. Law (hereinafter referred to as "Law")
5. Arts

EKA's priority in the study process is research-based studies, which include the integration of the "students as researchers" approach in study programmes at all levels. "Students as researchers in the context of higher education mean a pedagogical approach aimed at supporting students to engage in order to complement their knowledge and enhance their skills." (Walkington, The Higher Education Academy, 2015).

Priority "EKA research infrastructure" (Pr3)

EKA research infrastructure includes physical infrastructure, data bases and software, research administration solutions, data storage, cooperation and data sharing solutions.

Research infrastructure is managed by: Vice-Rector for Science, Head of EKA Research laboratory (ResearchLab), Head of the Research Administration Unit, Project management staff, Coordinators of research directions and international research groups, Librarian and Technical Support Staff. EKA Research infrastructure management team ensures trainings, technical support, and guidance to researchers and staff.

Priority "Cooperation in research and creative activity" (Pr4)

In defining the objectives for promoting cooperation in research and creative activity, cooperation is addressed from various viewpoints: cooperation between EKA academic staff; cooperation of EKA academic staff with academic staff of other Latvian higher education institutions; cooperation of EKA academic staff with foreign universities; EKA cooperation with the business sector (academic-corporate collaboration).

Priority “Recognition of EKA, dissemination of research results and promotion of science” (Pr5)

The scientific reputation is a prerequisite for the improvement of the overall image of the university in the academic environment, which, in its turn, promotes the visibility of the university among students, facilitates cooperation with other universities and institutions, provides for the loyalty of academic staff.

PRIORITY “STRENGTHENING AND INVOLVEMENT OF STAFF’S RESEARCH CAPACITY IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY IN EACH STUDY DIRECTION” (Pr1)

EKA University of Applied Sciences is committed to strengthening the research capacity of its academic staff across all study directions. To achieve this, EKA attracts researchers and doctoral students with strong academic achievements and motivation to engage in research and project work. At the same time, the university supports the continuous development of research competences among its academic personnel. Faculty members are provided with opportunities to participate in research and creative activities, including international cooperation, project implementation, and scientific publishing. Emphasis is also placed on ensuring and recognizing research outputs and creative achievements in each field of study.

1.1. Academic staff and researchers

In 2025/2026, the academic staff of EKA consisted of more than 100 people, **44** of whom were elected to the academic posts of EKA (as of 10.06.2026. according to VIIS¹), incl. **29** persons (**66%**) with a doctor’s degree.

Table 1 Academic staff elected in the academic positions of EKA

No	Name, Surname	Degree	Elected Position	Study Direction
1	Edgars Čerkovskis	Mg.sc.soc.	Lecturer	Economics
2	Ilona Lejniece	Dr.oec.	Assistant professor	Economics
3	Jelena Titko	Dr.oec.	Professor	Economics
4	Vita Zariņa	Dr.oec.	Associate Professor	Economics
5	Natālija Cudečka-Puriņa	PhD	Researcher	Economics and Business
6	Alīna Daņileviča	PhD	Visiting Researcher	Economics and Business
7	Renāte Indrika	Dr.oec.	Researcher	Economics and Business
8	Oleksii Lyulyov	PhD	Visiting Researcher	Economics and Business
9	Tetyana Pimonenko	PhD	Visiting Researcher	Economics and Business
10	Aija Poikāne-Daumke	Dr.philol.	Assistant professor	Economics and Business
11	Simona Survilate	Dr.oec.	Researcher	Economics and Business
12	Tatjana Štaube	Dr.oec.	Researcher	Economics and Business
13	Nellijs Titova	PhD	Researcher	Economics and Business
14	Oļegs Nikadimovs	MBA	Researcher	Economics and Business
15	Anna Strazda	Mg.psych.	Researcher	Economics and Business
16	Kitija Almane-Bulaha	Mg.art.	Lecturer	Humanities and Arts
17	Ieva Ēkena	Mg.art.	Assistant professor	Humanities and Arts
18	Ksenija Miļča	Mg.art.	Assistant professor	Humanities and Arts
19	Evija Skriba	Mg.art.	Lecturer	Humanities and Arts
20	Baiba Guste	Mg.art.	Lecturer	Humanities and Arts
21	Gatis Dilāns	PhD	Assistant professor	Humanities and Arts
22	Andrejs Liepiņš	Mg.sc.som.	Assistant professor	Information Technologies
23	Mārcis Pinnis	Dr.sc.comp.	Assistant professor	Information Technologies
24	Egmonts Treiguts	Mg.phys.	Assistant professor	Information Technologies
25	Patriks Morevs	Mg.math.	Assistant professor	Information Technologies
26	Natalja Verina	Mg.iur.	Assistant professor	Law
27	Jelena Alfejeva	Dr.iur.	Assistant professor	Law
28	Atis Bičkovskis	Mg.iur.	Lecturer	Law
29	Elvis Dibaņins	Mg.iur.	Lecturer	Law
30	Jolanta Dinsberga	PhD	Assistant professor	Law
31	Armen Gabrielyan	Dr.iur.	Assistant professor	Law
32	Marina Kameņeckā-Usova	PhD	Associate Professor	Law
33	Karina Zalcmāne	Dr.iur.	Associate Professor	Law
34	Jelena Budanceva	MBA	Assistant professor	Management Science
35	Imants Laviņš	Dr.hist.	Assistant professor	Management Science
36	Tatjana Daudiša	Mg.oec.	Lecturer	Management Science
37	Jevgenija Dehtjare	Dr.oec.	Associate Professor	Management Science

¹ https://www.viis.gov.lv/registri/akademiskais_personals

38	Ksenija Ijevļeva	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Assistant professor	Management Science
39	Tatjana Kujikova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Assistant professor	Management Science
40	Oksana Lentjušenkova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Professor	Management Science
41	Inga Oliņa	<i>Mg.art.</i>	Lecturer	Management Science
42	Viktorija Skvarciāny	<i>PhD</i>	Leading Researcher	Management Science
43	Inga Šīna	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Professor	Management Science
44	Kaspars Šteinbergs	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Associate Professor	Management Science
45	Kristīna Užule	<i>Dr.psych.</i>	Associate Professor	Management Science
46	Larisa Turuševa	<i>Dr.paed.</i>	Assistant professor	Management Science
47	Zane Veidenberga	<i>PhD</i>	Assistant professor	Management Science

Several EKA academic staff members elected to academic positions have received the rights of experts of the Latvian Council of Science (as of 11.05.2026. – **41%** of the persons with PhD).

Table 2 Academic staff elected in the academic positions of EKA - experts of the Latvian Council of Science

	<i>Name, Surname</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Branch of science, sub-branch</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
1	Jelena Titko	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	10.04.2027.
			Social sciences – Sociology and social work	09.04.2028.
2	Inga Šīna	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	03.12.2028.
3	Oksana Lentjušenkova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	06.12.2026.
4	Jevgenija Dehtjare	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	10.04.2027.
			Social sciences - Education sciences	04.12.2027.
5	Kristīne Užule	<i>Dr.psyh.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	05.02.2028.
			Social sciences – Education sciences	05.02.2028.
6	Karina Zalcmane	<i>PhD</i>	Social sciences – Law	01.11.2026.
7	Marina Kamenecka-Usova	<i>PhD</i>	Social sciences – Law	07.05.2028.
8	Larisa Turuševa	<i>Dr.paed.</i>	Social sciences – education sciences	04.01.2026.
9	Natalja Cudecka-Purina	<i>PhD</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	06.09.2026.
			Social sciences – Social and economic geography	08.05.2027.
10	Alīna Daņileviča	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences – Economics and Business	10.01.2027.
			Nature sciences – Computer sciences and informatics	02.10.2027.
11	Vita Zariņa	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences – Economics and business	06.11.2027.
12	Mārcis Pinnis	<i>PhD</i>	Natural sciences – Computer sciences and informatics	09.04.2028.

1.2. Priority research directions and research teams

One of the criteria for assessing a study direction is "The involvement of academic staff in scientific research and/or artistic creation". In order to achieve results in this area, EKA has introduced new practices – formation of international research teams. Teams are formed in priority research directions approved by the relevant Study Direction Council (Table 3). Each research direction has a coordinator responsible for achieving the expected results.

Table 3 EKA priority research areas for 2024-2028

<i>RESEARCH AREA</i>	<i>Study direction</i>	<i>Coordinator</i>
Sustainable development and circular economy	Economics, Management	EKA professor, Dr.oec. J. Titko
Future of education and competencies	Economics, Management	EKA associate professor, Dr.oec. J.Dehtjare
Social impact research	Management	EKA associate professor, Dr.psych. K. Užule
Well-being in life and well-being at work	Economics, Management	EKA program director, MBA, PHD candidate J. Budanceva
Economics, Business Administration and Marketing	Economics, Management	EKA associate professor, Dr. oec., J. Dehtjare
Digital economy and business digital transformation	Economics,	EKA professor, Dr.oec. J. Titko;

	Management	EKA assistant professor, Mg. iur., PHD candidate N. Verina
Inclusivity and diversity in higher education	Management	EKA associate professor, Dr. psych. K. Užule
Financial literacy and financial inclusion	Economics, Management	EKA professor, Dr.oec. J.Titko
Sports Law	Law	EKA Associate Professor, PhD K.Zalcmane
Brand identity and brand value creation	Arts	EKA Assistant Professor K.Milča
Digital games research	Arts	EKA program director "Computer Game Design" A.Bērza
E-learning technologies and management	IT	EKA professor, Dr.oec. J. Titko

Table 4. International research teams operated in 2025/2026

<i>Research direction</i>	<i>Team members</i>
Sustainable development and circular economy	<p>Dr. Dzintra Atstaja, Professor, BA School of Business and Finance (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Tatjana Tambovceva, Professor, Riga Technical University (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Pedro A. Martin-Cervantes, Professor, University of Almería (Spain)</p> <p>Dr. Tatjana Pimonenko, Associate Professor, Sumy State University (Ukraine)</p> <p>Dr. Indre Lapinskaite, Associate Professor, VILNIUS TECH (Lithuania)</p> <p>Dr. Viktorija Skvarciany, Associate Professor, VILNIUS TECH (Lithuania)</p> <p>Dr. Nellija Titova, researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Mg. Edgars Cerkovskis, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Anna Svirina, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Armand Faganel, Associate Professor, University of Primorska (Slovenia)</p> <p>Dr. Marina Solesvik, Professor, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (Norway)</p> <p>Dr. Anna Jasinska-Biliczak, Assistant Professor, Opole University (Poland)</p> <p>Dr. Kristine Uzule, Leading Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>MBA Jelena Budanceva, Researcher, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr hab. Beata Bal-Domańska, Professor, Wroclaw University of Economics and Business (Poland)</p> <p>Dr. Jevgenija Dehtjare, Leading Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Tomasz Bartłomowicz, Wroclaw University of Economics and Business (Poland)</p> <p>Ing. Radka Vaníčková, Ph.D., MBA, University of Economics and Management (Czech Republic)</p> <p>PhD. cand. Julija Mironova, Research Assistant, Assistant Professor, ISMA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Natalja Cudecka-Purina, Associate Professor, BA School of Business and Finance (Latvia), Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Bojan Kitanovikj, PhD. cand., Teaching and Research Fellow, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Faculty of Economics - Skopje (North Macedonia)</p> <p>Dr. Luzia Arantes, Professor, Polytechnic University of Cávado and Ave, University of Aveiro (Portugal)</p> <p>Dr. Hamza Nidaazzi, Researcher, Cadi Ayyad University (Marocco)</p> <p>Dr. Debjani Banerjee, Professor, Vivekanand Education Society's Business School (India)</p> <p>Dr. Elif Bengü, Associate Prof, Abdullah Gül University (AGU)</p> <p>Dr. Eda Ustaoglu, Assistant Prof, Abdullah Gül University (AGU)</p> <p>Dr. Burak Kağan Demirtaş, Assistant Prof, Abdullah Gül University (AGU)</p> <p>Ljupcho Efremov, Assistant Professor, American University of The Middle East (Kuwait)</p> <p>Dr. Zsuzsanna Győri, Senior Research Fellow, Budapest Business University (Hungary)</p> <p>Dr. Anita Kolnhofer Derecskei, Associate Professor, Budapest Business University (Hungary)</p> <p>Dr. Regina Reicher, Associate Professor, Budapest Business University (Hungary)</p> <p>Dr. Ágnes Sándor, Research Fellow, Budapest Business University (Hungary)</p> <p>Dr. Katarzyna Strzała-Osuch, prof. PSW, Rector, Powiślański University (Poland)</p> <p>Mgr Paulina Osuch, Senate Representative for International Programs, Powiślański University (Poland)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Gita Actiņa, Research Assistant, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Tomasz Grodzicki, Assistant Professor, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (Poland)</p>

<p>Future of education and competencies</p>	<p>Dr. Kristine Uzule, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Dr. paed. Larisa Turuševa, Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Dr. oec. Oksana Lentjusenkovs, Researcher, Rector, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, Researcher, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Mg. Edgars Cerkovskis, Research Assistant, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Dr. Vita Zariņa, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Dr. Nellija Titova, researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) PhD cand. Natalja Verina, Researcher, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Mg. psych. Anna Strazda, Ph.D. candidate, scientific assistant, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) PhD. cand. Julija Mironova, Business Administration in Tourism study program director, ISMA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Dr. Daria Golebiowska-Tataj, professor University of Manchester, founder "Tataj Innovations" Ltd. (United Kingdom) Dr. Aurelija Ulbinaite, Assoc. professor, Vilnius University (Lithuania) PhD. cand. Julija Surikova, Turiba University (Latvia) Kaspars Karaševskis, PHH Group (Lithuania) Mg. Diana Lapkis, CEO of NewDoor (Latvia) Mg. Galina Berjozkina, Program Director, City Unity College (Cyprus) Mg. Igor Mogila, Researcher, International Science Group (Ukraine) Dr. oec. Liudmila Hanushchak-Yefimenko, Vice-Rector, Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (Ukraine) Ph. D. Remigijus Kinderis, Director, Klaipeda University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania) Mg. Lika Kiladze, Founder, Education Development and Employment Center (Georgia) Ph.D. Mourine Achieng, Researcher, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (South Africa) Dr. Khalil AĪT SAĪD, Assistant Professor in HRM, ISM-IAE-UVSQ-Paris Saclay (France) Dr. Hamza Nidaazzi, Researcher, Cadi Ayyad University (Marocco) Dr. Debjani Banerjee, Professor, Vivekanand Education Society's Business School (India) Saltanat Meiramova, Associate Professor, candidate of pedagogical sciences, EAGI A.K. Kussayinov Eurasian Humanities Institute (Indonesia) Ljupcho Efremov, Assistant Professor, American University of The Middle East (Kuwait) Dr Neerja Kashive, Associate Dean Research & Head FPM, VES Business School, Mumbai (India) Zsuzsanna Géring, PhD., Senior Research Fellow, Budapest Business University (Hungary) Dr. CSc. Tamás Gáspár, Associate Professor, Budapest Business University (Hungary)</p>
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<p>Well-being in life and well-being at work</p>	<p>Dr. oec. Oksana Lentjushenkova, Professor, Rector, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Dr. Kristine Uzule, Leading Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p>

	<p>Dr. Jevgenija Dehtjare, Leading Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Ann Saurbier, Professor, West Liberty University (USA)</p> <p>PhD. cand. Julija Mironova, ISMA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr., Agnieszka Springer, Uniwersytet WSB Merito w Poznaniu (Poland)</p> <p>Dr. Andrii Loboda, Professor, Sumy State University (Ukraine)</p> <p>Dr. Viktoriia Petrashenko, Associate Professor, Sumy State University (Ukraine)</p> <p>Bojan Kitanovikj, MSc, Junior Researcher, Teaching and Research Fellow (Demonstrator) at the Faculty of Economics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (N.Macedonia)</p> <p>Dr. Hamza Nidaazzi, Researcher, Cadi Ayyad University (Marocco)</p> <p>Dr. Debjani Banerjee, Professor, Vivekanand Education Society's Business School (India)</p> <p>Dr. Umut Türk, Associate Professor, Abdullah Gül University - AGU (Turkey)</p> <p>Dr. Elif Bengü, Associate Professor, Abdullah Gül University - AGU (Turkey)</p> <p>Ljupcho Efremov, Assistant Professor, American University of The Middle East (Kuwait)</p> <p>Saltanat Meiramova, Associate Professor, candidate of pedagogical sciences, EAGI A.K. Kussayinov Eurasian Humanities Institute (Indonesia)</p> <p>Dr. Maria Grace Herlina, S.Sos., Bina Nusantara University, Jakarta (Indonesia) Dr hab. Sabina Krupa, Lecturer, Powiślański University (Poland)</p>
Economics, Business Administration and Marketing	<p>Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, Leading researcher, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Oksana Lentjusenkovna, Researcher, Rector, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Vita Zariņa, Researcher, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Kristine Uzule, Leading researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD Kaspars Šteinbergs, Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Inga Šina, Researcher, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. (DBA) Anna Svirina, Lecturer, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. paed. Larisa Turuševa, Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>MBA, Jeļena Budanceva, Researcher, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Mg. Natalja Verina, Researcher, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Mg. Edgars Cerkovskis, Research Assistant, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Tatjana Tambovceva, Researcher, Professor, Riga Technical University (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD. cand. Julija Mironova, Business Administration in Tourism study program director, RNU University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Ph.D. Viktorija Skvarciany, Professor, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Lithuania)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Gita Actiņa, Research Assistant, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) Oļegs Nīkadimovs, Research Assistant, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p>
Digital economy and business digital transformation	<p>Dr. Kristine Uzule, Leading researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Zanda Gobniece, Research Assistant, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Iļona Lejniece, Dr.oec., EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Elvis Dibaņins, PhD cand., EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD. cand. Julija Mironova, ISMA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Martin Kiselicki, Teaching & Research Assistant, PhD in Organizational Sciences & Management, Economic Faculty – Skopje, University Ss. Cyril & Methodious (N. Macedonia)</p> <p>Anna Pavelieva, PhD, National University "Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic", (Ukraine)</p> <p>Dr. Katie Power, Head of Department, Marketing & International Business, Munster Technological University (Ireland)</p> <p>Bruno Raguž, Mg.art. University of Applied Sciences Baltazar Zaprešić (Croatia)</p> <p>Nino Pataraiia, PhD Ilia State University (Georgia)</p> <p>Tomas Hlavsa, PhD Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Czech Republic)</p> <p>Claudia Maier, Mg. University of Applied Sciences Burgenland GmbH (Austria)</p> <p>Grigor Hayrapetyan, PhD cand., Yerevan State University (Armenia)</p> <p>Tsovinar Adamyan, PhD cand., Yerevan State University (Armenia)</p> <p>Shani Oppenheim-Weller, Dr.psyh. Hadassah Academic College (Israel)</p> <p>Ayelet Goldstein, PhD, Hadassah Academic College (Israel)</p>
Inclusivity and diversity in higher education	<p>Dr. oec. Aija Sannikova, Assistant Professor, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, Professor, Leading researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Inga Shina, Professor, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p>

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Financial literacy and financial inclusion	<p>Dr. Dzintra Atstaja, Leading Researcher, RSU Riga Stradins University (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Julija Bistrova, Associate Professor, RTU Riga Technical University (Latvia)</p> <p>Aija Brikse, Head of Financial Literacy Division, Latvijas Banka, Latvia</p> <p>PhD Cand. Jelena Budanceva, Researcher, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD Cand. Edgars Čerkovskis, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Natalja Cudecka-Purina, Professor, University of Latvia (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Jevgenija Dehtjare, Associate professor, Leading researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>MBA Alise Patrīcija Dreimane, Risk Analyst, Citadele banka</p> <p>Dr. Yuriy Kondratenko, Professor, Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University (Ukraine)</p> <p>Dr. Jekaterina Kuzmina, Associate Professor, Leading Researcher, University of Latvia</p> <p>Dr. Oksana Lentjusenkova, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Oleksii Lyulyov, Professor, Sumy State University (Ukraine); Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD Cand. Julija Mironova, Study Programme Director, Riga Nordic University (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Tetyana Pimonenko, Professor, Sumy State University (Ukraine); Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Inga Shina, Professor, EKA University of applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Viktorija Skvarciāny, Leading Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Maryna Z. Solesvik, Professor, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (Norway)</p> <p>Dr. Tatjana Staube, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Kaspars Steinbergs, Assistant Professor, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Simona Survilaitė, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia), ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7613-3932</p> <p>Dr. Kristine Uzule, Associate professor, Leading researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD Cand. Zane Veidenberga, Assitant professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD Cand. Natalja Verina, Assistant Professor, Researcher EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Vita Zarina, Associate professor, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p>
Sports law	<p>Dr. Marina Kamenecka-Usova, Associate Professor (The EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA), Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Ilona Lejniece, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. David McArdle, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Law School, Stirling University (Scotland, UK)</p> <p>Dr. Anna Di Giandomenico, Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Political Science, University of Teramo (Teramo, Italy)</p> <p>Dr. Maria Francesca Serra, Professor at the Department of Political, Legal and Sociological Sciences, The Niccolò Cusano University (Rome, Italy)</p> <p>Dr. Yaacov Falkov, visiting lecturer at Tel Aviv University and the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (Israel)</p>

1.3. Scientific achievements of EKA academic staff

In 2025/2026, the academic staff of the EKA University of Applied Sciences have published (or accepted for publication) **47** scientific publications, including **40** articles in internationally peer-

reviewed publications, indexed in databases Web of Science Clarivate Analytics, SCOPUS, ERIH+, including **18** papers – in Q1 and Q2 journals (based on 01.06.2026. NZDIS², WoS and Scopus data).

Publications of EKA academic staff (publications indexed by CA/SCOPUS and ERIH+):

1. **Skvarciany, V.** (2025). A comparative study of commercial banks' resilience across crisis timeframe: case of Lithuania. *Economics and Culture*, 22(2), 32-41. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2025-0013> [WoS/Scopus].
2. **Uzule, K.** (2026). A conceptual model for implementing inclusive higher education at the meso-level: integrating sharing economy and integrated reporting principles. *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, 1-36. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08856257.2026.2648710> [WoS/Scopus; Q1].
3. Rakhimzhanova, K., Abdullayev, K., Avetikyan, A., Zolkover, A., **Danilevica, A.**, Povoroznyk, M., & Zhou, Y. (2026). AI ecosystem pillars and economic growth: Implications for knowledge economy architecture from AI vibrancy subindices. *Knowledge and Performance Management*, 10(1), [https://doi.org/10.21511/kpm.10\(1\).2026.06](https://doi.org/10.21511/kpm.10(1).2026.06) [WoS/Scopus; Q2].
4. **Kamenecka-Usova, M.** (2026). Bioethics and the legal architecture of sport integrity. *Managing sport and leisure*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23750472.2026.2633242> [WoS/Scopus].
5. **Kamenecka-Usova, M.** (2025). Bioethics and the soft power of sport: a contemporary perspective. *Frontiers in sports and active living*, 7. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fspor.2025.1683697> [WoS/Scopus; Q2].
6. **Titko, J.**, Zarane, L., & Tambovceva, T. (2025). Consumer challenges with waste sorting at Latvian households. *Economics & Sociology*, 18(4), 84-97. <https://doi.org/10.14254/2071-789X.2025/18-4/4> [WoS/Scopus; Q2/Q3].
7. **Pimonenko, T.**, **Lyulyov, O.**, & Us, Y. (2025). Country green brand promotion: A sentiment analysis. *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia*, 13(2), 27-51. <https://doi.org/10.23762/FSO VOL13 NO2 2> [WoS/Scopus; Q1].
8. Zhang, C., Čižo, E., Yang, Z., **Danileviča, A.**, Boļakova, I., Komarova, V., & Qi, J. (2026). Current trends in the adoption of AI technologies in small and medium-sized enterprises in the European Union. *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues*, 13(4), 152-169. <https://doi.org/10.9770/k2928634357> [WoS/Scopus].
9. **Strazda, A.**, Majoor-Kozlinska, I., & Englis, P.D. (2026). Developing a research integrity culture framework for business schools. *Journal of Academic Ethics*, 24(1). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10805-026-09736-1> [WoS/Scopus; Q1].
10. **Steinbergs, K.**, Cane, R., & Amamria, E. (2026). Digital transformation and its impact on business models in the cultural and creative industries: Evidence from Latvia. In: A. Taghipour (Ed.), *New perspectives and paradigms in applied economics and business: Select proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Applied Economics and Business*, Paris, France, 2025. Springer Cham. <https://link.springer.com/book/9783032155221> [WoS/Scopus].
11. **Lyulyov, O.**, & **Pimonenko, T.** (2026). Energy structure and investment efforts shaping green economic growth. *World Development Sustainability*, 8, 100263. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wds.2025.100263> [WoS/Scopus; Q1].
12. **Dehtjare, J.**, **Uzule, K.**, **Strazda, A.**, & Hanushchak-Yefimenko, L. (2025). Entrepreneurial competences for design students: A comparative study of Latvian and Ukrainian students. *Management Theory and Studies for Rural Business and Infrastructure Development*, 47(1), 59-75. <https://doi.org/10.15544/mts.2025.05> [WoS/Scopus].
13. **Pimonenko, T.**, **Lyulyov, O.**, Wodz, J., Ziabina, Y., & Solodovnikov, S. (2025). Entrepreneurship and green economic development: A bibliometric investigation. *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia*, 13(4), 8-22. <https://doi.org/10.23762/FSO VOL13 NO4 1> [WoS/Scopus; Q1].
14. **Uzule, K.**, **Dehtjare, J.**, **Verina, N.**, Ulbinaite, A., & Kitanovikj, B. (2025). Extending the concept of diversity in entrepreneurship competence education to include AI skills: Public administration employees and expert's insights. *Problems of Education in the 21st Century*, 83(24). <https://doi.org/10.33225/pec/25.83.579> [WoS/Scopus].

² <https://sciencelatvia.gov.lv/#/priv/home>

15. Linina, I., Zvirgzdina, R., Jakunovs, M., & **Vevere, V.** (2025). Factors affecting the choice of Latvia inhabitants to receive medical services abroad. *WSEAS Transactions on Environment and Development*, 21(1), 611-618. <https://doi.org/10.37394/232015.2025.21.50> [WoS/Scopus].
16. **Zarina, V., Sina, I., & Uzule, K.** (2025). Fostering performance management by identifying key performance indicators for human capital in integrated reporting. *Business: Theory and Practice*, 25(2), 420-433. <https://doi.org/10.3846/btp.2024.21351> [WoS/Scopus; Q2/Q3].
17. Cane, R., & **Steinbergs, K.** (2025). Innovation in cultural and creative industries as a factor for sustainable regional development in Latvia. *Economics and Culture*, 22(2), pp.93-103. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2025-0014> [WoS/Scopus].
18. **Vevere, V., Sina, I.,** Nanayakkara, M.G.D.N., Linina, I., & Zvirgzdina, R. (2025). Integrating digital technologies to enhance CSR strategies for retail companies in Latvia. In: *16th Environment. Technology. Resources. Proceedings, 2025(2)* (pp. 367–374). <https://doi.org/10.17770/etr2025vol2.8579> [WoS/Scopus].
19. Arsirii O., Ivanov O., Bieliaiev K., & **Cudecka-Purina N.** (2025). Intelligent information technology for inventory and utilization of construction and demolition waste from damaged infrastructure facilities. *Ceur Workshop Proceedings, 4048* [WoS/Scopus].
20. **Kamenecka-Usova, M.,** Tkalych, M. & Greine, E. (2026). Legal challenges in Eastern European football: Lex Sportiva and its regional specificities Access to justice in Eastern Europe. <https://doi.org/10.33327/AJEE-18-9.1-s000176> [WoS/Scopus].
21. Bugarcic, F. Z., & **Skvarciany, V.** (2026). Logistics as a driver of international trade: An industry-level analysis. *Economic Horizons*, 1(1), 19 – 29. <https://doi.org/10.5937/ekonhor2601019B> [WoS/Scopus].
22. Vasylieva T., **Danilevica A.,** Marci A., & Horsch A. (2026). Macroeconomic stability in European Countries across successive crises: A pentagon-based composite index approach. *Problems and Perspectives in Management*, 24(1). [https://doi.org/10.21511/ppm.24\(1\).2026.44](https://doi.org/10.21511/ppm.24(1).2026.44) [WoS/Scopus; Q1/Q2].
23. **Pimonenko, T., & Lyulyov, O.** (2025). Mapping cultural influence on green economic development. *Economics and Culture*, 22(1), 81-96. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2025-0007> [WoS/Scopus].
24. Satrevics, V., **Gobniece, Z.** & Us, Y. (2025). Meta-analysis of the concept of brand humanisation in higher education. *Economics and Culture*, 22(2), pp.53-69, <https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2025-0020> [WoS/Scopus].
25. **Dubickis M.,** Putans R., & Hovlanne Z. (2025). Method for assessing organizational readiness to innovate in clothing and textile industry: Insights towards circular economy. *Journal of Open Innovation. Technology Market and Complexity*, 11(4), 100665, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joitmc.2025.100665> [WoS/Scopus; Q1].
26. **Titko, J., Verina, N.,** Mironova, J., **Uzule, K.,** & Cernostana, Z. (2025). Personal and institutional barriers perceived by staff of Latvian higher educational institutions in the process of digital transformation: Pilot survey results. *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia*, 13(1), 79–92. https://doi.org/10.23762/fso_vol13_no1_5 [WoS/Scopus; Q1].
27. **Kamenecka-Usova, M; Lejniece, I.,** & Zidens, J. (2025). Playing it safe: Legal and economic dimensions of sport event security. *Baltic journal of economic studies*, 11(5), pp.1-15. <https://doi.org/10.30525/2256-0742/2025-11-5-1-15> [WoS/Scopus].
28. Zvirgzdina, R., Linina, I., Avotiņa, V., **Vevere, V.** & Avotins, G. (2025). Possible improvements of corporate income tax in Latvia to its neighbouring countries. *WSEAS Transactions on Business and Economics*, 22, 1220-1226. <https://doi.org/10.37394/23207.2025.22.99> [WoS/Scopus].
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30. **Kamenecka-Usova, M.,** & Tkalych, M. (2025). Resilience through sports: Ukraine and Latvia confront geopolitical challenges. *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*, 7, 6. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fspor.2025.1563761> [WoS/Scopus; Q1].

31. **Titko, J., Sannikova, A., & Kudins, J.** (2025). Role of networking competences in social enterprise performance. *Business, Management and Economics Engineering*, 23(1), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.3846/bmee.2025.21468> [WoS/Scopus; Q2].
32. Moroz Y., Konopelskyi V., Zholnovych I., Skrylnik A., & **Danilevica A.** (2026). Strengthening financial control in public procurement as a way of counteracting economic crimes. *Theoretical and Practical Research in the Economic Fields*, 17(1). [https://doi.org/10.14505/tpref.v17.1\(37\).20](https://doi.org/10.14505/tpref.v17.1(37).20) [WoS/Scopus].
33. **Lyulyov, O., Pimonenko, T., & Ruoxi, L.** (2026). Structural transformation: Testing convergence in energy, carbon emissions, innovation, and governance. *Journal of International Studies*, 19(1), 143-159. <https://doi.org/10.14254/2071-8330.2026/19-1/8> [WoS/Scopus; Q2].
34. **Dehtjare, J.** (2025). The application of coaching in education: The bibliometric analysis of the emerging trend. *Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability*, 27(1), 205-222. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jtes-2025-0011> [WoS/Scopus; Q2].
35. Spivakovskyy, S., **Danilevica, A.**, Samchuk, V., Fomin, A.S., & Milonushkin, K. (2025). The effectiveness of AI Chatbots in Business. *Theoretical and Practical Research in Economic Fields*, 16(3), 631-640. [https://doi.org/10.14505/tpref.v16.3\(35\).08](https://doi.org/10.14505/tpref.v16.3(35).08) [WoS/Scopus].
36. Arsirii O.O., **Cudecka-Purina N.**, Ivanov O.V., & Bieliaiev K.O. (2025). The intelligent information technology for construction waste analysis and management. *Herald of Advanced Information Technology*, 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.15276/hait.08.2025.6> [WoS/Scopus].
37. **Strazda, A., Dehtjare, J.**, Mironova, J., Kinderis, R. & Vveinhardt, J. (2025). The role of AI tools for improving practices in e-learning environment: Pilot study. *TEM Journal*, 14(4). <https://doi.org/10.18421/TEM144-08> [WoS/Scopus].
38. **Danilevica, A.**, Kassymkhanova, E., Iankovets, T., Lozan, A., & Prokhoruk, R. (2025). The role of intangible assets control in increasing the efficiency of management of innovative enterprises. *Financial and credit activity-problems of theory and practice*, 5(64), pp.217-228. <https://doi.org/10.55643/fcaptop.5.64.2025.5016> [WoS/Scopus].
39. Prohorovs, A., **Uzule, K.**, & Tsaryk, O. (2026). Understanding higher education students' reluctance to adopt GenAI in learning in Latvia and Ukraine. *Frontiers in education*, 10, <https://doi.org/10.3389/educ.2025.1676900> [WoS/Scopus; Q2].
40. Chen, Y., Yi, Y. K., **Lyulyov, O., & Pimonenko T.** (2026). Unpacking the coupling between land green utilization efficiency and the new urbanization puzzle: Assessing regional spatiotemporal variations and driving mechanisms in contemporary China. *Applied Ecology and Environmental Research*, 24(3), 4055-4085. https://doi.org/10.15666/aeer/2403_40554085 [WoS/Scopus].

Other publications:

1. Tharanga, W.A.T., & **Uzule, K.** (2025). Associations between motivation at fast food restaurants in Sri Lanka and human capital indicators within the integrated reporting framework. *Sustainability, social innovations and digital transformation*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.2478/ssidt-2025-0001>
2. **Verina, N., Strazda, A., Staube, T., & Actina, G.** (2025). Digital well-being of public servants. *Sustainability, social innovations and digital transformation*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.2478/ssidt-2025-0005>
3. **Sannikova, A.**, Kudins, J., & Bogdanova, N. (2025). Digitālā mārketinga internettirgus attīstība iedzīvotāju un uzņēmumu digitālās nevienlīdzības kontekstā. *Sociālo Zinātņu Vēstnesis*, 38(1), 42-73. [https://doi.org/10.9770/szv.2024.1\(3\)](https://doi.org/10.9770/szv.2024.1(3))
4. Ganeshram, S., & **Dehtjare, J.** (2025). Influence of cybersecurity measures on consumer trust and loyalty in digital marketing in India. *Sustainability, social innovations and digital transformation*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.2478/ssidt-2025-0003>
5. **Lyulyov, O., & Pimonenko, T.** (2026). Innovation drivers of green economic growth: Environmental patents and venture capital. *Global Economics Research*, 2(1), 100027. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecores.2026.100027>
6. Zhailaubay, D.A., Baigunissova, G.I., & **Turuseva, L.** (2025). Using a bilingual approach to develop reading skills in a foreign language among primary school teachers. In: *Bulletin Sh.Ualikhanov KU: A series of Pedagogical science*, 3/2025. <https://doi.org/10.59102/pedagogical/2025/iss3>

7. **Staube, T., Actina, G., Cerkovskis, E., & Uzule, K.** (2025). Waste sorting motivators and demotivators at the workplace. *Sustainability, social innovations and digital transformation*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/10.2478/ssidt-2025-0002>

Each year EKA hosts International Scientific Conference “**Emerging trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH)**”. The 2026 etECH conference was organized in a number of hybrid sections involving representatives of all EKA study directions (full time staff, visiting academic staff and students).

Participants of the section on “MACROECONOMICS, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, PUBLIC ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS”:

- Andrejs Limanskis. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS FROM THE NETHERLANDS IN LATVIA AS THE DRIVER OF SUSTAINABILITY AND DIGITISATION

Participants of the section on “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY”:

- Lelde Vinkalna, Edgars Cerkovskis, Jelena Titko. OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES IN EVENT MANAGEMENT IN LATVIA
- Raimonds Udačs, Natālija Cudečka-Puriņa. BARRIERS AND ENABLING FACTORS FOR LATVIAN SMES' ACCESS TO SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED EU STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS
- Ugnius Jakubelskas, Viktorija Skvarciany. EVALUATING EU CIRCULAR ECONOMY PERFORMANCE USING A FAHP WEIGHTED COMPOSITE INDEX
- Kristine Uzule, Vita Zarina, Agita Doniņa, Margarita Platace. A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL IMPACT AND TOURISTS' SUSTAINABILITY VALUES: THE CASE OF ACCOMMODATION PRACTICES IN LATVIA
- Oleksii Lyulyov, Tetyana Pimonenko. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION IN HIGH-STRESS CONTEXTS: IMPLICATIONS OF WAR-RELATED STRESS FOR ECO-MESSAGE DESIGN

Participants of the section on “ECONOMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY (ONLINE)”:

- Kristine Uzule, Nellija Titova, Marija Bockarjova. A CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR COMMUNICATING SOCIAL IMPACT OF SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES CONSISTENT WITH THE INTEGRATED REPORTING FRAMEWORK

Participants of the section on “HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT”:

- Natalja Verina, Tatjana Staube, Gita Actina. MEASURING THE DIMENSIONS OF EMPLOYEE DIGITAL WELL-BEING: A CASE STUDY OF LATVIA'S PUBLIC SECTOR
- Wiktor Zygosz, Kristine Uzule. IDENTIFYING THE CORE COMPONENTS OF GENERATION Z EMPLOYMENT VALUES: INSIGHTS FROM CORPUS RESEARCH

Participants of the section on “BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE FINANCE”:

- Renāte Indriķa, Vita Zariņa. EVALUATION OF THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN LATVIA: AN INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE
- Renāte Indriķa. BRIDGING THE STRATEGY-EXECUTION GAP THROUGH DATA INTEGRATION: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE STRIDE FRAMEWORK AS A CYCLICAL ARCHITECTURE OF STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT
- Simona Survilaitė, Vladimirs Šatrevičs, Viktorija Skvarciany. EVALUATION OF FACTORS AFFECTING REMOTE WORK IN FINTECH COMPANIES
- Maryna Z. Solesvik. PROACTIVE LEARNING AND INNOVATION IN SME PERFORMANCE
- Oļegs Ņikadimovs. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AS A DRIVER OF CONSUMER VALUE AND COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES IN LATVIA (online)

Participants of the section on “LAW”:

- Atis Bičkovskis. DECLARED VS ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES: SELF-PERFORMED WORKS, UNREGISTERED TEAMS AND TAX COMPLIANCE ISSUES
- Ilona Lejniece, Marina Kameņeckā-Usova, Jānis Žīdens, Signe Luika. STADIUMS OF LEGITIMACY: SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, REPUTATIONAL POWER, AND SPORTSWASHING
- Loreta Stūrmane, Jolanta Dinsberga. THE LEGAL REGULATION OF SURROGACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS IN LATVIA

- Agita Holste, Jolanta Dinsberga. LEGAL PROTECTION AND ISSUES REGARDING THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER'S RIGHT TO BE INFORMED OF THE CHILD'S EXISTENCE
- Jekaterina Stepanova, Jolanta Dinsberga. THE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MEDIATION IN THE RESOLUTION OF CIVIL LAW DISPUTES AND THE RELATED ISSUES
- Karina Zalcmane. EXTRAORDINARY DEVIATIONS IN SPORT: A CRIMINOLOGICAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS OF VIOLATIONS OF COMPETITIVE INTEGRITY
- Elina Greine, Marina Kamenecka-Usova. LEX SPORTIVA AND LEGAL COMPLEXITY IN EASTERN EUROPEAN FOOTBALL

Participants of the section on "EDUCATION AND YOUTH STUDIES":

- Oksana Lentjušenkova, Jeļena Budanceva. DOES FINANCIAL LITERACY REDUCE FINANCIAL STRESS? LINKING KNOWLEDGE, BEHAVIOR, AND WELL-BEING IN LATVIA
- Kristīne Užule, Jevgenija Dehtjare. FINANCIAL DIMENSIONS IN INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH: INSIGHTS FROM THE BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS
- Jevgenija Dehtjare, Anna Strazda. REFRAINING UKRANIAN UNIVERSITIES AS THIRD PLACES
- Kristīne Užule, Jevgenija Dehtjare, Jelena Budanceva. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STUDENT BURNOUT AND PERSONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDY SATISFACTION
- Anna Strazda. RESEARCH INTEGRITY RISKS IN BUSINESS SCHOOLS: AN ORGANISATIONAL PERSPECTIVE
- Inga Šīna, Vita Zariņa. THE ROLE OF CREATIVE CULTURAL PRODUCTS AS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES SUPPORTING INTERCULTURAL LEARNING IN MANAGEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- Olena Shestakova, Jevgenija Dehtjare, Tatyana Shtal, Oleksiy Dzenis, Marina Celika. RETHINKING UNIVERSITY COMPETITIVENESS METRICS IN EUROPE: STRUCTURAL LIMITS OF RANKING FRAMEWORKS UNDER GLOBAL DISRUPTION

Participants of the joint section on "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND DIGITALISATION":

- Elvis Dibanins, Ilona Lejniece. RETHINKING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH A USER EXPERIENCE (UX) PERSPECTIVE
- Mārcis Pinnis. EVALUATING LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS FOR SMALLER LANGUAGES WITH TILDEBENCH
- Patriks Morevs, Jurijs Radionovs, Olga Ovtšarenko. MODERN TRENDS OF EDUCATION IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES: INTRODUCTION OF WEB PROGRAMMING BASICS TO STUDENTS THROUGH CREATION OF 2D AND 3D GAMES FROM SCRATCH USING PURE JAVASCRIPT AND HTML/CSS ONLY
- Jeļena Pundure, Tatjana Tambovceva, Viktorija Politika, Andrejs Šišovs. IMPACT OF SECURITY ASPECTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF LATVIAN BUSINESS AND THE WELFARE OF RESIDENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF ICT SOLUTIONS
- Maksims Žigunovs. NEURAL NETWORK SYMBIOSIS AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER WITHOUT TRAINING THROUGH BIO-INSPIRED MUSHROOM SIGNAL COMMUNICATION PATTERNS
- Alina Danileviča, Aina Čaplinska. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND E-COMMERCE IN LATVIAN SMES (online)
- Jurijs Radionovs, Maksims Žigunovs, Tea Todua. THE IMPACT OF WEATHER ON STUDENTS' STUDY ATTENDANCE: A PREDICTIVE APPROACH (online)

Participants of the joint section on "CULTURE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURE PROJECT MANAGEMENT":

- Larissa Turusheva. CONSEQUENCES OF LACK OF CROSS-CULTURAL TRAINING IN ORGANISATIONS
- Zane Veidenberga. TRANSLATOR'S CULTURAL BACKGROUND: IMPACT ON THE TRANSLATION END PRODUCT
- Aija Poikāne-Daumke. NARRATING FREEDOM: AMINATA DIALO'S LIFE STORY AND IDENTITY IN THE BOOK OF NEGROES BY LAWRENCE HILL
- Ieva Ekena. THE POSTER COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LATVIA
- Imants Ļaviņš, Dace Ļaviņa. THE INFLUENCES OF EASTERN ART IN ROMANS SUTA'S ARTISTIC LEGACY
- Elizabete Gribruška, Imants Ļaviņš. THE LATVIAN MENTALITY AS SEEN BY FOREIGNERS
- Jeļena Budanceva, Undīne Perse-Vilerte. THE SATISFACTION GAP IN MUSEUM EXPERIENCES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSES OF PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS AND PRESCHOOLER ENGAGEMENT

- Olga Bogonis, Artūrs Homins. INCLUSIVE CULTURAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN TIMES OF CRISIS: DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY AS A TOOL FOR RESILIENCE IN LATVIA AND UKRAINE (online)
- Zane Saukane, Veronika Martyniuk. DEVELOPING TRANSNATIONAL VET ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH ERASMUS+ CULTURE INITIATIVES

Participants of the joint section on “DIGITAL GAMES, GAMIFICATION, VIRTUAL REALITY ”:

- Andrejs Birzgars. THE ROLE AND ANALYSIS OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE IN CYBERCRIME INVESTIGATIONS
- Andrejs Birzgars. SUPERPOSITION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION IN INTERACTIVE MANUAL THERAPY TRAINING SYSTEMS
- Kaspars Šteinbergs, Anete Bērza. FROM COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK TO PLAYABLE MISSIONS: A LATVIA CASE OF GREENCOMP AND CLIMATE LITERACY IN GAMIFIED DIGITAL ESCAPE ROOMS
- Anete Bērza. THE IMPACT OF GAME-BASED LEARNING ON MOTIVATION AND KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION IN AGILE METHODOLOGY TRAINING

In 2025/2026, EKA's academic staff also participated with their reports in other international scientific conferences:

1. **Budanceva J., & Lentjušenkova, O.** (2026). From financial literacy to well-being – case of Latvia. *8th International Humanistic Economic Forum “Innovative Economy in Times of Geopolitical Change”*. Riga, Latvia. 05-07.03.2026.
2. **Danilevica, A., & Caplinska, A.** (2026). E-commerce trends – experience of Latvia. *International Scientific and Practical Conference “Science.Education. Culture”*. Comrat, Moldova. 12.02.2026.
3. **Danilevica, A., & Caplinska, A.** (2026). The impact of inflation on consumer behavior changes in Latvia. *III Scientific Conference “The Synergy of Science Economy and Society in Times of Dynamic Change”*. Suwalki, Poland, May 29, 2026.
4. **Dehtjare J., & Strazda A.** (2026). Universities as emerging third places: Academic staff perceptions of informal learning spaces and stakeholder engagement. *International conference “Third Places: Spaces for Citizen and Organizational Innovations”, Larequoi laboratory Research Center of ISM-IAE*. Paris, France. 22-23.01.2026.
5. **Dehtjare J.,** Slušniene G., & **Strazda A.** (2025). Management of HEIs: Challenges caused by technostress. *14th International Scientific Conference “Effectiveness of Business”, Jakub z Paradyż University in Gorzów Wielkopolski*. Poland. 10.12.2025.
6. **Dehtjare J., Strazda A., & Užule K.** (2025). The impact of artificial intelligence tools on digital transformation in higher education management. *Boris Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University, International conference “Digital Transformation in Economics, Finance, Management and Entrepreneurship”*. Ukraine, 12.11.2025.
7. **Dehtjare J., Strazda A., Užule K.** (2025). Examining educator digital strain: Sources, professional impact and support measures. *4th International Scientific and Practical Conference “Challenges of Culture and Education in the 21st Century”*, Vilniaus Kolegija. Vilnius, Lithuania. 05.12.2025.
8. **Dibaņins E., & Lejniece I.** (2025). Digital skills gaps between different generations. *Dlearn satellite conference DigitEdu 2025 “Bridging Digital Gaps: Empowering Learners through Green and Digital Skills”*. Riga, Latvia. 17.09.2025.
9. **Dibaņins E., & Lejniece, I.** (2025). Personal branding for public servants in Latvia in the digital age. *International Conference ASBMC'25 by RISEBA, BA, SSE Riga*. Riga, Latvia. 27-29.05.2025.
10. **Homins A., Budanceva J., & Egle A.K.** (2025). Generation Z in the cultural sector: exploring wellbeing and workplace expectations in Latvia. *16th International Creativity and Culture Conference, Kaunas Faculty Vilnius University*. Kaunas, Lithuania. 16-22.11.2025.
11. **Indrika, R.** (2026). Financial literacy barriers among university students in Latvia: A diagnostic study. *8th International Humanistic Economic Forum “Innovative Economy in Times of Geopolitical Change”*. Riga, Latvia. 05-07.03.2026.

12. **Indrika, R.** (2026). STRIDE metodikas pielietojums uzņēmējdarbībā: Cikliska pieeja stratēģiskai lēmumu pieņemšanai un ilgtspējīgai izaugsmei. *LKA lietišķās pētniecības konference "Izglītība. Izaugsme. Ilgtspēja. 2026"*. Rīga, Latvia.
13. **Indrika, R.** (2026). STRIKE methodology: A cyclical framework for strategic decision-making and sustainable management. *International Scientific and Practical Conference "Build Master Class 2025"*. Rīga, Latvia. 26-28.11.2026.
14. **Krumina, M., & Vevere, V.** (2025). The impact of personalised gamification and rewards on customer trust and loyalty in UK retail. *7th Virtual International Conference "Path to a Knowledge Society-Managing Risks and Innovation PaKSoM 2025"*. Belgrade, Serbia. 20-21.10.2025.
15. **Nikadimovs, O.** (2026). Corporate social responsibility engagement, implementation barriers, and competitive advantage in Latvian SMEs. *International Scientific Conference "Social Innovations for Sustainable Regional Development"*, Klaipeda University. Klaipėda, Lietuva. 07-09.05.2026.
16. **Nikadimovs, O.** (2026). Corporate social responsibility practices and perceived value in tourism and hospitality SMEs: Evidence from a sector-specific analysis. *XXVII International Scientific Conference "Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation: Innovations, Opportunities, and Ethical Challenges"*, Biznesa augstskola Turība. Rīga, Latvija. 18.03.2026.
17. **Nikadimovs, O.** (2026). Segmentation of Latvian consumers by corporate social responsibility perceptions: A cluster analysis approach. *New Trends in Contemporary Economics, Business and Management: Proceedings of the 16th International Scientific Conference "Business Management 2026"*. Vilnius, Lithuania. 14-15.05.2026.
18. **Skvarciāny, V.** (2026). Forecasting volatility in the Eurozone: (GJR)-(E)GARCH approach. *International Conference on ICT Management for Global Competitiveness and Economic Growth in Emerging Economies ICTM 2025*. Wrocław, Poland. 08-09.12.2025.
19. **Skvarciāny, V.** (2026). Gender differences in sustainable entrepreneurship intentions and environmental values of students. *ACIEK UTAMED 2026 Innovation and knowledge to transform the world: from business to society*. Malaga, Spain. 16-18.06.2026.
20. **Steinbergs, K., & Amamria, E.** (2025). Factors influencing digital transformation maturity and business performance in Tunisia's cultural and creative industries. *16th International Conference "Creativity & Culture"*. Kauņa, Lietuva. 20-21.11.2025.
21. **Steinbergs, K., Cane, R., & Amamria, E.** (2025). Digital transformation and its impact on business models in the cultural and creative industries: Evidence from Latvia. 9th International Conference on Applied Economics and Business (ICAEB 2025) ar referātu. Parīze, Francija. 24-26.08.2025.
22. **Steinbergs K.** (2025). Development of virtual reality scenarios for the "GREENENTRE4DEAF" project. *Dlearn satellite conference DigitEdu 2025 "Bridging Digital Gaps: Empowering Learners through Green and Digital Skills"*. Rīga, Latvia. 17.09.2025.
23. **Strazda A., & Dehtjare J.** (2026). Digital third places for academic staff: Spaces of support and collaboration. *International conference "Third Places: Spaces for Citizen and Organizational Innovations"*, Larequoi laboratory Research Center of ISM-IAE. Paris, France. 22-23.01.2026.
24. **Titko J., Svirina A., Lentjusenkovā O., & Uzule K.** (2025). Application of artificial intelligence in higher education to ensure continuous improvement: Case of Latvia. *The QMOD-ICQSS Conference 2025*. Seoul, South Korea. 26-28.09. 2025.
25. **Titko, J.** (2025). A cross-country survey on students' environmental values and attitudes towards sustainable entrepreneurship. *9th CERS - Central European Conference in Regional Science - "Sustainability-driven territorial development. Challenges for CEECs"*. Cluj Napoca, Romania. 27-29.11.2025.
26. **Titko, J.** (2025). Sustainability initiatives and activities in the Baltic Universities. *Symposium "Universities, Cities and Sustainable Development"*. Rīga, Latvia. 09-10.10.2025.
27. **Uzule, K.** (2025). Addressing inclusivity issues in higher education from the ecosystem perspective (panel speech). International scientific conference – symposium: Navigating Volatility with Mindfulness: From Individual Practices to Organizational Strategies. *SMK College of Applied Sciences, Lithuania*. 13.11.2025.

28. **Uzule, K.** (2025). Inclusive higher education: Addressing financial challenges. *4th International Scientific-Practical Conference "Challenges of Culture and Education in the 21st Century"*, Vilnius kolegija, Vilnius, Lithuania. 05.12.2025.
29. **Uzule, K., & Titko, J.** (2026). Individual barriers in investment decisions from psychological perspective: insights from a Latvian survey. *LZA Economic Forum*. Riga, Latvia. 06.03.2026.
30. **Uzule, K., Dehtjare, J., & Strazda, A.** (2025). Creating social impact for entrepreneurial activities in the digital environment: insights from the integrated reporting framework. *International Scientific Online Conference "Digital Transformation in Economics, Finance, Management, and Entrepreneurship"*, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University. Ukraine. 12.11.2025.
31. **Vevere, V., Sina, I., Godwin, C. J., Linina, I., & Zvirgzdina, R.** (2025). Evaluation of impact of work-life balance on job satisfaction in manufacturing industries in Latvia. *25th International Scientific Conference "Globalization and Its Socio-Economic Consequences 2025"*. Rajecké Teplice, Slovak Republic. 09-10.10.2025.
32. **Verina N., & Actiņa G.** (2025). The impact of insufficient digital skills on university digital transformation: Exploring personal and organizational barriers. *Dlearn satellite conference DigitEdu 2025 "Bridging Digital Gaps: Empowering Learners through Green and Digital Skills"*. Riga, Latvia. 17.09.2025.
33. **Vevere, V., Shina, I., Joshy, G. C., Linina, I., & Zvirgzdina, R.** (2025). Evaluation of impact of work life balance on job satisfaction in manufacturing industries in Latvia within context of European Life-Work Balance Index. *International Scientific Conference "Globalizations and its socio-economic consequences"*, Žilina University. Žilina, Slovakia, 08-09.10.2025.
34. **Vevere, V., Vidze, R., Shina, I., Linina, I., & Zvirgzdina, R.** (2025). Self-assessment matrix for CSR activities to enhance customer loyalty for small and medium-sized enterprises in Latvia. *3rd International Conference on Advancing Sustainable Futures (ICASF 2025)*. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 10-11.12.2025.

Other achievements in 2025/2026:

- 2025.07, **Ijevļeva, K.** Opinion article "Latio: Algu pieaugums pārsniedzis mājokļu cenu kāpuma tempu", *DienasBusiness.lv*. <https://www.db.lv/zinas/latio-iegadei-pieejamo-dzivoklu-skaitu-samazinajies-par-vairak-neka-33-520092>
- 2025.07, **Birzgals, A.** Interview "Birzgals: No darba darīšanas esam pārgājuši uz darba izpildi", *XTV.lv*. <https://benfmk2.xtv.lv/rigatv24/video/adN1QwWvNqI-birzgals-no-darba-darisanas-esam-pargajusi-uz-darba-izpildi>
- 2025.08, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Apritprasmē" 6. epizode: Kā Rīga kļūst apritīga?, YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXBxwv1pfgI>
- 2025.08, **Lejniece, I.** Interview "Ekonomikas un kultūras augstskola maina studiju pieeju, lai sekmētu jauniešu pilsonisko aktivitāti", *MultiNews.lv*. <https://multinews.lv/ekonomikas-un-kulturas-augstskola-maina-studiju-pieeju-lai-sekmetu-jauniesu-pilsonisko-aktivitati/>
- 2025.08, **Cerkovskis E.** Expert work in cooperation with DrošInternets.lv and VARAM evaluated the developed practical guidelines for the implementation of artificial intelligence in the public sector. <https://www.varam.gov.lv/lv/jaunums/izstradatas-praktiskas-vadlinijas-maksliga-intelekta-ieviesanai-valsts-parvalde>
- 2025.08, **Lejniece, I.** Opinion piece "Vai augstskolas var atrisināt zemās pilsoniskās līdzdalības izaicinājumu?", *Aprinkis.lv*. <https://www.aprinkis.lv/index.php/viedokli/63832-vai-augstskolas-var-atrisinat-zemas-pilsoniskas-lidzdalibas-izaicinajumu>
- 2025.09, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Apritprasmē" 7.epizode: Zinātne, ilgtspēja un nākotnes Latvija, YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uuq2gYn8FY8>
- 2025.09, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Lasīšana kā attīstības atslēga – kā un kāpēc motivēt jauniešus lasīt?", YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpTXwDdOU60&t=1853s>
- 2025.09, **Sina, I.** Lecture for the IZM Management Group on the Eurydice report "Uzņēmējdarbības izglītība Eirops skolā" (biedrība "Lidere")

- 2025.09, **Sina, I.** Lecture for sustainability in Europe – building competencies (biedrība "Līdere") <https://www.lidere.lv/macibas-ilgtspejibai-eiropa-kompetencu-veidosana-un-atbalsts-skolotajiem-un-skolam/>
- 2025.09, **Cerkovskis, E.** Report "Uzticamas un caurspīdīgas mākslīgā intelekta vides veidošana uzņēmumā" BITE konferencē "Jauni spēles noteikumi kiberdrošībā: MI laiks".
- 2025.09, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Apritprasmē". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uuq2gYn8FY8&t=2038s>
- 2025.09, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Lasīšana kā attīstības atslēga – kā un kāpēc motivēt jauniešus lasīt?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpTXwDdOU60&t=1853s>
- 2025.10, **Cerkovskis, E.** Expert meeting of the merchants' application evaluation committee. LIAA Sigulda representative office.
- 2025.10, **Cerkovskis, E.** Opinion piece "Dalītais īpašums bremsē investīcijas un uzticēšanos tirgum", DienasBizness.lv. <https://www.db.lv/zinas/dalitais-ipasums-bremze-investicijas-un-uzticesanos-tirgum-523440>
- 2025.10, **Cerkovskis, E.** Lecture for Latvian Red Cross employees on integrating artificial intelligence into daily work 'Annual Professional Development Conference', Ropaži Municipality.
- 2025.10, **Cerkovskis, E.** Opinion piece "Ģeopolitiskie izaicinājumi nedrīkst kavēt aprites ekonomikas attīstību", Delfi.lv. <https://www.delfi.lv/898102/versijas/120079816/edgars-cerkovskis-geopolitiskie-izaicinajumi-nedrīkst-kavet-aprites-ekonomikas-attistibu>
- 2025.10, **Čerkovskis, E., & Sannikova, A.** Report "Latvijas sociālo uzņēmumu portretējums", konference "Sociālā Uzņēmējdarbība Latvijā- izaugsme, radošums, sadarbība", Ministry of Welfare.
- 2025.10, **Cerkovskis, E.** Conference report "Zaļās prasmes: domā, mācies, rīkojies" on the practical application of AI in sustainable development and circular economy solutions, LTRK.
- 2025.10, **Cerkovskis, E.** Moderator at the conference and practical workshops "Digitālā transformācija – mākslīgais intelekts skolotāja atbalstam diferenciācijas procesā". Ropažu vidusskola.
- 2025.11, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Apritprasmē" 8.epizode: Apritprasmē: Īdens ceļš cauri Rīgai – Bioloģiskās attīrīšanas stacija "Daugavgrīva", YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4r2m1sHeA&list=PL8kSlpG0hX_H8VVOvtUlGgK0f4px91ZqQ
- 2025.11, **Cudecka-Purina, N.** Moderation of session – Circular Economy Forum Session: A10. Baltic and Nordic cooperation – CSR Latvia (EN).
- 2025.11, **Dinsberga, J.** Opinion piece "Bieža tiesāšanās, sarežģīts process – kurš vainīgs pie piespiedu dalītā īpašuma fenomena?" LA.lv. <https://www.la.lv/bieza-tiesasanas-sarezgits-process-kurs-vainigs-pie-piespiedu-dalita-ipasuma-fenomena>
- 2025.11, **Cerkovskis, E.** Seminar for vocational education and business teachers on the use of AI tools in market research. Liepāja State Technical School.
- 2025.11, **Cerkovskis, E.** Seminar for educators 'Instruments for Implementing Climate Policy: Artificial Intelligence Methods for Everyday Work' Professional development program for educators' competencies.
- 2025.11, **Zariņa, V.** Organisation of BILANCE Conference "Kam gatavoties grāmatvedim 2026. gadā?".
- 2025.11, **Cerkovskis, E.** Opinion piece "Aiz cipariem ir īsti bērni, vai Latvijā ir apdraudētas skolas – sociālie uzņēmumi?", DienasBizness.lv. <https://www.db.lv/zinas/aiz-cipariem-ir-isti-berni-vai-latvija-ir-apdraudetas-skolas-socialie-uznemumi-524285>
- 2025.11, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Izglītības Domnīca" with LU prof. Z. Rubene on reading, writing and perception habits in the digital age and the importance of reading culture in education. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIZUY1by2oA>
- 2025.12, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Izglītības Domnīca" about inclusive education. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtBqIInzaF4&t=77s>

- 2026.01, **Cerkovskis, E.** Opinion piece “Aiz cipariem ir īsti bērni, vai Latvijā ir apdraudētas skolas – sociālie uzņēmumi?”, IR.lv. <https://ir.lv/rubrika/viedoklis/aiz-cipariem-ir-isti-berni-vai-latvija-ir-apdraudetas-skolas-socialie-uznemumi.220695>
- 2026.01, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Apritprasmē" 9. epizode: Apritprasmē: Agnese Rakovska – dzīve ar jēgu, radošums un sociālā uzņēmējdarbība, YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-8FzQr1IYE>
- 2026.02, **Cerkovskis, E.** Podcast series "Apritprasmē" 10. epizode: Apritprasmē: Ilgtspējīga saimniecība Latvijā – ko vēsture mums māca?, YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pf6901QPn4Q>
- 2026.03, **Cerkovskis, E.** Interview “Dienas personība”, TV24. <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1811&lng=lva>
- 2026.03, **Indriks, R.** Seminar (in cooperation with Latvijas Banka & Naudas Skola), "Kur un kā Jūs pelnīsiet naudu nākotnē?" <https://www.naudasskola.lv/lv/notikumu-kalendars/praktisks-vebinars-kur-un-ka-jus-pelnisiet-naudu-nakotne>
- 2026.03, **Budanceva, J.** Lecture - Conflict Management in Cultural Institutions. Target audience: Representatives of Latvian cultural centers. Organized by: LKA, Zoom.
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1.4. Research Competence Training

To achieve the goal of developing the research competences of EKA’s academic staff, EKA organises conferences, seminars and workshops, and supports participation in competence-training events at other institutions.

In 2025/2026 EKA organised several educational events for academic staff:

- Staff Training Week (STW25), 15-19.09.2025.

- DigitEdu 2025 conference “Bridging Digital Gaps: Empowering Learners through Green and Digital Skills”. 17.09.2025.
- The practical workshop on key aspects of partial least squares structural equation modelling (PLS-SEM), led by Prof. Iveta Ludviga, RISEBA University of Applied Sciences. 09.12.2025.
- Annual Academic Conference “Digitally and Ethically Enriched Education”, 29.01.2026.
- International Scientific Conference “Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities” (etECH2026), 22-23.04.2026.

Additionally representatives of EKA academic staff during 2025/2026 participated in different research competence trainings in another universities and institutions:

1. J. Budanceva participated in June 2026 training “**Google AI Essentials**”, by Coursera and Riga Tech Girls.
2. K. Zalcmane and A. Strazda in May 2026 participated in informative practical **Conference “Vienoti virzībā”**, organised by IZM and VPC.
3. J. Titko, J. Dehtjare, O. Nikadimovs, I. Iejniece, K. Steinbergs in October 2025 completed online training “**Good Citation Behavior**”, by Web of Science Academy.
4. O. Nikadimovs in September 2025 participated in webinar “**AI in Scholarly Publishing: Dangers and Opportunities for Responsible AI**”, by Elsevier AI Research.
5. K. Uzule, J. Dehtjare, J. Titko, A. Strazda, K. Steinbergs, V. Zarina, O. Lentjusenkovā, N. Verina, I. Sina, E. Cerkovskis, K. Zalcmane (and others) from October 2025 till february 2026 completed the professional development cycle “**Course Design: From Idea to Solutions**” (160 a/h), by RSU Center for Pedagogical Development.
6. R. Indrika completed RTU Teachers' Professional Competence Development Program “**Research Methods for Project Work Development**” (20 a/h).

PRIORITY "INVOLVEMENT OF STUDENTS IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY IN EACH STUDY DIRECTION" (Pr2)

EKA University of Applied Sciences prioritizes the involvement of students in research and creative activity across all study directions. This priority is implemented through targeted actions aimed at four core objectives.

First, EKA focuses on developing students' research competences by integrating research elements into the study process and offering methodological support during the *Research methodology* study courses. Second, students are provided with diverse opportunities to engage in research and creative activities, including participation in Student conferences, seminars and workshops. Third, EKA supports and motivates students through institutional encouragement and supervision.

Finally, EKA ensures visibility and dissemination of students' achievements by publishing *Students' Conference Abstracts Proceedings*, *Students' Conference Proceedings*, and *Students' Creative and Artistic Works*, that are available open-access on EKA homepage (<https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=306&lng=eng#gsc.tab=0>).

Every year, EKA hosts a Student Conference with students from all EKA study directions, students from Alberta College and other higher education institutions. In 2025/2026 there were received 341 applications, 289 of them represented EKA. EKA students submitted 243 research abstracts. In addition, EKA students submitted 172 full text articles to the EKA/AK Student research paper collection.

In addition, in 2025/2026, EKA students also participated in other scientific and creative activities listed below:

- From 29 September to 3 October 2025, EKA organised a week-long **Board Game Jam** for second-year students of the study programmes Interior Design and Computer Game Design. The jam was led by game designer Adam Mayes, together with Artūrs Perepjolkins. The activity provided students with an opportunity to develop practical, creative and research-related skills in an intensive project-based format. <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1732&lng=lva>
- In November – December 2025, students of EKA Business Management study programme had an opportunity to deepen their knowledge in financial technologies. The new course "**FinTech Business Models**" be led by Vice-Rector for Research Prof. Jelena Titko and Master's Programme Director Edgars Čerkovskis. <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1747&lng=lva>
- In January 2026, **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. EKA 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. <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1792&lng=lva>
- During the 2026 January session, EKA students of the study programme Cultural Management **visited the National Library of Latvia**. A special focus was placed on the use of online databases subscribed to by the National Library of Latvia. Students were introduced to database search principles, examples of useful search queries, and other digital resources that can support academic writing and research work. This activity contributed to the development of important study and research-related skills, including information search, source selection, use of digital databases, academic language awareness, and the ability to identify reliable resources for further studies and research assignments. <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1782&lng=lva>
- From 30 January to 1 February, EKA hosted **Global Game Jam Riga 2026**, inviting participants to create a game within just 48 hours. It was an intensive and creative game development marathon for game designers, programmers, artists, storytellers, sound designers, students and other game enthusiasts. The event offered an excellent opportunity to develop practical and research-related skills through a hands-on creative process. Participants strengthen their ability to analyse a theme, explore user experience, test ideas, solve problems, work with feedback and make decisions based on limited time and available resources. <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1786&lng=lva>

- In February 2026, students from the Marketing study programme successfully applied their academic knowledge in practice by managing social media content for the International **Erasmus+ project GREENENTRE4DEAF** for three months. The project is implemented with partners from Spain, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, and Lithuania. The content was created within the study course “Marketing Planning”, taught by Dr. Ksenija Ijevļeva, allowing students to gain practical experience in strategic communication and digital marketing.
<https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1612&lng=lva>
- In April 2026, the idea competition “**Event Master**” 2026. This year, participants were invited to develop concepts for the future development of Vidzemes Market as a sustainable cultural and community centre, with special attention to the concert space “Spelet” and the principles of re-use and adaptive reuse. The competition provided participants with an opportunity to strengthen a wide range of practical and research-related skills. During the two-day event, students explored the site, analysed its potential, worked in teams, developed evidence-based ideas, and presented their concepts to a professional jury. In this way, the event encouraged not only creativity and project thinking, but also observation, problem analysis, argumentation, communication, and presentation skills. <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1840&lng=lva>
- During the semester, within the course “Visual Identity Development”, Master’s students of the study programme Brand Design developed a **new visual identity proposal for Lielkalnu Manor**. The work process started with a visit to the manor and interviews with its owner, giving students the opportunity to explore the site, understand its values, story and development potential, and identify the client’s needs. This project provided students with valuable hands-on experience and supported the development of important professional and research-related skills. Students practised observation, information gathering, interviewing, needs analysis, interpretation of contextual information, concept development and argumentation of design decisions.
<https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1820&lng=lva>

PRIORITY "EKA RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE" (Pr3)

EKA University of Applied Sciences has developed a research infrastructure that supports the needs of scientific research and creative activity across all study directions. This infrastructure includes physical research spaces, advanced equipment, licensed software, access to international scientific databases, and integrated digital tools for research management, collaboration, and dissemination.

The **physical infrastructure** is located at Pernavas Street 62, Riga, and includes: the EKA Scientific Institution, the EKA Research Laboratory, a conference hall, a library, and a video recording room. The Scientific Institution provides five dedicated research workstations, while the Library offers 14 workstations equipped for research purposes.

EKA ensures continuous access to leading international databases such as **SCOPUS** and **EBSCO**, as well as a wide range of open-access resources, including *Cambridge Journals Online*, *Directory of Open Access Journals*, *Emerald*, *Genamics Journal Seek*, *HeinOnline*, *Jurn Directory*, *Oapen*, *Open J-Gate*, *Oxford University Press*, *Open Access at Routledge and Taylor & Francis*, *SAGE Journals Online*, *Scientific & Academic Publishing*, *Springer Open Journals*, and others.

In the academic year 2024/2025, EKA established a **Research Laboratory**. The Consumer Behaviour Research Lab is equipped with a DELL Alienware x16 R Ultra laptop (9.32 GB RAM, 2 TB SSD, RTX4080, Windows 11 Pro), a 24" DELL P2423DE IPS monitor, and a Smart Eye AI-X 60 Hz Eye Tracker. The VR Neurotechnology Lab (CleverPoint's Technology Lab) includes a VR headset, ECG sensors, and EKG electrodes.

EKA academic staff have access to a wide range of research **software**, including *iMotions*, *CleverPoint*, *NVivo*, *JAMOVI*, *VOSviewer*, and various *AI-based tools* to perform research in laboratory or outside it.

For the **administration of research events and publication processes**, EKA uses dedicated systems, including:

- Conference registration system: <https://etech.eka.edu.lv/>
- Online submission system (via Sciendo) for the journal *Economics and Culture* <https://sciendo.com/journal/IEC>
- Plagiarism detection: iThenticate <https://www.ithenticate.com/>

To support **data storage and sharing**, in EKA has implemented several digital solutions:

- "Main Folder" in OneDrive
- Moodle folder "Administrācija"
- EKA Paper Repository <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=631&lng=eng#gsc.tab=0>
- EKA Data Repository <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=665&lng=eng#gsc.tab=0>
- Collaborative Library: <https://thecollaborativelibrary.com/>

For **communication, collaboration, and project management**, the following tools are used:

- Project management platform: AdminProject <https://www.adminproject.eu/>
- Project idea sharing platform (in cooperation with the European Digital Learning Network): <https://redbooth.com/>

In 2025, EKA initiated the **Research Incubator**. It aims to provide focused theoretical and practical knowledge in research methodology in an accessible online format, thereby strengthening the research competences of both students and academic staff.

PRIORITY "COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY" (Pr4)

4.1. Institutional cooperation

Cooperation of EKA academic staff is carried out mainly through participation in research teams. 67% of permanently employed staff (as per 12.05.2026) participated in joint research activities,

the results of which are reflected in scientific papers; 88% of the published papers in 2025/2026 are joint papers of EKA academic staff.

EKA academic staff members also jointly participate in professional development activities – such as a Methodological conference (see section 5.1 of the Report), The Dlearn satellite conference DigitEdu 2025 “Bridging Digital Gaps: Empowering Learners through Green and Digital Skills” on 17 September, 2025, or in scientific seminars and workshops, for example, workshops delivered during Staff Training week (September 15-19, 2025), or professional qualification improvement courses organised by RSU University (fall-winter 2025/2026).

EKA staff representatives actively engaged in research and became members of the EKA Science Club. It was established in 2020 with the aim of contributing to the development of EKA research, to develop priority research directions of EKA and to raise awareness of scientific events organized by EKA. As of 2026, EKA Science Club unites 36 members.

EKA staff members jointly participated in EKA organized international events:

- etECH2026 – 54 EKA staff members;
- IAW2026 – 4 EKA staff members;
- STW2025 – 9 EKA staff members;
- Dlearn satellite conference “Bridging digital gaps” - 5 EKA staff members.

4.2. National cooperation (with HEIs and research institutions)

Cooperation with the Latvian Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics

Since 2019, EKA is a partner of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences (EILZA). The main cooperation activities are related to the organization of the International Economic Forum. <https://economicforum.lv/>

On March 6, 2026, at the award ceremony of the women’s competition “LIEPA” organized by the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, women whose work significantly contributes to the development of science, research, and innovation in Latvia were honored.

EKA Vice-Rector for Science, Jelena Titko, became a laureate in the category “Excellence in Science, Research, and Innovation Development.” She received the Certificate of Recognition from the President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences “For Contribution to Science, Research, and Innovation Development,” the “LIEPA” award, and a cash prize of 1,000 euros.

On March 5-7, 2026, the 8th International Forum on Humane Economy brought together researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and international experts to discuss innovation, responsibility, sustainability, and human-centered economic development. EKA contributed to the forum as a co-organizer, supporting international, research-based dialogue and cross-sectoral cooperation. EKA representatives also participated in the forum programme: Prof. Jelena Titko and Dr. Renāte Indrika took part in the workshop “Investment Culture Sprint: From Challenges to Action,” discussing financial literacy, investment literacy, and responsible economic decision-making with experts from academia, finance, and industry.

Cooperation with Alberta College

Alberta College is the strategic partner of EKA in cooperation with which a number of events are implemented: conference “Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH)”, International Academic Week, Staff Training Week, Students Conference Inventio.

On 29 January 2026, the annual Teaching Methodology Conference took place at EKA, organised by Alberta College and the EKA University of Applied Sciences. Sandra Tetere, Mg.sc.oec., Director of the study programmes Business Administration and Human Resource Management at Alberta College delivered a master class there “How to transform your course into a multimodal learning experience; how to integrate CLIL elements without fully restructuring the course; using artificial intelligence tools for designing assignments and assessments; increasing student engagement in the online learning environment” and also provided a presentation “Practical solutions

implemented within the Erasmus+ Small-Scale Partnership Project No. 2024-2-LV01-KA210-VET-000280127, including the integration of digital and artificial intelligence tools into the design and implementation of study courses”.

Alberta College also cooperates with EKA in other fields, such as organization of visits to the enterprises. For example, on April 22, 2026, EKA and Alberta College students studying the course “Computer Networks I”, together with IT Programme Director Jurijs Radionovs and lecturer Aivars Herings, went on a valuable study visit to the HansaMatrix production facility in Pārogre.

Cooperation with Riga Technical School of Tourism and Creative Industries (RTRIT)

EKA organized the event idea competition “Event Master”, which took place on April 14–15, 2026.

The competition brought together students from the Riga Technical School of Tourism and Creative Industries (RTRIT), who worked in teams on real-life urban development solutions. During the two-day event, participants developed and presented concepts for transforming Vidzemes Market into a sustainable cultural and community center.

The jury included representatives of EKA, RTRIT, and Vidzemes Market.

The Riga Technical School of Tourism and Creative Industries organized the international professional skills competition “Learn, Know, Do, Can, Show”, where, on March 26, 2026, EKA student Bahruz Musazade won 2nd place. In this competition, EKA served as the general sponsor of the nomination “From Shift to Strategy”, awarding study grants worth up to EUR 7,000 to the winners of 1st place.

Cooperation with RTU Riga Business School

EKA University of Applied Sciences strengthened cooperation with RTU Riga Business School through the introduction of the new course “FinTech Business Models” for students of the study programme “Business Management.” The course was scheduled to take place from November 3 to December 16, 2025, and was led at EKA by Vice-Rector for Science Prof. Jelena Titko and Master’s study programme director Edgars Čerkovskis.

The course was developed at RTU Riga Business School in close cooperation with industry experts. With the support of the European Union Recovery and Resilience Facility, the course became available to EKA students, offering them an opportunity to gain deeper knowledge of one of the fastest-growing modern sectors — financial technology.

The course content combined business and regulatory perspectives and focused on current FinTech trends, innovative solutions, and sustainable business models. EKA lecturers also participated in professional development activities, including training in the Harvard Business Impact case-teaching approach, as real business case analysis played an important role in the learning process.

This cooperation contributed to the modernization of the study process, strengthened the link between higher education and industry expertise, and supported the development of students’ practical skills in financial innovation and entrepreneurship. It also enabled EKA students and lecturers to become part of Latvia’s FinTech education community.

4.3. National cooperation (with business and public sector)

Cooperation with Latvian Space Industry Association (LAIK)

EKA strengthened its cooperation with the Latvian Space Industry Association (LAIK) through participation in the international innovation hackathon ActInSpace 2026, held in Riga on January 30–31, 2026. The event brought together students, researchers, entrepreneurs, developers, and technology enthusiasts to create innovative solutions based on space technologies and satellite data. In Latvia, the hackathon was organized by ESA BIC Latvia in cooperation with LAIK.

As a LAIK partner, EKA supported the hackathon to promote cooperation between academia and the space ecosystem and to contribute to the development of science and innovation in Latvia and

beyond. EKA was represented in the jury by Dr. oec., Assoc. Prof. Jevgenija Dehtjare, Head of Development of the EKA Scientific Institution, who provided expert evaluation of the teams' ideas. EKA also awarded a special prize to the team Icarus for a solution aimed at improving insurance processes through the use of satellite data.

Cooperation with the National Library of Latvia

EKA University of Applied Sciences continued cooperation with the National Library of Latvia (LNB) in 2025/2026 by integrating LNB resources, expertise, and cultural infrastructure into the study process.

In 2025 (fall semester), international master's students of EKA visited the National Library of Latvia within the course "International Cultural Policy" under the guidance of lecturer Ieva Ēkena. During the visit, students became familiar with the library's functions, services, and role in cultural diplomacy. They also explored the exhibition "The Right to a Library" with the guidance of LNB representatives Maija Treile and Pauls Daija. This activity helped students understand the role of national cultural institutions in preserving cultural heritage, supporting research, and promoting international cultural dialogue.

In 2026 (during January session), EKA Culture Management part-time students visited the National Library of Latvia during the January examination session as part of the course "Cultural Policy." The visit included an introduction to LNB's functions and services, as well as a lecture on the use of online databases subscribed to by the library. LNB representative Ginta Zalcmane introduced students to database search principles, examples of research queries, and other resources useful for academic work. Students also learned about the possibility of remote access to LNB databases and visited the LNB Art Reading Room.

Cooperation with the Business Network International (BNI Latvia)

BNI is a global organization founded in 1985 with the main field of activity - business communication and recommendations. BNI Latvia's mission is to help develop reliable businesses to create a sustainable business environment in Latvia. Membership in BNI provides access to unique business development training, allows develop a network of business contacts and exchange recommendations both in Latvia and around the world.

Rector of EKA, Oksana Lentjušenkova actively represents EKA at BNI Latvia, participating in various events, such as Meeting on May 13, 2026. She also participates in several BNI groups, such as Cander and Steihaur).

Cooperation with the Bank of Latvia

EKA University of Applied Sciences strengthened its cooperation with the Bank of Latvia through knowledge transfer, financial literacy initiatives, and participation in national-level discussions on responsible financial behaviour.

On October 29, 2025, EKA hosted a guest lecture by Edīte Grīnvalde, Senior Payment and Financial Market Analyst at the Bank of Latvia, titled "Modern Payments. How Innovation, Technological Advancement and Digital Transformation Affect Them?" The lecture introduced students to current trends in payments, digital transformation, instant payments, payment security, the digital euro, and new EU regulations.

In March 2026, EKA joined the Cooperation Memorandum on Strengthening Financial Literacy in Latvia. The memorandum was announced on March 16, 2026, at the start of Financial Literacy Week 2026, and was signed by 28 organizations led by the Bank of Latvia. EKA was listed among the memorandum partners. The initiative supports the implementation of the Latvian Population Financial Literacy Strategy 2021–2027 and promotes cooperation in financial education, responsible financial behaviour, and sustainable development.

Also in March 2026, EKA participated in the 8th International Humanistic Economic Forum. During Forum, the FinLit Working Group organised the idea sprint “Investment Culture Sprint: From Challenges to Action”, bringing together representatives from academia, banking, investment platforms, professional associations and industry. EKA was represented by Prof. Jelena Titko, Dr. Renāte Indrika, Dr. Kristīne Užule, Edgars Čerkovskis and Jeļena Budanceva. The Bank of Latvia was represented by Aija Brikše, Head of the Financial Literacy Division.

In 2026, cooperation with Latvijas Banka was strengthened through its participation in the annual student conference “INVENTIO 2026”, organised by EKA in cooperation with Alberta College on 29–30 May 2026. For the first time, the conference programme included the section “Game-Based Solutions in Financial Literacy”, where eight student teams presented educational game prototypes aimed at promoting financial literacy. Aiga Rullere, representative of Latvijas Banka, participated as a member of the jury, together with other industry experts, providing professional feedback to students and contributing to the evaluation of innovative learning solutions. This cooperation supported the link between higher education, financial education, and industry practice, while also creating opportunities for students to develop practical solutions relevant to society.

Cooperation with Getliņi EKO Environmental Education Center

On January 27, 2026, EKA University of Applied Sciences continued its long-term cooperation with Eko Getliņi through a study visit to the Eko Getliņi Science and Education Centre. The visit involved students of the master’s programme “Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship” and aimed to connect theoretical knowledge with practical experience in circular economy.

During the visit, students learned about Eko Getliņi’s operational model, sustainable resource management, waste sorting and recycling, innovative technologies, and the role of data in sustainable decision-making.

Cooperation with Clean-R

EKA University of Applied Sciences strengthened its cooperation with the business sector through participation in the organization of the Latvian Circular Economy Forum 2025 which was held on November 5, 2025. The forum was organized by the Riga Energy Agency and AS Clean R Grupa, bringing together representatives of academia, business, and society to discuss circular and responsible development.

As part of the forum, EKA contributed to the coordination working group and developed one of the thematic sections, “Circular Social Entrepreneurship: Inspiration and Opportunities.” The discussion was led by Edgars Čerkovskis, Director of the Master’s study programme “Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship”, with the participation of representatives from New Door, Sonido/LSUA, and the Zvaigznāja team.

Membership in LEA

Since 2023, EKA academic staff members and researchers are members of the Association of Latvian economists (Latvijas ekonomistu asociācija – LEA, <http://leaekonomisti.lv/par-lea/>):

- Jelena Titko – Deputy Chairperson of the Board of LEA
- Edgars Čerkovskis – Board member
- Aija Sannikova – Board member
- Anna Ābeltiņa, Vita Zariņa, Inga Šīna, Jevgenija Dehtjare – members

Membership in LEA will allow the opportunity to cooperate closely with other Latvian researchers representing Riga Business School, Riga Technical University, Riga Stradiņš University, Turība University, BA School of Business and Finance and other institutions.

Membership in Social Entrepreneurship Association of Latvia (LSUA)

The Social Entrepreneurship Association of Latvia (LSUA) is a non-governmental membership organization to promote the development of social entrepreneurship in Latvia.

EKA University of Applied Sciences continued strengthening cooperation with the Latvian Social Entrepreneurship Association (LSUA) in research, education, and social innovation. In 2025, EKA congratulated LSUA on its 10th anniversary, highlighting the association's contribution to the development of social enterprises, research, and policy solutions in Latvia.

As part of the cooperation, EKA and LSUA jointly implemented two important initiatives: ESEM monitoring, which provides analytical insight into the development of social entrepreneurship in Latvia, and the Social Enterprise Portrait Report, presented at the Ministry of Welfare sectoral conference as a tool for policy planning and data-based decision-making.

In October 2025, EKA contributed to the development of the Social Enterprise Portrait Report. On October 24, 2025, Aija Sannikova, EKA researcher and lecturer, and Edgars Čerkovskis, Director of the master's study programme "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship," participated in the national conference organized by the Ministry of Welfare. During the event, they presented the latest research results on the profile of social enterprises in Latvia, highlighting their main characteristics, challenges, and contribution to sustainable development.

In November 2025, Edgars Čerkovskis, Director of EKA's master's programme "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship," joined the LSUA Council, further strengthening cooperation between EKA and LSUA in research, education, and social innovation.

Cooperation with NewDoor Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator

This NGO specializes in supporting and developing social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

EKA University of Applied Sciences continued cooperation with New Door, strengthening links between higher education, social entrepreneurship, and practical innovation. Cooperation activities focused on promoting social entrepreneurship, circular economy thinking, and the development of responsible business initiatives. Diana Lapkis, representing New Door as its member of the board, participated in the plenary session of the international scientific conference etECH 2026 with a greeting speech on April 22, 2026.

Cooperation with Zero Waste Latvija

Zero Waste Latvija actively cooperates with EKA, it helps with organization to to largest green companies in Latvia, participates in podcast "Apritprasmē" records and organizes public stages during LAMPA Conversation Festival. On December 4, 2025, EKA also hosted the general meeting of the Zero Waste Latvia association, during which participants reviewed the achievements of 2025 and discussed future priorities. This cooperation supports EKA's focus on circular economy education, sustainability, social responsibility, and practical engagement with environmental organizations.

Cooperation with Riga Tech Girls

Riga Tech Girls actively supports EKA's organized activities. For example, Pauls Siliņš, Board member and Project director at Riga TechGirls participated with the report "Making the Learning of Digital Skills and Tools User-Friendly" during Dlearn satellite conference "Bridging Digital Gaps: Empowering Learners through Green and Digital Skills", organised by EKA on September 17, 2025. In turn, Kristiāna Biezuma (Riga Tech Girls, Junior Achievement attīstības norišu vadītāja) made a workshop for EKA International Culture Management study program students and staff: "LinkedIn: Your Secret Weapon for Career Success & Growing Your Network" on April 29, 2026.

On July 30, 2025, EKA University of Applied Sciences hosted participants of the "STEM Summer School for Girls 2025" project organized in cooperation with Riga TechGirls. During the visit, the

girls learned about game design and the game development process from Anete Bērza, Director of the “Computer Game Design” programme, and lecturer Andrejs Birzgars.

Cooperation with Labie Koki

As part of EKA’s cooperation with enterprises, Interior Design students participated in a hackathon hosted by the company Labie Koki on February 7–8, 2026. During the event, students developed souvenir concepts based on the company’s values and potential business needs. The concepts were reviewed together with company manager Edgars Neilands, who provided professional feedback and invited the strongest team to continue cooperation toward product realization. The activity strengthened students’ practical understanding of client-oriented design, material research, and enterprise collaboration.

4.4. International cooperation

GreenENTRE4Deaf project

EKA University of Applied Sciences is a partner in the international project “Stimulating innovative-inclusive teaching and validated life-long learning on green entrepreneurship for deaf and hard of hearing people (DHH) through digital innovation in HEI – GREENENTRE4DEAF.” The project’s goal is to improve higher education’s capacity to develop flexible learning pathways in the field of green entrepreneurship for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. GREENENTRE4DEAF focuses on the development of inclusive teaching methods, modular learning content, digital tools, mobile applications, VR-based learning solutions, and cooperation platforms that support lifelong learning, employability, and social inclusion of DHH learners.

The coordinator of the project is Universidad de Valladolid, Spain. The project partners are Panepistimio Kritis, Greece; Fondazione Istituto dei Sordi di Torino, Italy; EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia; European Digital Learning Network, Italy; DISE LTD, Cyprus; Klaipėdos valstybinė kolegija, Lithuania; and the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators, Cyprus.

During the 2025/2026 academic year, EKA continued active involvement in the development of learning content, digital learning solutions and inclusive educational materials. One of the most important results was the development of 100 sign language videos on green entrepreneurship, prepared within the project by EKA University of Applied Sciences in cooperation with the Latvian Association of the Deaf. The video materials were developed with the involvement of Latvian sign language specialists from the Latvian Association of the Deaf. They explain key principles of green entrepreneurship and provide practical knowledge for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, covering such topics as sustainability, circular economy, development of business ideas, attraction of funding and the use of digital tools. The materials were developed in a simple, understandable and visually accessible format, adapted to sign language users, thereby reducing barriers to information access and promoting equal opportunities in education.



EKA also contributed to the development of the Inclusive Green Industry Handbook, a practical and visual guide for DHH learners on green professions, required competences and working environments. The development of this material involved EKA researcher Kristīne Užule and Dr. oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs.

During the reporting period, EKA was also involved in the development of learning materials for the GREENENTRE4DEAF training course. EKA lecturer Edgars Čerkovskis contributed to the development of Module 2: “Understanding Green Entrepreneurship.” The module introduces learners to the concept of green entrepreneurship and its role in creating economic, social and environmental value. It covers topics such as the meaning of green entrepreneurship, identifying problems as opportunities, imagining future scenarios, making ethical choices in entrepreneurship, and creating value for people and the planet.

On 21–22 October 2025, representatives of EKA University of Applied Sciences participated in the second transnational project meeting of GREENENTRE4DEAF at the University of Valladolid, Spain. EKA was represented by Dr. oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs, and Andrejs Birzgars, expert in VR and mobile application development.



The project was also integrated into the EKA study process. Students of the EKA study programme “Marketing” created content for the GREENENTRE4DEAF social media channels for three months as part of the study course “Marketing Planning”, under the supervision of Dr. oec. Ksenija Ijevļeva. The students developed visual materials and regular publications on topics related to green and social entrepreneurship, circular economy, renewable energy, sustainable design and environmentally friendly lifestyles.



GREENENTRE4DEAF Project is funded by the European Union Erasmus+ programme KA220-HED Cooperation partnerships in higher education. The project number is 2024-1-ES01-KA220-HED-000245483, and its duration is 01.12.2024–30.11.2026.

SHIELD project

EKA University of Applied Sciences, together with international partners, is implementing the project “United for Cyber Safety – Up-Skilling High School Communities for Protecting Students, SHIELD.” The project is implemented in the field of vocational education and training and focuses on strengthening cybersecurity competences in secondary school communities.

The main objectives of the project are to enhance the cybersecurity skills of secondary school teachers, principals and psychologists, to provide schools with targeted training, tools and support services, and to assist high school staff in developing and implementing cybersecurity policies and procedures for protecting students and responding to cyber incidents.

The leading partner of the project is Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (Republic of North Macedonia). The project partners are Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria), University for Business and Technology – UBT (Kosovo), and EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia).

During the 2025/2026 academic year, the project continued work on identifying cybersecurity needs in schools. In addition to interviews with school representatives, a cybersecurity needs assessment survey was carried out, including responses from school staff in Latvia. On behalf of EKA, the survey process in Latvia was conducted by Patriks Morevs and Dr. oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs. The collected data were analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively and provided an evidence base for the further development of the project’s cybersecurity training programme. The needs assessment confirmed the importance of practical and recurring cybersecurity training for students and school staff, access to experts, policy development support, clearer incident response procedures, and resources for strengthening technical infrastructure.

On 27–28 January 2026, the SHIELD curriculum development workshop was held in Prishtina, Kosovo. The workshop was hosted by the University for Business and Technology – UBT and brought together project partners from Kosovo, Latvia, North Macedonia and Bulgaria. EKA University of Applied Sciences was represented by Dr. oec. Jeļena Titko, Vice-Rector for Science and International Cooperation, and Dr. oec. Tatjana Tambovceva, Guest Professor.



During the two-day workshop, the partners jointly worked on the structure and implementation principles of the WP3 cybersecurity training programme. Four working groups were established to define the scope and content of the programme. The discussions focused on such topics as cybersecurity hygiene, phishing recognition, data protection, incident reporting and students’ online safety. Particular attention was paid to ensuring that the training programme would be practical, relevant and suitable for the school environment.

The project partners also confirmed that intensive training activities will be organised in Riga in August 2026. These activities will be an important next step towards the wider implementation of cybersecurity education in the SHIELD partner countries.

The project is funded by the European Union Erasmus+ programme KA220-VET Cooperation Partnership in Vocational Education and Training. The project number is 2024-1-MK01-KA220-VET-000255683, and its duration is 01.11.2024–31.10.2027.

ECO-ESCAPER Project

EKA University of Applied Sciences, together with its international partners, has launched a new Erasmus+ project “The Use of Digital Escape Rooms as an Immersive Learning Environment for Advancing Climate Literacy Education in Secondary Schools” (Eco-Escaper). The project aims to enhance climate literacy among European secondary school students by strengthening teachers’ competences through innovative and gamified learning methods, particularly the use of digital escape rooms as immersive learning environments.

The Eco-Escaper project seeks to improve climate literacy among students in European secondary schools in line with the European Union’s 2030 climate and energy goals. To achieve this, the project will provide teachers with innovative tools and methodologies that make climate education more engaging, interactive and effective. The project is structured around five work packages: project management, the development of a gamified online course for teachers, the creation of an escape room generator, the development of a gamified online community platform, and dissemination and impact activities. The expected project results include a gamified online course for teachers, a toolbox with an escape room generator, and an online community for collaboration and resource sharing among teachers.

The coordinator of the project is Universitat Internacional Valenciana – Valencian International University (Spain). The project partner organisations are Smart Education Hub (Germany), Konnektable Technologies Limited (Ireland), Liceo G. Bianchi Dottula (Italy), Escola Básica e Secundária Padre Manuel Álvares (Portugal), Innomate (Türkiye), and EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia).

On 17 December 2025, the online kick-off meeting of the ECO-ESCAPER project was held. During the meeting, the partners discussed key organisational issues, including the project’s main documents, internal communication, implementation timeline, work package responsibilities and budget principles. EKA University of Applied Sciences was represented by Dr. oec. Jeļena Titko, Vice-Rector for Research, and Dr. oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs, Project Manager of the EKA Research Institution.

On 3 March 2026, the project partners met at Valencia International University in Spain to discuss the next steps of the project and to launch Work Packages 2 and 5. EKA University of Applied Sciences was represented by Anete Bērza, Director of the EKA study programme Computer Game Design, and Dr. oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs. During the meeting, the partners discussed quality assurance procedures, the project timeline, the preliminary teacher survey, the development of gamification design and technical specifications, and dissemination activities.



During the first stage of the project, EKA also carried out national preliminary research in Latvia within WP2 – Open Online Gamified Escape Room Course, Activity A2: Preliminary Research from Partners. The research was conducted by Anete Bērza and Dr. oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs. The

Latvian survey analysed responses from 32 teachers and focused on teachers' needs, expectations and constraints regarding gamification, digital escape rooms and climate literacy education. The project is funded by the European Union Erasmus+ programme KA220-SCH – Cooperation Partnerships in School Education. The project number is 2025-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000351001, and its duration is 1 December 2025 – 30 November 2028. The total lump sum of the project is 400 000 EUR, including 50 590 EUR for EKA University of Applied Sciences.

Digital Mental Health for Young People (YouthDMH) (CA23153) project

YouthDMH is a COST action project. A COST Action is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic of their choice for 4 years. COST Actions are typically made up of researchers from academia, SMEs, public institutions, and other relevant organisations or interested parties. Period of the project is 24.10.2024-23.10.2028.

The core aim is to maximise the positive application of technology, whilst also mitigating the potential negative impact. The YouthDMH COST Action will establish a sustainable pan-European network, that is inclusive, interdisciplinary and intersectoral. It will support knowledge transfer, creation and dissemination and lay the foundations for coordinated research on the use of technology to support mental health in young people.

EKA representative, Associate Professor Kristine Uzule is engaged in CA23153 as a Member of the Working groups:

- WG1 - Inclusion, youth engagement and inter-disciplinary innovation
- WG5 - Policy, Impact and Disseminations.

On April 21, 2026, the network hosted a Management Committee (MC) meeting at the COST Association in Brussels. K. Użule, the member of the project's Management Committee, participated in the proceedings via the meeting's hybrid format.

The event focused on the critical intersection of technology and youth wellbeing, serving as a pan-European platform to discuss the development of digital tools for mental health support as well as the impact of digital spaces on youth's mental health. The key themes included the transition from theoretical frameworks to real-world evidence generation, ensuring that emerging digital mental health tools are both effective and grounded in the actual needs of young users in order to bridge the gap between technological advancement and policy.

Critical perspectives on career and career guidance (COCAG) (CA23112) project

COCAG is a COST action project, its period is 23.10.2024-22.10.2028.

Capacity building is at the heart of the aims of COCAG. The Action supports the career development of Young Researchers and Innovators within the field by providing the opportunity to build international networks, co-publish with more experienced researchers, and participate in a wide variety of activities. The Action also supports collaboration between the COST Member Countries, Near Neighbour Countries (NNC) and International Partner Countries (IPC), particularly engaging and supporting researchers from COST Inclusiveness Target Countries. Finally, it supports practitioners and policymakers engagement with research and theory in the area and the mutual exchange and expansion of knowledge and expertise.

EKA representatives, Professor Jelena Titko and Associate Professor Jevgenija Dehtjare, are engaged in CA23112 as members of the Working group WG1 - The challenges and changes in career in the contemporary world.

During the 2025/2026 academic year, J. Dehtjare actively participated in the online meetings of COCAG CA23112 Working Group 1, exploring opportunities for collaboration and co-authored publications. She also attended the COCAG position paper webinar led by Professor Tristram Hooley on January 8, 2026.

EU Circular Economy Network for All: Consumer Protection through reducing, reusing, repairing (ECO4ALL) (CA22124) project

ECO4ALL is a COST action project, its period is 07.11.2023-06.11.2027. The main aim of the ECO4ALL Action is to contribute to the information, reflection and dissemination activities for youth at large, academics, young researchers, staff of the public administration, business environment and for civil society as a whole regarding the circular economy that works for consumers; therefore ECO4ALL aims at promoting the understanding of sustainable consumption, the conservation of resources and the prevention of waste, as well as the responsibility of manufacturers in the design and marketing phases, as one of the most important prerequisites towards consumer protection through reducing, reusing, repairing.

EKA representative, Professor Jelena Titko, is engaged in CA22124 as Member of the Working group WG3 - Comparative country analysis and best practices identification.

Important activity in 2025/2026 was the International ECO4ALL Conference 2026 “Consumer Rights in the Age of the Circular Economy: Towards Sustainable and Fair Production and Consumption Practices” that took place at Universitas Mercatorum in Rome on 26-27 March 2026.

EKA contributed to the conference with a research presentation by Prof. Jelena Titko and co-authors titled “Perception of Brand Humanization by University Students: Development and Testing of the Measurement Scale”. The presentation was included in the session “Measuring Circular Efficiency: From Policy Metrics to Consumer Impact”, highlighting EKA’s contribution to international research dialogue on consumer behaviour, sustainability and circular economy.

Table 5. Summary of EKA participation in international projects in 2025/2026

<i>Period</i>	<i>Title of the project</i>	<i>Grant agreement No</i>	<i>Coordinator</i>
2022-2024	“Boosting Circular Economy Competences for STEM Teachers” (Circular STEM)	2022-1-PT01-KA220-SCH-000086954	Agrupamento de Escolas de Frazão, Paços de Ferreira (Portugal)
2024-2027	United for Cyber Safety—Up-Skilling High School Communities for Protecting Students, (SHIELD)	2024-1-MK01-KA220-VET-000255683	Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (Republic of Macedonia)
2024-2026	Stimulating innovative-inclusive teaching and validated life-long learning on green entrepreneurship for deaf and hard of hearing people (DHH) through digital innovation in HEI, (GREENENTRE4DEAF)	2024-1-ES01-KA220-HED-000245483	Universidad de Valladolid (Spain)
2025-2028	The Use of Digital Escape Rooms as an Immersive Learning Environment for Advancing Climate Literacy Education in Secondary Schools (Eco-Escaper)	2025-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000351001	Valencian International University (Spain)

Cooperation with Doctoral School of Opole University (Poland)

In 2026, EKA University of Applied Sciences hosted Wiktor Zygosz, a PhD student from Opole University. He visited EKA for a research internship from 9 February to 9 March 2026 under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Kristīne Užule. The internship was financed by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) under the STER programme Internationalisation of Doctoral Schools (Contract No. BPI/STE/2023/1/00022/U/00001). During the internship, Wiktor Zygosz and Kristīne Užule worked on new methodological approaches and jointly developed the paper “Identifying the Core Components of Generation Z Employment Values: Insights from Corpus Research”, which was presented at the international scientific conference etECH 2026.

Cooperation with Embassy of Israel

EKA University of Applied Sciences continued developing cooperation with the Embassy of Israel in Latvia through academic dialogue, institutional visits, and participation in international events. An important step in this cooperation was the official visit of the Ambassador of the State of Israel to Latvia, Ms. Sandra Simovich, to EKA on January 9, 2026. During the visit, the Ambassador became acquainted with the university and its activities, and discussions focused on potential cooperation in higher education, scientific research, and knowledge transfer.

The cooperation was also strengthened through EKA's participation in Israel-related academic initiatives. From November 30 to December 4, 2025, EKA Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Development, Assoc. Prof. Karina Zalcmāne, took part in a professional visit to Israel organized by the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism and Ariel University. The international delegation visited Ariel University, Haifa University, the Knesset, and met with representatives of academic and public institutions.

In 2026, the cooperation continued in the context of EKA's international academic activities. The Ambassador of Israel was an honorary guest at the international scientific conference etECH 2026, held on April 22–23, 2026. In addition, EKA representatives were invited to the celebration of Israel's Independence Day in May 2026, further strengthening institutional relations and cultural diplomacy between EKA and Israeli partners.

Membership in DLearn

Since 2022, EKA is a member of the European Digital Learning Network – DLEARN <http://dlearn.eu/about/members/>. Since 2023, EKA and DLearn are members of the consortium of the Erasmus+ KA2 project “Boosting Circular Economy Competences for STEM Teachers” (Circular STEM).

EKA University of Applied Sciences strengthened its cooperation with the European Digital Learning Network (DLEARN) through several international academic and project-development activities in 2025/2026.

One of the key cooperation activities was the DLEARN Satellite Conference DigitEdu 2025 “Bridging Digital Gaps: Empowering Learners through Green and Digital Skills”, organized by EKA on September 17, 2025. The conference took place at EKA premises and online, gathering more than 50 participants. It brought together 14 speakers from 13 universities and institutions representing Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, and Italy. The conference focused on digital skills, green skills, digital transformation, sustainability, and inclusive learning. DLEARN President Gianluca Coppola opened the conference with a keynote speech on artificial intelligence and its impact on ways of knowing.



DLEARN Satellite Conference DigitEdu 2025, September 17, 2025

Another important cooperation activity was DLEARN Project Lab 2025, hosted by EKA from November 3 to 5, 2025. The three-day international co-creation and collaboration event brought

together representatives of DLEARN member organizations from different European countries to develop innovative project ideas for the 2026 EU funding calls. The Project Lab supported exchange of experience, partnership building, and development of project concepts related to artificial intelligence in education, digital heritage preservation, green skills, Industry 5.0, KA2 cooperation partnerships, and KA1 mobility projects.



DLEARN Project Lab 2025, November 3-5, 2025

Cooperation with DLEARN also continued within EKA's international academic activities in 2026. DLEARN President Gianluca Coppola was among the honorary guests at the plenary session of the international scientific conference etECH 2026, held on April 22, 2026, further highlighting the strategic importance of EKA's partnership with DLEARN.

Overall, cooperation with DLEARN contributes to EKA's internationalization, strengthens participation in European project development, and supports the university's role in promoting digital learning, green and digital skills, educational innovation, and cross-border academic collaboration.

Membership in EUMMAS



In 2023, EKA became a member of the European Marketing and Management Association (EUMMAS) <https://eummas.net/>. Now, the EUMMAS Academic Consortium (EAC) comprises at the moment 34 universities and business schools from 27 countries.

EKA academic staff members and researchers were appointed to the following positions:

- Jelena Titko – Scientific committee member;
- Kristine Uzule – Editorial Board member;
- Oksana Lentjusenкова – member of the Research Centre for Strategic Management;
- Jevgenija Dehtjare, Kristine Uzule, Jelena Budanceva – members of the Research Centre for Human Resource Management.

A recent example of this cooperation was EKA researchers' participation in the international conference "Third Places: Spaces for Citizen and Organizational Innovations", held on January 22–23, 2026, in France and organized by Université Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ) – Université Paris-Saclay. The organization of the conference was supported by EUMMAS, which highlights the association's role in promoting international academic collaboration and knowledge exchange.

EKA was represented at the conference by Dr. oec., Assoc. Prof. Jevgenija Dehtjare and PhD candidate Anna Strazda, who presented two research papers on third places and innovation in higher education and digital environments. Their presentations addressed digital third places for academic staff, as well as universities as emerging third places from the perspective of academic staff perceptions of informal learning spaces and stakeholder engagement.



Conference "Third Places: Spaces for Citizen and Organizational Innovations", January 22-23, 2026

Membership in ENAI

In 2023, EKA became a member of the [European Network of Academic Integrity](#) (ENAI), an international network promoting academic integrity, ethics, and responsible practices in higher education and research.

EKA representatives actively contribute to ENAI working groups:

- Karina Zalcmane and Anna Strazda participate in the *Academic Integrity Policies* Working Group;
- Jeļena Titko is involved in the *Academic Writing Ethically* Working Group;
- Krist ne U zule contributes to the *Integrity for All* Working Group.

ENAI working groups provide an active platform for international exchange on academic integrity and research ethics, including the sharing of institutional practices, emerging challenges, and information on conferences, summer schools, reviewer opportunities, and cooperation initiatives.

On 10 September 2025, A. Strazda participated in the *Academic Integrity Policies* WG meeting, which focused on current challenges in policy development, and institutional responses to generative AI in higher education. Participants exchanged experiences on policy adaptation, assessment redesign, staff development, and approaches to academic misconduct management in changing educational contexts.

EKA representatives also took part in the subsequent *Academic Integrity Policies* WG meeting on 21 November 2025, which included an expert presentation on academic integrity policy developments in the United Arab Emirates, as well as a round-table discussion on policy development and institutional practices across participating organisations.

On 21 May 2026, Oxford Brookes University, in collaboration with ENAI's *Integrity for All* WG, organised the international panel discussion "Integrity for All: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development." The event brought together students and academic staff from different countries to discuss academic integrity through the lens of cultural diversity and international dialogue. Featuring speakers from Chile, Mexico, Botswana, and Bangladesh, the discussion highlighted the importance of intercultural communication and demonstrated how diverse perspectives can contribute to strengthening integrity and ethical practices in higher education. K. U zule participated in the event online.

Membership in EUCLID

On May 28, 2025 EKA University of Applied Sciences joined Euclid Network (<https://euclidnetwork.eu/>). Euclid Network is a non-profit company that catalyses positive change by connecting, enhancing and celebrating social entrepreneurs, social innovators and their support organisations who help them pave the way for a socially inclusive and green economy and society.

The members and partners of the network are frontrunners in shaping the European ecosystem for social enterprise. They are supporting and representing the social enterprise and social innovation sector in Europe and neighbouring countries, collectively representing close to 100 000 organisations with presence in 27 and activities in 62 countries.

Euclid Network member organisations federate around 5000 civil society leaders and social entrepreneurs across Europe and collaborate in two member programmes on social enterprise and civil society leadership & skills as well as partnering in EU-funded projects.

In 2025, EKA contributed to the development of the Latvian ESEM Report in cooperation with the Social Entrepreneurship Association of Latvia and the EUCLID Network. Within this collaboration, EKA was involved in data collection and analysis aimed at assessing the contribution of social entrepreneurship to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Membership in ENCATC

European network on cultural management and policy (ENCATC) represents, promotes, and advances the fields of cultural management and cultural policy education, research, and practice, enhancing an inclusive, sustainable, and democratic development of arts and culture for the benefit of society.

ENCATC has more than 150 participants all over the world.

The association's aims are the development of training for cultural managers in Europe, the development of cultural management, and co-operation between centres organising this training, in particular in a European context.

EKA University of Applied Sciences joined ENCATC in January 2025.

A key activity within this cooperation was EKA's participation in the ENCATC 2025 Congress, held in Barcelona on September 17–19, 2025 under the theme "The Future Is Cultural: Policy, Practice, and Education." EKA was represented by Artūrs Homins, Director of the master's study programme "International Cultural Project Management," who participated in discussions on cultural education, exchange of experience, and international cooperation in cultural project management.

Membership in Qn Alliance

European Universities are transnational alliances to pave the way for promoting collaborative modernization of European universities.

EKA is a member of Qn consortium alliance, which is driven by, and built upon, 10 very diverse universities. This is unique multi-campus alliance, uniting both physical and digital worlds, with the capacity to bring an enriched educational experience to every corner of Europe and beyond. Qn is designing a 360° transformative governance and co-creation model based on a comprehensive approach known as the "360-degree Quality, Query-driven and Quintuple helix (5Helix)". The Qn Alliance has the power to touch the lives of nearly 400,000 students across its network of 39 universities, including 10 full partners and 29 associated partners.

In 2026, EKA continued its active cooperation within Qn Alliance. On 23-27 March, 2026, EKA representative Anna Strazda (Head of Science Administration department) participated in the international academic week "Online Education – A New Window to Internationalization" at Valencian International University in Spain. The event was organized as one of the Qn Alliance activities and gathered representatives from partner universities in Italy, Spain, Poland, and Austria.

Membership in European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSSR)

On August 1, 2025, EKA University of Applied Sciences was admitted as a Regular Member of the European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSSR). ESSSR is an international network coordinated by Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, bringing together universities and research centres committed to advancing sustainability science, education, and practice.

By joining ESSSR, EKA strengthened its position in the global sustainability research community and created new opportunities to present and develop research in areas such as climate change, circular economy, and sustainable development education. This membership supports EKA's international cooperation, research visibility, and contribution to sustainability-oriented higher education.

On 9-10 October 2025, the ESSSR in cooperation with Latvian institutions organised Symposium "Universities, Cities and Sustainable Development: Collaborative Pathways for a Sustainable Future", focused on university-city collaboration, sustainability education, urban innovation, and sustainable development. EKA representatives J. Titko, K. Užule, and N. Cudečka-Puriņa contributed to the symposium with the presentation of research paper "Sustainability initiatives and activities in the Baltic Universities".

5. PRIORITY "RECOGNITION OF EKA, DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS AND PROMOTION OF SCIENCE" (Pr5)

5.1. Scientific, academic and creative events organized by EKA

International Scientific Conference

On 22–23 April 2026, EKA University of Applied Sciences, in cooperation with Alberta College, Ferris State University, Sumy State University, the Baltic Circular Eco-System Association, the European Marketing and Management Association (EUMMAS), the European Digital Learning Network (Dlearn), the New Door Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator, and the Latvian Association of Economists, organised the International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities" (etECH2026).

This was the 10th anniversary edition of the etECH conference, bringing together 220 participants from Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine, and the USA, who presented their research results in twelve parallel sessions:

- MACROECONOMICS, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, PUBLIC ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS (chairpersons Kristine Astikė, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University / Lithuania, Andriew Lim, Hotel School the Hague / Netherlands)
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY (chairpersons Natalja Cudecka-Purina, BA School of Business and Finance, University of Latvia / Latvia; Tatjana Tambovceva, Riga Technical University / Latvia)
- ECONOMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY (ONLINE) (chairperson Vita Zariņa, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia)
- HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (chairpersons Marcin Komanda, Opole University of Technology / Poland, Natalija Verina, EKA University of Applied Sciences / Latvia)
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE FINANCE (chairpersons Akdana Abuzhalitova, Almaty Management University / Kazakhstan; Piotr Dzik, Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Katowice / Poland)

- BUSINESS (ONLINE) (chairperson Edgars Čerkovskis, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia)
- LAW (chairpersons Karina Zalcmane, EKA University of Applied Sciences / Latvia, Marina Kamenecka-Usova, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Riga Stradiņš University / Latvia)
- EDUCATION AND YOUTH STUDIES (chairpersons Laima Jesevičiūtė-Ufartienė, Kauno kolegija Higher Education Institution / Lithuania, Kristine Uzule, Larisa Turuseva, EKA University of Applied Sciences / Latvia)
- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND DIGITALISATION (chairpersons Uwe Busbach, University of Applied Sciences Kehl / Germany, Jurijs Radionovs, EKA University of Applied Sciences / Latvia)
- CULTURE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURE PROJECT MANAGEMENT (chairpersons Jelena Budanceva, EKA University of Applied Sciences / Latvia, Zane Veidenberga, EKA University of Applied Sciences / Latvia)
- CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, ARTS AND DESIGN (chairpersons Kitija Almane-Bulaha, EKA University of Applied Sciences / Latvia, Annija Norde, EKA University of Applied Sciences / Latvia)
- DIGITAL GAMES, GAMIFICATION, VIRTUAL REALITY (chairpersons Jazeps Rutkis, EKA University of Applied Sciences / Latvia, José P. Zagal, University of Utah / USA)



etECH2026 Plenary section 22/04/2026



Presentation of key speaker Baiba Rivža, Latvia



Presentation of key speaker Andrei Radulescu, Romania



Paralel session Law, 23/04/2026



Paralel session Business Administration, 23/04/2026.

International Academic Week

On April 20-24, 2026, the EKA University of Applied Sciences organized an annual International Academic Week (IAW2026) in cooperation with Alberta College. This year, EKA hosted 55 participants from 14 countries: Armenia, Colombia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine, USA.

Table 6. IAW2026 activities

Date	Participant	HEI/ Organization	Activity
20.04.2026	MAGLAPERIDZE NIKOLOZ	Georgian American University, GEORGIA	Business Statistics Using R Programming.
20.04.2026	ZYGOSZ WIKTOR	Opole University of Technology, POLAND	Intercultural differences, cooperation, and conflict resolution
20.04.2026	VAIDAS GECEVIČIUS	CHARK studio, LITHUANIA	Stories people play: how to merge narratives and games
20.04.2026	AIJA POIKĀNE-DAUMKE	EKA University of Applied Sciences, LATVIA	Communication Across Cultures
20.04.2026	CORPĂDEAN ADRIAN-GABRIEL	Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA	Current economic stakes in EU enlargement
20.04.2026	ESTHER J. ATTIOGBE	University of professional studies Accra, GHANA	Why Effective Communication Matters in the Age of AI
21.04.2026	AKDANA ABUZHALITOVA	Almaty Management University, KAZAKHSTAN	Neuromarketing Basics
21.04.2026	JOSÉ P. ZAGAL, VAIDAS GECEVIČIUS	University of Utah, USA, CHARK studio, LITHUANIA	Game Showcase & Expert Review
21.04.2026	AKDANA ABUZHALITOVA	Almaty Management University, KAZAKHSTAN	Applied Marketing Practice
21.04.2026	MARINA TYUTYUNNIKOVA	Almaty Management University, KAZAKHSTAN	Statistical Methods and Tools for Experimental Economics
21.04.2026	KOMAŃDA MARCIN	Opole University of Technology, POLAND	Lean Management challenges
21.04.2026	WHEELER EVELDORA	West Liberty University, USA	Emotional Intelligence as the Human Partner
21.04.2026	Michael Levens	Ferris University, USA	Virtual Student Exchange
21.04.2026	MARINA TYUTYUNNIKOVA	Almaty Management University, KAZAKHSTAN	Statistical Methods and Tools for Experimental Economics
21.04.2026	AKDANA ABUZHALITOVA	Almaty Management University, KAZAKHSTAN	Neuromarketing Basics
21.04.2026	KODY FISHER	West Liberty University, USA	Financial Literacy
21.04.2026	GVELESIANI ZURAB	Alte University, GEORGIA	Regulating Business Conduct: Consumer Protection and Competition Rules in Market Transactions
21.04.2026	TOMAS PEČIULIS	Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, LITHUANIA	Applied Econometrics in the Colab environment
22.04.2026	SAMSON ABIODUN TOYE	SMK College of Applied Science, LITHUANIA	Social Networking and Public Speaking.
22.04.2026	FAJKUS MARTIN	Tomas Bata University in Zlin, CZECH REPUBLIC	Applications of Calculus in Economics

22.04.2026	MARTINEK PAVEL	Tomas Bata University in Zlin, CZECH REPUBLIC	Fuzzy sets and some practical applications
22.04.2026	SOCHOR TOMAS	European Research University, CZECH REPUBLIC	Data and communication security in the AI era
22.04.2026	UYGUR MEHMET RECAI	SMK College of Applied Science, LITHUANIA	CONSUMER PURCHASING BEHAVIOUR
22.04.2026	ASYA SURMALYAN	Georgian American University, GEORGIA	Financial Modelling
24.04.2026	DAVIT KIKVIDZE	Alte University, GEORGIA	Financial Technologies (Fintech): Innovations Beyond Banking
24.04.2026	ANDOH JULIANA AKUSHIKA	University of Professional Studies Accra, GHANA	Branding as governance: how strong brands shape behavior
24.04.2026	ZHIDEBEKKYZY AKNUR	Almaty Management University, KAZAKHSTAN	Innovation Management
24.04.2026	SANADZE RUSUDAN	Alte University, GEORGIA	Bridging Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Soft Skills Development in Higher Education



IAW2026 participants

International Staff Training Week

EKA STW2025 International Staff Training Week, organized by the EKA University of Applied Sciences in cooperation with Alberta College, brought together 12 participants from different European Union countries, including the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Portugal. The event, supported by the EKA Scientific Institution, aimed to improve the writing and research skills of academic staff. The week took place from September 15 to 19, 2025.

During the week, participants engaged in several valuable activities, including lectures and seminars, as well as the "Research Incubator" events organized by EKA and Alberta College. Participants of the week also participated in a networking event and enjoyed an active social life (a gala dinner, a sightseeing tour and a visit to the House of Blackheads). An international event, organized with the support of the European Digital Learning Network, also took place during the week: "Bridging Digital Gaps: Empowering Learners through Green and Digital Skills". Among the most important lectures and other forms of training, the following can be mentioned:

- Workshop "Calligraphy Training" (Mg. art Jekaterina Baije)
- Lecture "Data Types" (Dr.oec., prof. Jelena Titko)
- Practical training workshop "Statistical Analysis with Jamovi" (Mg. psych. Anna Strazda)
- Lecture and workshop "Tableau Data Visualisation" (Mg. sc. oec. Sandra Tetere)

12 participants from 6 universities and other institutions participated in the event:

1. ISCAP - P Porto, Portugal
2. Polytechnic Institute of Porto, Portugal
3. Vilnius University, Lithuania
4. Mendel University in Brno, Czech Republic
5. EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia

6. Alberta College, Latvia



STW2025 Participants



STW2025 Workshop

International Student Scientific Practical Conference

Student International Scientific Practical Conferences have been organized by the EKA University of Applied Sciences since 2012. Since 2015, it has been organized in cooperation with the strategic partner of the EKA – Alberta College.

On 29 and 30 May 2026, the EKA University of Applied Sciences, in cooperation with Alberta College, organised the International Scientific Practical Student Conference “INVENTIO 2026”.

On 29 May, sections for international students and online sessions took place, while on 30 May the programme included keynote speeches, on-site sessions and creative workshops.

Best presentations:

29.05

FOREIGN STUDENTS' SESSION I – IT

Nino Barjadze. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Data Protection Training Information Systems. (sc. sup. Maksims Žigunovs)

David Steban Sanabria Talero. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Development of a Responsive Website for “Café Friends” Coffee Shop (sc.sup. Andrejs Liepiņš)

FOREIGN STUDENTS SESSION II – Management and Economics

Harshani Masimbula Vidanalage, Meepura Liyanage, Sandul Rehan Yasasvi Siriwardana and Munaf, Ashfaq Ahamed. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Exploring Awareness of Non-Communicable Disease Risks and Motivation in Healthy Life Style Practices Among Working Professionals in Colombo, Sri Lanka (sc. sup. Vita Zariņa)

FOREIGN STUDENTS SESSION III – Business Administration

Ivane Aleksaia. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Impact of ESG Score on Company's Performance in Fintech Industry (sc. sup. Kaspars Steinbergs)

Abdunabi Tilovov. EKA University of Applied Sciences. The Role of Human Capital in Improving Service Quality in Telecom Companies in Uzbekistan (sc. sup. Ksenija Ijevļeva)

FOREIGN STUDENTS SESSION IV – Cultural Management

Abraham Edet Akpan. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Stakeholder Engagement in International Cultural Project Management: Latvian-Nordic Network (sc. sup. Kaspars Šteinbergs)

ONLINE SESSION I – Interior Design

Sanija Ērgle, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Specific Features and Design of Smart Home Interiors. (sc. sup. Lauma Kokoreviča)

ONLINE SESSION II – Management, Entrepreneurship and Business Economics

Marina Kuzminova, Alberta College. Development of Strategic Guidelines for a Clothing Printing Company. (sc. sup. Sandra Tetere)

Beatrise Šumahere, Austra Peltmane, Natālija Ļistopada, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Demand for the Development and Tailoring of Specialised Tracksuits for Dancers in Latvia. (sc. sup. Vita Zariņa)

ONLINE SESSION III – Law

Anatolijs Sereckis, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Legal Framework for the Acceptance and Acquisition of Inheritance in Latvia. (sc. sup. Dace Ūdriņa)

30.05

SESSION I – Information Technologies

Toms Trankalis, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Research on the Computer Network of a Financial Sector Company. (sc. sup. Roberts Glaudiņš)

SESSION II – Management Studies and Human Resource Management

Laura Paskalova, Angelina Filipova, Gvido Mieziš, EKA University of Applied Sciences. The Effectiveness of the Housing Assistance System in Latvian Municipalities: Governance Challenges and Proposals for Regulatory Improvement. (sc. sup. Ilona Lejniece)

Linda Šilska, EKA University of Applied Sciences. The Role of a Quality Management System in Improving the Operations of Real Estate Management Companies. (sc. sup. Jānis Pildavs).

SESSION III – Accounting and Financial Management

Indra Greitāne, Jolanta Klēviņa, Kristīne Ālmane, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Amendments to Article 41 of the Value Added Tax Law: Increasing the Standard VAT Rate of 21% by Two Percentage Points. (sc. sup. Tatjana Daudiša and Edgars Čerkovskis)

SESSION IV – Cultural Studies

Sintija Ruskule, EKA University of Applied Sciences. The Active Minority: Concentration of Participation among Members of Youth Organisations. (sc. sup. Jeļena Budanceva)

SESSION V – Social and Well-Being Studies

Kitija Čemme, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Perceptions of Different Age Groups Regarding the Most Important Values in Relationships. (sc. sup. Jeļena Budanceva)

SESSION VI – Marketing and Public Relations

Annija Sāra Maļinovska, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Young People's Choice of Perfume as an Element of Self-Expression and Social Identity. (sc. sup. Jeļena Budanceva)

SESSION VII – Law

Jānis Dreimanis, EKA University of Applied Sciences. The Role of the State President's 2025 Initiative in Promoting Voter Participation. (sc. sup. Elvis Dibaņins)

SESSION VIII – Interior Design

Amanda Otto, EKA University of Applied Sciences. The Popularity and Aesthetic Interaction of Metal Furniture and Concrete Microcement in Contemporary Interiors. (sc. sup. Evija Skriba)

SESSION IX – Brand and Loyalty

Emīlija Zobena, EKA University of Applied Sciences. A University Mascot Keychain with a QR Code as a Student Guide. (sc. sup. Ksenija Miļča)

SESSION X – Game-Based Solutions in Financial Literacy

Vladislavs Malenkovs, Viktorija Kuposova, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Game Prototype "Family Debt". (sc. sup. Andris Aleksandrs Priedītis)



Students' conference Inventio

Learning and methodical conference

On 29 January 2026, the annual Teaching Methodology Conference took place, organised by Alberta College and the EKA University of Applied Sciences. This year's conference focused on modern teaching methods and the use of artificial intelligence in the study process, while also emphasising the ethical and legal aspects of the academic environment. Conference theme: Digitally and Ethically Enriched Education.

Conference presentations:

- Sexual harassment – recognition, prevention, and legal protection.
- Practical solutions implemented within the Erasmus+ Small-Scale Partnership Project No. 2024-2-LV01-KA210-VET-000280127, including the integration of digital and artificial intelligence tools into the design and implementation of study courses.
- Masterclass: How to transform your course into a multimodal learning experience; how to integrate CLIL elements without fully restructuring the course; using artificial intelligence tools for designing assignments and assessments; increasing student engagement in the online learning environment.

Speakers:

Gundega Bruņeniece, Prevention of Discrimination Unit, Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia.

Sandra Tetere, Mg.sc.oec., Director of the study programmes Business Administration and Human Resource Management, Alberta College.

5.2. EKA publishing activities

“etECH Abstracts Proceedings”

Each year, conference abstract proceedings are published as part of the etECH Conference. In 2025/2026 this year it includes 142 research abstracts, available at: https://www.augstskola.lv/upload/etECH2026_abstracts.pdf

Scientific Journal “Economics and Culture”



The best articles are published in the scientific journal "Economics and Culture" (ISSN 2255-7563/ e-ISSN 2256-0173). The journal is issued twice a year (in June and December) by EKA University of Applied Sciences.

Since 2023, “Economics and Culture” is indexed by ERIH+; since 2024 – by SCOPUS; since 2025 by Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics).

In 2025, the scientific journal Economics and Culture published two issues (Vol. 22(1) in June, and Vol. 22(2) in December), featuring a total of 22 scientific articles authored by researchers from a broad international academic community. Contributors represented countries including Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Spain, Slovakia, Estonia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Albania, India, South Korea, the United States, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates, and Argentina. The journal continued to serve as an international interdisciplinary platform for research in economics, management, innovation, sustainability, and related social sciences, strengthening EKA’s research visibility and supporting international scholarly exchange.

Journal’s content is available on the Paradigm Global Reference platform: <https://reference-global.com/journal/JEC>

Scientific Journal “Sustainability, Social Innovations and Digital Transformation”



Since 2025 EKA University of Applied Sciences publishes scientific journal “Sustainability, Social Innovations and Digital Transformation” (eISSN: 3044-7143).

SSIDT is an international, peer-reviewed scientific journal that provides an interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to discuss how innovative social and technological solutions can address global sustainability challenges.

The journal is issued twice a year (in June and December) by EKA University of Applied Sciences.

The first volume of the journal was published in December 2025 and included five research papers authored by researchers from Latvia, India, and Poland. The issue addressed topics such as workplace waste sorting motivators and demotivators, cybersecurity and consumer trust in digital marketing, employer branding in private universities, and the digital well-being of public servants. Through this new journal, EKA strengthens its contribution to sustainability-oriented research, social innovation, and digital transformation studies.

Journal’s content is available on the Paradigm Global Reference platform: <https://reference-global.com/journal/SSIDT>

“Collection of Student Scientific Research Papers”

Since 2015, EKA in cooperation with Alberta College, has been issuing a Collection of student scientific articles. The collection of scientific research papers includes papers of the students of the EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA), Alberta College (AK) and other HEIs submitted to the International Student Scientific and Practical Conference.

In addition, collections of conference abstracts and descriptions of arts work “Description of Students’ Creative Projects and Works of Art” are published in the framework of a joint conference organized by EKA and Alberta College. The issues are available on the EKA webpage <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=829&lng=lva>