

EKA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

SCIENTIFIC AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY 2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Riga 2025

“The Annual Report of the EKA University of Applied Sciences on scientific activities 2024/2025”
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, 2024/2025

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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 has 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 its research capacity,
- the research results of which contribute to the sustainable development of the social, economic and cultural sectors of the country.

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. Four goals are set to measure the achievements in Priority 1:

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). Four following goals are set up to measure Priority 2:

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 2024/2025, the academic staff of EKA consisted of more than 100 people, 43 of whom were elected to the academic posts of EKA (as of 21.07.2025), incl. 24 persons (56%) with a doctor's degree.

Several EKA academic staff members elected to academic positions have received the rights of experts of the Latvian Council of Science (as of 31.07.2023. – 42% of the persons with PhD).

Table 1 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>
Jeļena Titko	<i>Dr. oec.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	10.04.2027.
		Social sciences – Education sciences	01.03.2026.
		Social sciences – Sociology and social work	09.04.2028.
Inga Šina	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	07.12.2025.
Oksana Lentjušenkova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	06.12.2026.
Aija Sannikova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	06.09.2026.
Jevgenija Dehtjare	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	10.04.2027.
		Social sciences - Education sciences	04.12.2027.
Kristīne Užule	<i>Dr.psyh.</i>	Social sciences - Economics and business	05.02.2028.
		Social sciences – Education sciences	05.02.2028.
Karina Zalcmane	<i>PhD</i>	Social sciences – Law	01.11.2026.
Marina Kamenecka-Usova	<i>PhD</i>	Social sciences – Law	07.05.2028.
Velga Vēvere	<i>Dr.phil.</i>	Humanities and arts - Philosophy, ethics and religion	06.09.2026.
		Social sciences - economics and business	05.04.2026.
Larisa Turuševa	<i>Dr.paed.</i>	Social sciences – education sciences	04.01.2026.
Natalja Cudecka-Purina	<i>PhD</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	06.09.2026.
		Social sciences – Social and economic geography	08.05.2027.
Alina Daņileviča	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences – Economics and Business	10.01.2027.
		Nature sciences – Computer sciences and informatics	02.10.2027.
Vita Zariņa	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences – Economics and business	06.11.2027.
Mārcis Pinnis	<i>PhD</i>	Natural sciences – Computer sciences and informatics	09.04.2028.

In 2024/2025, 17 staff members were employed at EKA as scientific assistants, researchers or leading researchers. 70% of them are EKA academic or administrative staff members, 30 % - representatives of other institutions.

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 2). Each research direction has a coordinator responsible for achieving the expected results.

Table 2 EKA priority research areas for 2024-2028

RESEARCH AREA	Study direction	Coordinator
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, Management	EKA professor, Dr.oec. J. Titko; EKA assistant professor, Mg. iur., PHD candidate N. Verina
Inclusivity and diversity in higher education	Management	EKA associate professor, Dr. psych. K. Užule
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" Anete Bērza
E-learning technologies and management	IT	EKA professor, Dr.oec. J. Titko

1.3. Scientific achievements of EKA academic staff

In 2024/2025, the academic staff of the EKA University of Applied Sciences have published (or accepted for publication) 27 scientific publications, including 15 articles in internationally peer-reviewed publications, indexed in databases Web of Science Clarivate Analytics, SCOPUS, ERIH+ (5 papers – in Q1 and Q2 journals).

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

1. **Uzule, K.,** Gobniece, Z., & **Titko, J.** (2024). Digital transformation of economies through technology, education and competences. *Problems of Education in the 21st Century*, 82(5), 758-774. <https://doi.org/10.33225/pec/24.82.758> WOS:001334776400012 PUBLISHED **WOS**
2. **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**
3. Ravšelj, D., Keržič, D., Tomažević, N., Umek, L., Brezovar, N., ...**Titko, J.**, ... & Aristovnik, A. (2025). Higher education students' perceptions of ChatGPT: A global study of early reactions. *PLoS ONE*, 20(2), e0315011. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0315011> WOS:001426172900001, **SCOPUS Q1/WOS Q1**
4. **Titova, N.,** & Sloka, B. (2024). Impact of Marketing, Sales and Innovations on Business Performance Analysis in Intellectual Capital Research: Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. *Marketing and Management of Innovations*, 15(3), 27–39. <https://doi.org/10.21272/mmi.2024.3-03> **WOS**

5. **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> SCOPUS
6. **Titko, J., Cirulis, M.,** Semjonovs, D., Svirina, A., and **Verina, N.** (2024). Relationship between Perception of Digital Transformation and Individual Psychological Capabilities of Academic Staff: Pilot Study in Latvia. *Journal of Self-Governance and Management Economics* 12(1), 50–66. <https://doi.org/10.22381/jsme12120243> ERIH+
7. **Sannikova, A., Titko, J.,** 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:001410318700001, **WOS, Q3**
8. **Titko, J.,** Lapkis, D., Povilaite, M., **Uzule, K. & Dehtjare, J.** (2025). Social innovations in social services: concept and main features. *Proceedings of the 15th international scientific conference "Business and Management 2025"*, Vilnius Tech; accepted, **WOS**
9. **Nikadimovs, O., Vevere, V.** (2024). The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: University Social Responsibility and Stakeholders' Perceptions. *Vide. Tehnologija. Resursi - Environment, Technology*, 2, 226-231. <https://doi.org/10.17770/etr2024vol2.8015> SCOPUS
10. Linina, I., Jansevica, G., **Vevere, V.** (2024). Organization of participatory budget (PB) development in Latvian municipalities. *Vide. Tehnologija. Resursi - Environment, Technology*, 1, pp. 227–234. <https://doi.org/10.17770/etr2024vol1.7978> SCOPUS
11. **Vevere, V.,** Singh, K., Linina, I. (2024). Framework for Enhancing Customer Loyalty of Telecommunication Companies in India: A Case of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. *Vide. Tehnologija. Resursi - Environment, Technology*, 2, 303–309. <https://doi.org/10.17770/etr2024vol2.8056> SCOPUS
12. Zvirgzdina, R., Straupe, E., Linina, I., **Vevere, V.** (2024). Modern Technologies for Effective Communication between Apartment Owners and Apartment Building Managers in Latvia. *WSEAS Transactions on Environment and Development*, 20, 268-275. <https://doi.org/10.37394/232015.2024.20.27> SCOPUS
13. 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, pp. 611–618. <https://doi.org/10.37394/232015.2025.21.50> SCOPUS

Other publications:

1. **Uzule K., Dehtjare J., Sannikova A., Čerkovskis E.,** Lapkis D., Kiladze L. (2025). A conceptual maturity model for social entrepreneurship within the framework of integrated reporting. *15th International Scientific Conference Business and Management 2025, proceedings*.
2. **Nikadimovs, O.** (2025). Consumers' perceptions of corporate social responsibility: scale development, validation, and reliability testing. *15th International Scientific Conference Business and Management 2025, proceedings*.
3. Bogdanova, N., Kudins, J., **Sannikova, A.,** Heimanis, B. (2024). 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. **Uzule, K., Zarina, V., & Shina, I.** (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>
5. Ushan D. & **Dehtjare J.** (2024). Impact of advertising appeals on impulsive purchasing for consumer durables in Western Province in Sri Lanka. *Journal Current Issues of Business and Law*, 2 (7), 20-27. https://www.mokslomedis.lt/file/manual/CIBL_2024_Dec.pdf
6. **Šina, I.** (2025). Implementing Human-Robot Collaboration in the production environment of the manufacturing industry in Latvia. *International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025"*, May 15-16, 2025, Vilnius.
7. **Sannikova A.** (2024). Kompetences, kas svarīgas sociālajā uzņēmējdarbībā. Sabiedrības transformācija sociālajās un humanitārajās zinātnēs, XII praktiskās zinātniskās konference, BSA, 151.-153. Pieejams: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://bsa.edu.lv/docs/science/book/confere_nce_20231125.pdf

8. **Titova, N.** & Dombrovskis, V. (2024). Need analysis for implementing virtual mobility assistants for preparing & accompanying transnational mobility in education in an uncertainty world. *ICERI 2024 conference proceedings, 17th annual International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation*. Seville, Spain. 11-13 November, 2024. <https://library.iated.org/publications/ICERI2024/start/1250>
9. **Budanceva, J.**, & Briede, L. (2024). Song and dance celebration: participants' and organizers' perceived risks. *Culture Crossroads*, 26, 48–81. <https://doi.org/10.55877/cc>
10. **Titova, N.** & Kvelde, A. (2024). Sustainability reporting in Latvia: An analysis of compliance with sustainability reporting standards. In *Corporate Sustainability Reporting in Central and Eastern European Companies*, 1st Ed. ISBN: 9781-003-451-884 (Book Chapter)
11. Abdykhalykova, A., Zulkharnay, A. & **Turuševa, L.** (2025). The role of media literacy for English language teachers in distance learning. *XV International Scientific and Practical Conference «Theoretical and practical perspectives of modern science»*, March 11–12, 2025, Stockholm, Sweden. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15041436>
12. **Vēvere, V.** (2024). Marta Kreivena Nusbauma par bailēm un drosmes izkopšanu. Izaicinājumi Eiropas kultūrai vēsturē un mūsdienās. *LU Humanitāro zinātņu fakultātes Filozofijas un socioloģijas institūts*, 51-59.
13. **Vēvere, V.** (2024). Abpus sliekšņa: Vijams Džeimss par tiro pieredzi un mistiskajiem apziņas stāvokļiem. Uz zināmā un nezināmā robežas. *LU Humanitāro zinātņu fakultātes Filozofijas un socioloģijas institūts*, 60-70.
14. Zvirgzdiņa, R., Linina, I., Avotiņa, G., **Vēvere, V.**, & Avotiņš, I. (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>

Each year EKA hosts International Scientific Conference “**Emerging trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH)**”. The 2025 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 “EMERGING TRENDS IN MACROECONOMICS, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, PUBLIC ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS”:

- Kristine Uzule, Vita Zarina, Inga Shina. A CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR INTEGRATING FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL INFORMATION IN INTEGRATED REPORTS
- Andrejs Limanskis. COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DIRECT INVESTMENTS FROM FRANCE AND UNITED KINGDOM IN LATVIA
- Andrejs Limanskis, Abbos Saidkhonov, Islom Karimov. DIRECT INVESTMENT FROM UZBEKISTAN IN LATVIA: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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

- Mikus Dubickis. FACTORS BASED INNOVATION READINESS ASSESSMENT METHOD IN CLOTHING AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY: TOWARDS CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- Alina Danileviča. A GREENER FUTURE WITH ELECTRIC CARS: THE CASE OF EU COUNTRIES
- Natālija Cudečka-Puriņa. THE IMPACT OF ESG SCORES ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE: A STUDY OF NASDAQ BALTIC-LISTED COMPANIES FROM AN INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR PERSPECTIVE

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

- Elvis Dibanins, Ilona Lejniece. ROLE OF HUMAN CAPITAL IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY OF LATVIA
- Jevgenija Dehtjare, Anna Strazda, Kristine Uzule. IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT PROCESS OF HEIS BY INTEGRATING COMPONENTS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION
- Kristine Uzule, Nellija Titova. THE CONCEPT OF VALUE CREATION IN ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTING: COMPARING INTEGRATED, SUSTAINABILITY AND ANNUAL REPORTS

Participants of the section on “EMERGING TRENDS IN SOCIAL IMPACT RESEARCH”:

- Oļegs Ņikadimovs. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMPANY PERFORMANCE: THE CASE OF COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AND REPUTATION

Participants of the section on “EMERGING TRENDS IN LAW”:

- Marina Kamenecka-Usova, Karina Zalcmane. GLOBALIZATION OF FOOTBALL: GOVERNANCE, CHALLENGES, AND THE FEASIBILITY OF THE BALTIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE
- Marina Kamenecka-Usova. SHAPING THE EUROPEAN SPORTS LEGAL FRAMEWORK: THE INTERACTION OF SPORTS GOVERNANCE AND LEX SPORTIVA
- Ilona Lejniece, Marina Kamenecka-Usova. THE ECONOMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF STADIUMS SAFETY: COSTS, INVESTMENTS, AND LONG-TERM IMPACT
- Jolanta Dinsberga. LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF ESTABLISHING A LIVESTOCK ROUTE EASEMENT

Participants of the section on “EMERGING TRENDS IN PEDAGOGY AND EDUCATION”:

- Kristine Uzule, Jevgenija Dehtjare, Anna Strazda, Edgars Čerkovskis. IMPLEMENTATION OF DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS: PERCEPTIONS OF EMPLOYEES
- Nataļja Verina. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN LATVIAN HIGHER EDUCATION: EXPERT PERSPECTIVES INTO INSTITUTIONAL AND PERSONAL BARRIERS
- Gita Actiņa. CROSS-CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- Anna Strazda, Jevgenija Dehtjare, Julija Mironova. THE INFULENCE OF AI TOOLS ON E-LEARNING PROCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Participants of the section on “EMERGING TRENDS IN ICT SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMY, BUSINESS AND EDUCATION”:

- Tatjana Tambovceva. INTEGRATION OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES IN THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
- Tatjana Tambovceva. AI-DRIVEN INNOVATIONS IN SOCIAL MEDIA: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND FUTURE TRENDS
- Patriks Morevs. TOWARDS EFFICIENT TEACHING: A 3D GAME ENGINE CREATED FROM SCRATCH BY STUDENTS OF EKA
- Maksims Žigunovs. MUSHROOM COMMUNICATION ALTERATION IN ORDER TO TRAIN THE MUSHROOM TO GENERATE SIGNALS IN A NEEDED FORMAT / STRUCTURE

Participants of the joint section on “EMERGING TRENDS IN CULTURE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURE PROJECT MANAGEMENT / CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, ART AND DESIGN”:

- Emna Boudaya, Velga Vevere. CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE AS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECRUITMENT PROJECTS
- Renate Cane, Kaspars Steinbergs. Innovation in cultural and creative industries as a factor for sustainable regional development in Latvia
- Zane Veidenberga. THE ROLE OF COMBINING THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL RESEARCH METHODS AND INSTRUMENTS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING SUPPORT TOOLS FOR TRANSLATORS
- Jelena Budanceva, Yohan de Silva. RISK AND RESILIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVALS: A MIXED-METHODS STUDY
- Imant Laviņš. LATVIAN LITERATURE AND THE NOBEL PRIZE. MEDIA DISCOURSE (1920-1930)
- Aija Poikane-Daumke. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA IN NINA WILNER'S NOVEL FORTY AUTUMS: A FAMILY'S STORY OF COURAGE AND SURVIVAL ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BERLIN WALL

In 2024/2025, EKA's academic staff also participated with their reports in other international scientific conferences:

1. **Jelena Titko.** International Conference “Challenges, Processes, and Policies for a Circular Economy that Works for Consumers”, May 9-10, 2025, Iasi, Romania, pp. COST CA22124 - EU Circular Economy Network for All: Consumer Protection through reducing, reusing, repairing (ECO4ALL). Presentation: *Consumer challenges with waste management at Latvian households.*
2. **Jelena Titko.** 5th World Symposium on Sustainability Science and Research. “Sustainability Transition and Global Citizenship in the Digital Era: Innovations in Universities”, Lisbon, Portugal, 26-27 May

2025. Presentation: *Students' Engagement in Sustainability Initiatives in the Context of Baltic Higher Education*
3. **Jelena Titko.** 7th International Economic Forum "Innovation. Trust. Responsibility: Latest scientific findings, cooperation & best practice", March 7-9, 2025, Riga, **Latvia**. Latvian Academy of Science. Presentation: *Attitudes to waste sorting in Latvian households*
 4. **Jelena Titko, Kristīne Užule, Jevgenija Dehtjare.** International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025" – Vilnius, May 15-16, 2025. Presentation: *SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN SOCIAL SERVICES: CONCEPT AND MAIN FEATURES.*
 5. **Oksana Lentjušenkova.** 23rd BMDA Annual Conference "Redefining Business and Management in a Changing World Conscious Capitalism.", May 21-23, 2025. Workshop "*Network IQ Index: Tool for Professional Development*"
 6. **Jelena Titko, Natalja Verina.** International conference "THE TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMY: Digital Technology, Spatial Disparities and Quality of Life", Yerevan State University, October 8-10, 2024. Presentation: *Personal and institutional barriers perceived by academic staff in the process of digital transformation in higher education*
 7. **Jelena Budanceva.** 18th Annual Scientific Baltic Business Management Conference 2025 HUMAN-TECH ERA: HUMANS AND TECHNOLOGY SHAPING SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES TOGETHER. May 29, 2025. Presentation: *Forstering inovation through mindfulness: synthesizing the literature and identifying research gaps*
 8. **Kristīne Užule, Natalja Verina.** International conference "THE TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMY: Digital Technology, Spatial Disparities and Quality of Life", Yerevan State University, October 8-10, 2024. Presentation: *The contribution of employees' digital skills to the implementation of state digital transformation.*
 9. **Kristīne Užule.** SYMPOSIUM "Navigating Volatility with Mindfulness: From Individual Practices to Organizational Strategies", SMK College of Applied Sciences, Vilnius, Lithuania, November 14, 2024. KEY NOTE PRESENTATION: *Fostering the Development of Intrapreneurial Competences of Staff as a Component of Organizational Competitive Advantage.*
 10. **Kristīne Užule.** 7th International Economic Forum "Innovation. Trust. Responsibility. Latest Scientific Findings, Cooperation & Best Practices." Economics Institute of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. March 7, 2025. Presentation: *Integrated reporting for strengthening circular economy accountability and sustainable value creation.*
 11. **Kristīne Užule, Aija Sannikova.** International Scientific Conference "Innovations for a Sustainable Future - a Holistic Approach". University of Technology and Arts in Applied Sciences, Warsaw, Poland, April 17, 2025. Presentation: *The need to support inclusivity in higher education for sustainable social entrepreneurship.*
 12. **Jevgenija Dehtjare, Kristīne Užule, Anna Strazda.** 4th International Conference on Education, Technology, and Innovation ICETI 2024, 16.12.2024., Georgia (online) Presentation: *AI tools in e-learning environment: A contribution to the improvement of existing teaching practices.*
 13. **Kristīne Užule, Jevgenija Dehtjare.** INTERNATIONAL E-CONFERENCE Catalysts for Change: Shaping the Next Century of Innovation" ALTE University, Tbilisi, Georgia, 20-21 February 2025. Presentation: *Digital Solutions as a Driver of Inclusivity in Higher Education*
 14. **Jevgenija Dehtjare, Kristīne Užule, Anna Strazda.** International Scientific Conference City's Resilience to Threads and Crises "Security. Governance. Education", 28.03.2025., Wroclaw, Poland (online). Presentation: *The enhancement of entrepreneurial teaching and learning in HEIs.*
 15. **Jevgenija Dehtjare, Anna Strazda, Kristīne Užule.** 15th International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025", Vilnius Gediminas University, Lithuania, 15-16.05.2025. Presentation: *The contribution of entrepreneurial component of education to resilience of higher education institutions.*
 16. **Kristīne Užule, Jevgenija Dehtjare, Aija Sannikova, Edgars Čerkovskis..** International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025" – Vilnius, May 15-16, 2025. Presentation: *A CONCEPTUAL MATURITY MODEL FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTEGRATED REPORTING*
 17. **Kristīne Užule, Anna Strazda, Jevgenija Dehtjare.** International European Conference on Ethics and Integrity in Academia, ECEIA 2025, Uppsala, Sweden, 15-19.06.2025. Presentation: *Equity, diversity and inclusivity concepts in internal regulatory documents of higher education institutions in Latvia*
 18. **Kristīne Užule, Jevgenija Dehtjare.** Agents In India throught the Social and Relationship Capital of Integrated Reporting. 15th MASEP Scientific Conference November 27-29 Lodz Poland. Presentation: *Ensuring Marketing Sustainability of Airfare Selling Travel*

19. **Oļegs Nikadimovs.** International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025" – Vilnius, May 15-16, 2025. Presentation *"CONSUMERS' PERCEPTIONS OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: SCALE DEVELOPMENT, VALIDATION, AND RELIABILITY TESTING"*
20. **Inga Šīna, Velga Vēvere.** International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025" – Vilnius, May 15-16, 2025. Presentation: *Implementing Human-Robot Collaboration in the production environment of the manufacturing industry in Latvia.*
21. **Anna Strazda.** 15th International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025", Vilnius Gediminas University, Lithuania, 15-16.05.2025. Presentation: *Researcher competencies in higher education institutions: A bibliometric analysis.*
22. **Anna Strazda, Jelena Titko, Jelena Budanceva** International European Conference on Ethics and Integrity in Academia, ECEIA 2025, Uppsala, Sweden, 15-19.06.2025. Presentation: *Perception of research integrity by researchers in higher education institutions: Case of Latvia.*
23. **Larisa Turuševa.** International Scientific Conference at Eurasian National University named after L. Gumilyov at the November 13, 2024, Kazakhstan. Key speaker presentation. *The art of persuasion.*
24. **Larisa Turuševa.** XV International Scientific and Practical Conference «Theoretical and practical perspectives of modern science» March 11-12, 2025 Stockholm. Sweden. Presentation: *THE ROLE OF MEDIA LITERACY FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS IN DISTANCE LEARNING.*
25. **Alina Danileviča.** II International Internet conference "Economics in the Context of Digital Transformation: Development Perspectives in the 21st Century", Kyiv, Ukraine, May 14, 2025. Presentation: *Adoption of Mobile Technologies by Enterprises in the Era of Digital Transformation: Case of Selected Countries*
26. **Oļegs Nikadimovs.** 15th International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025", Vilnius Gediminas University, Lithuania, 15-16.05.2025. Presentation: *CONSUMERS' PERCEPTIONS OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: SCALE DEVELOPMENT, VALIDATION, AND RELIABILITY TESTING*
27. **Aija Sannikova, Kristīne Užule.** 15th International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025", Vilnius Gediminas University, Lithuania, 15-16.05.2025. Presentation: *The development needs of business competencies of social entrepreneurs: a case study of Latvia. 15th International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2025"*
28. **Aija Sannikova, Kristīne Užule.** International Scientific Conference "Innovations for a Sustainable Future - a Holistic Approach", 17 April 2025, Powislanski University, Poland. Presentation: *The Need to Support Inclusivity in Higher Education for Sustainable Social Entrepreneurship.*
29. **Natālija Cudečka-Puriņa.** 5th World Symposium on Sustainability Science and Research. "Sustainability Transition and Global Citizenship in the Digital Era: Innovations in Universities", Lisbon, Portugal, 26-27 May 2025. Presentation: *Students' Engagement in Sustainability Initiatives in the Context of Baltic Higher Education*
30. **Velga Vēvere, Jelena Budanceva.** International conference "Education. Culture. Society", Wrocław (Poland), 11, September, 2025. Presentation: *European capital of culture as facilitator of public participation: case of Latvia.*
31. **Velga Vēvere.** International conference "Globalizations and its social-economic consequences", 8-10, October, 2025, Žilina (Slovakia). Presentation: *Impact of brain dominance testing on workplace communication in the executive coaching industry.*
32. **Velga Vēvere.** International conference "Business, Management, Educational Strategies and Technological Integration", 28-29, April, 2025, Istanbul (Turkey). Presentation: *Consumer satisfaction and principles of its development in the Latvian health care sector.*
33. **Velga Vēvere.** 16th International scientific practical conference "Environment, technology, resources", 19-20 June, 2025, Rezekne (Latvia). Presentation: *INCLUSION OF LATVIAN RESIDENTS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCESSES.*
34. **Velga Vēvere.** 16th International scientific practical conference "Environment, technology, resources", 19-20 June, 2025, Rezekne (Latvia). Presentation: *CONSUMER SATISFACTION AND THE PRINCIPLES OF ITS FORMATION IN THE LATVIA HEALTH CARE MARKET.*
35. **Velga Vēvere.** 16th International scientific practical conference "Environment, technology, resources", 19-20 June, 2025, Rezekne (Latvia). Presentation: *THE MAIN ASPECTS OF SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF REORGANIZATION AND RESTRUCTURING PROCESSES FOR REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES IN LATVIA.*
36. **Velga Vēvere, Inga Šīna.** 16th International scientific practical conference "Environment, technology, resources", 19-20 June, 2025, Rezekne (Latvia). Presentation: *INTEGRATING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TO ENHANCE CSR STRATEGIES FOR RETAIL COMPANIES IN LATVIA*

37. **Velga Vēvere**. 16th International scientific practical conference "Environment, technology, resources", 19-20 June, 2025, Rezekne (Latvia). Presentation: *ATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR DIGITIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION: A COMPARISON BETWEEN LATVIA AND LITHUANIA*.

Other achievements:

- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Interview. Driving the modernisation of Higher Education: A step forward with Qn alliance and EKA University of Applied Sciences' vision and courage! Meeting of Qn Alliance member Tony Caro with O. Lentjusenkovs. Published: May 7, 2025. <https://qn-alliance.eu/2025/05/07/driving-the-modernisation-of-higher-education-a-step-forward-with-qn-alliance-and-eka-university-of-applied-sciences-vision-and-courage/>
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Article: Par mūsdienīgu izglītību. Rubrika "Uzņēmēja sleja", Diena, 06.06.2025., 8.lpp.
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Article: Kurš ir atbildīgs par augstskolu absolventu konkurētspēju? Viedoklis. 05.06.2025. https://ir.lv/rubrika/viedoklis/kurs-ir-atbildigs-par-augstskolu-absolventu-konkuretspeju.219434?fbclid=IwY2xjawKzaD5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHsxt3T41BVn-rSGKr3hXR-hafVL02kDGMLzYc1VjD1_QnTv5dLStXE9sdng0_aem_wppcvFhfajlyOF85hywzFg
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Horizon4Poland'24: a matchmaking event addressed to businesses and the scientific industries. Horizon4Poland'24. November 21-23, 2024. <https://horizon4poland24.b2match.io>
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. 23rd BMDA Annual Conference "Redefining Business and Management in a Changing World Conscious Capitalism", May 21-23, 2025, Berlin. Member of Scientific Committee
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Dianas Bizness. Article "Kurš ir atbildīgs par augstskolu absolventa konkurētspēju?" (05.06.2025.) <https://www.db.lv/zinas/kurs-ir-atbildigs-par-augstskolu-absolventu-konkuretspeju-521726>
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Latvijas Avīze. Article: "Neviena ideja nav par traku" (27.01.2025) <https://lasi.lv/latvija-pasaule/ekonomika/ieguldijums-izaugsmei-neviena-ideja-nav-par-traku.24054>
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Business Network International HR Intergroup Meeting. May 10, 2025. Presentation "Networking Intelligence as an Element of Human Capital Development"
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Business Network International Cander Group. November 21, 2024. Presentation "Duties of a Modern Manager"
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Business Network International Steinhauer Group. April 16, 2025. Presentation "The role of women in science and innovation"
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova**. Business Network International Steinhauer Group. June 4, 2025. Presentation "EKA achievements 2014-2024."
- **Natālija Cudecka-Purina**. Conference: ATKRITUMI EKONOMIKĀ - pārmaiņu laiks un iespējas, 16.04.2025. Panel discussion: Apritīguma veicināšana – RAS loma.
- **Jevgenija Dehtjare**. Participants of panel discussion "A Future-Oriented Perspective of Education with Multiple Pathways of Excellence". SYMPOSIUM "Navigating Volatility with Mindfulness: From Individual Practices to Organizational Strategies", SMK College of Applied Sciences, Vilnius, Lithuania, November 14, 2024
- **Jevgenija Dehtjare, Jelena Titko**. Participation in the International Science Dissemination Event, Perspectives for International and Digital Possibilities for Students, Lithuania Business College, webinar 27.11.2024.
- **Jevgenija Dehtjare**. Participation in the event: HEInnovate Digital Train-the-Trainers Session, Online, December 11, 2024
- **Jevgenija Dehtjare**. Lay Summary Collaborative library, 05.02.2025. <https://thecollaborativelibrary.com/the-most-dominant-career-drivers-of-academic-staff-video-lay-summary/>
- **Jevgenija Dehtjare**. Organisation of the webinar "Supporting the Green and Digital Transitions in Education and Training: Greening the Future: Exploring Digital Green Education" in collaboration with Digital Learning Network (Dlearn), Online, 12.12.2024. <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=637&lng=eng>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis**. Lecture „AI and VR Integration: Future Technologies in Education“, European University, Georgia, 2024, November 8. <https://eu.edu.ge/en/news/2669-professor-edgars-cerkovskis-delivered-lecture-entitled-ai-and-vr-integration-future>

- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Moderation of the webinar "Supporting the Green and Digital Transitions in Education and Training: Greening the Future: Exploring Digital Green Education" in collaboration with Digital Learning Network (Dlearn), Online, 12.12.2024. <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=637&lng=eng>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Workshop "Practical Application of Artificial Intelligence in the Field of Education" during the Meeting of Deputy Principals of Riga City Municipality Schools, December 4, 2024
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Informative and interactive event "Know, Can, Do"; March 28, 2025, Preiļi Main Library, Preiļi. <http://preilubiblioteka.lv/?date=2025-03-21>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Organisation and host of RTV Hot Broadcast, "The future of distance learning in Latvia". March 12, 2025, Riga Distance Learning Secondary School (online format). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK2MFRZzUFo&t=4s>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Organisation and host of RTV Hot Broadcast, "Distance learning: a path to success or a hindrance to education?" March 21, 2025, Riga Distance Learning Secondary School (online format). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtzsBtXh8YQ>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Organisation and host of RTV Hot Broadcast "How will banning distance learning affect inclusive education?", March 25, 2025, Riga Distance Learning Secondary School (online format). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_ChNyu6H4s&t=18s
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** 28.02.2025. Thanks to AI, lecturer Edgars Čerkovskis has reduced his working day to 4 hours. Interview on the program "Aina studijā" https://play.1188.lv/pasmaju-tv-sovi/aina-studija-87/pateicoties_mi_lektors_edgars_cerkovskis_samazinajis_savu_darba_dienu_lidz_4_stundam-927456/
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Moderated "Legal Framework, Responsibility and Supervision" working group. On October 17, 2024, as part of the Social Entrepreneurship Week, a conference "Opportunities and Challenges of Social Economy Development" was held. <https://www.lm.gov.lv/lv/noslegusies-sesta-socialas-uznemejdarbibas-nedela>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** October 23, 2024. Mathematics Conference "THINK! DO! KNOW!". Keynote speaker <https://www.r1sips.edu.lv/2024/10/4053/>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Moderator plenary session; Applied Research Conference of Latvian College Students and Faculty; March 27, 2025, Riga Technical College, <http://kolasoc.lv/lv/notikumi>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Participation in the discussion "Has the education system heard about the circular economy?". On July 5, 2024, at the "LAMPa" conversation festival held in Cēsis. <https://festivalslamp.lv/lv/vini-bus/5894?archive=true>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Participated in the development of the Latvian Circular Economy Index. On September 11, 2024, presented at the National Library of Latvia. <https://cleanrgrupa.lv/cleanr-grupas-un-ekspertu-vadiba-top-pirmais-latvijas-aprites-ekonomikas-indeks/>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Participated in the discussion cycle "Developing the Riga Region Together". On October 29, 2024, the Olaine County Business Support Center, in cooperation with the Riga Planning Region. <https://www.olaine.lv/lv/uznemejdarbiba/pasakumi%E2%80%93diskusiju-cikls-attistam-rigas-regionu-kopa-turpinas-olaine>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Participated in RTU "Coopetition" event, 26.03.2025
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Participated in a broadcast recording of "Apritprasma", episode 1 - a discussion about zero waste or a zero-waste lifestyle, together with "Zero Waste Latvija" board member Maija Krastiņa and CleanR group board member Guntars Levics, 4.10.2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y5sMEkezyg&t=2493s>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Participated in a broadcast recording of "Apritprasma", episode 4 - From idea to reality: The stories of Viskāļi and AkvaRīga. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZhbnwGYUKc&t=41s>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Participated in a broadcast recording of "Apritprasma", episode 5 - Neighborhood associations and local initiatives in a sustainable, circular city <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FFpLGZvfqY>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Organized a section on circular economy and social sustainability. 7th International Economic Forum, 7–9 March 2025, Latvian Academy of Sciences, Riga, Latvia. <https://economicforum.lv/agenda/>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Interview with Mobilizing; event "Growing Business Through People"; Latvia, Riga; event organized within the GreenEntre4Deaf Erasmus Project; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S310opPMrZI>

- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Interview with Sonido; event "Putting People First in Everyday Business"; Latvia, Riga; event organized within the GreenEntre4Deaf Erasmus Project; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rurF9Qomq0Y&t=1s>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Interview with Wings of Hope; event "Business with a Social Heart"; Latvia, Sigulda; event organized within the GreenEntre4Deaf Erasmus Project; acknowledgement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMiZM-sIdPo&t=2s>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Article "Sociālie uzņēmumi Latvijā". <https://www.delfi.lv/898102/versijas/120066964/liva-svarce-edgars-cerkovskis-socialie-uznemumi-latvija>
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Participated in the discussion "Circular municipalities - how much waste is "zero waste"?" organized by the Cēsis municipality as part of the "Lampa" festival in Cēsis, 21.06.2025.
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Participated in the event "Social Innovation Championship" organized by the Society Integration Foundation as part of the "Lampa" festival, in Cēsis, 20.06.2025.
- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** Article "Ģeopolitiskie izaicinājumi nedrīkst kavēt aprites ekonomikas attīstību", <https://www.delfi.lv/898102/versijas/120079816/edgars-cerkovskis-geopolitiskie-izaicinajumi-nedrikst-kavet-aprites-ekonomikas-attistibu>, 24.07.2025.
- **Jelena Budanceva.** 07.06.2025 - Ogre Family Day, participation in the discussion Artificial Intelligence and Fake News <https://okultura.lv/images/userfiles/zinam/A1%20%C4%A2imenes%20diena%20PROGRAMM A%20PNG.png>
- **Jelena Budanceva.** Workshop during EKA International Academic Week, 22.04.2025 - Building a Student Community: Strengthening Connections, Wellbeing and Belonging.
- **Jelena Budanceva.** Organised event: Journey of the Senses - Kauguri Youth Center, 8.01.2025. <https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=1585&lng=lva>
- **Jelena Budanceva.** Organised event: Variety of art. Creative workshops in visual art. EKA, May 9, 2025. <https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=1669&lng=lva#gsc.tab=0>
- **Jelena Budanceva.** Organised event: Parallels. Creative workshops in therapeutic art. Dali Art factory, May 16, 2025. <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1C3wHKPia2/>
- **Jelena Budanceva.** Organised event during Inventio Students Conference at EKA, May 31, 2025. Musical relaxation workshop.
- **Jelena Budanceva, Zane Veidenberga.** Chairs of the session: "CULTURE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURE PROJECT MANAGEMENT / CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, ART AND DESIGN". International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities" (etECH2025), Riga, Latvia, 23-24.04.2025
- **Artūrs Homins.** Article "Kultūra ir misija vai uzņēmējdarbība", <https://ir.lv/rubrika/viedoklis/kultura-ir-misija-vai-uznemejdarbiba.219613>, 04.07.2025.
- **Artūrs Homins.** Article "Apskatot jaunākās tendences kultūras funkcijās: no misijas līdz uzņēmējdarbībai" <https://sejas.tvnet.lv/8289759/viedoklis-apskatot-jaunakas-tendences-kulturas-funkcijas-no-misijas-lidz-uznemejdarbibai> 19.07.2025.
- **Marina Kamenecka-Usova, Karina Zalcmāne.** Participation in the 26th IASL International Congress of Sports Law. Governance of Transnational Football Leagues: The Case for a Baltic Football League. December 13-14, 2024, Athens, Greece.
- **Karina Zalcmāne.** Article in the journal Jurista Vārds, Nr.32 (1350), 2024: Parīzes Olimpisko spēļu drošība un pretterorisma stratēģiju novērtējums paaugstināta terorisma draudu apstākļos. <https://m.juristavards.lv/doc/285632-parizes-olimpisko-spelu-drosiba-un-preterorisma-strategiju-novertejums-paaugstinata-terorisma-draudu>
- **Marina Kamenecka-Usova.** Article in the journal Jurista Vārds, Nr.32 (1350), 2024: Sporta tiesību un diplomātijas mijiedarbība ceļā uz kopīgu mērķi. <https://m.juristavards.lv/doc/285630-sporta-tiesibu-un-diplomatijas-mijiedarbiba-cela-uz-kopigu-merki/>
- **Marina Kamenecka-Usova, Karina Zalcmāne.** Chairs of the session: "Law". International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities" (etECH2025), Riga, Latvia, 23-24.04.2025
- **Larisa Turuševa.** Scientific internship course delivery within the Bolashak Center for International Programs (Kazakhstan) within the program "Methodology and methods of teaching distance learning using Web technology and the development of digital educational resources for teachers in the context of modernization in education" June 1, 2024 – August 30, 2024

- **Larisa Turuševa.** Conducted a workshop for "European University" students on the topic "How to Create an Effective CV.", Tbilisi, Georgia, 2024, November 7. <https://eu.edu.ge/en/news/2664-latvian-professor-larisa-turuseva-conducted-workshop-students-topic-how-create-effective>
- **Larisa Turuševa, Kristīne Užule.** Chairs of the "Pedagogy and Education" Session, International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities" (etECH2025), Riga, Latvia, 23-24.04.2025
- **Larisa Turuševa.** Participation in Pearson Webinars: "AI in Language Teaching: 10 Major Evolutions You Need to Prepare For", "Adapting Assessment in the Age of AI: From Challenge to Opportunity", "Less planning, more Impact: Using AI to create effective lesson activities", March 24-28.
- **Nellijs Titova.** Corporate Sustainability Reporting in Central and Eastern European Companies, 2025. Chapter in monograph. Sustainability Reporting in Latvia: An Analysis of Compliance with Sustainability Reporting Standards
- **Inga Šīna.** Chair of the session: "Macroeconomics, International Economics, Public Economics and Financial Economics". International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities" (etECH2025), Riga, Latvia, 23-24.04.2025.
- **Inga Šīna.** Lecturer in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund project - for third-country nationals "Inclusive Activities" "Getting to Know Latvia" 31.10. – 29.11.2024, Riga
- **Inga Šīna.** Meeting of representatives of the EU Eurydice project countries on 10 - 11.10.2024 in Lisbon on education system issues, https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/e4084655-5566-489a-8181-9c18b6d5c58b/library/bec64f24-3cc1-413d-b1cc-94a34111a8df?p=1&n=10&sort=modified_DESC
- **Inga Šīna.** Conducting lecture courses "Marketing - new tendencies. ESG as a part of a marketing strategy. Learning for sustainability in Europe: Building competencies. Differences between ESG and SCR", ESIC University, faculty of International Relationships (Spain), April 2025.
- **Inga Šīna.** 2024. Video record "Practicing for Sustainability in Europe" https://youtu.be/KzYtd_OhSqw, which is included in the list of tools used by the CIRCULAR STEM project.
- **Inga Šīna.** Article "Arguments "priekšnieks teica, ka tā jādara" vairs nemotivē darbiniekus", <https://www.aprinkis.lv/index.php/viedokli/62642-inga-sina-arguments-prieksnieks-teica-ka-ta-jadara-vairs-nemotive-darbiniekus>, 11.07.2025.
- **Inga Šīna.** Article "Arguments "priekšnieks teica, ka tā jādara" vairs nemotivē darbiniekus", <https://www.ogrenet.lv/viedokli/inga-sina-arguments-prieksnieks-teica-ka-ta-jadara-vairs-nemotive-darbiniekus-15413> 12.07.2025.
- **Kaspars Šteinbergs.** Strategic Management Workshop, lecture delivered to European University students, Tbilisi, Georgia, 11.11.2024.
- **Kaspars Šteinbergs.** Chair of the session "Macroeconomics, International Economics, Public Economics and Financial Economics", etECH conference, April 24, 2025.
- **Kristīne Užule.** Lay Summary Collaborative library (2025). "Improving performance management through key human capital indicators in integrated reporting". <https://thecollaborativelibrary.com/improving-performance-management-through-key-human-capital-indicators-in-integrated-reporting/>
- **Velga Vēvere.** Chair of the session "Social Impact Research", etECH conference, April 24, 2025
- **Velga Vēvere.** "How not to get lost in the flow of information: a formal and informal introduction to critical thinking", 27.05.2025. Lecture for students of Ulbroka Secondary School and for students of Riga Secondary School 84
- **Vita Zariņa, Kristīne Užule.** PLZ.LV. Article: Integrētais pārskats kā ilgtspējas veicināšanas rīks : <https://www.plz.lv/integretais-parskats-ka-ilgtspejas-veicinasanas-riks/>
- **Vita Zariņa, Kristīne Užule.** PLZ.LV. Article: Vērtības radīšana kā sistēmisks process: finanšu un nefinanšu aspektu struktūresana integrētajā pārskatā, <https://www.plz.lv/vertibas-radisana-ka-sistemisks-process-finansu-un-nefinansu-aspektu-strukturesana-integretaja-parskata/>
- **Vita Zariņa.** PLZ.LV. Article: Nestrādājam tikai algas dēļ, bet tomēr tā svarīga! <https://www.plz.lv/nestradajam-tikai-algas-del-bet-tomer-ta-svariga/>
- **Vita Zariņa.** Professional conference organized on 29.11.2024. BALANCE CONFERENCE "Who should prepare for an accountant in 2025? New technologies in everyday work" <https://www.plz.lv/preces/bilances-konference/>
- **Vita Zariņa.** Article in the journal "Bilance". Kam atvaļinājums, kam karstākais darba cēliens! 04.07.2024. <https://www.plz.lv/kam-atvalinajums-kam-karstakais-darba-celiens/>

- **Vita Zariņa.** Article in the journal "Bilance". Dienas ar rudens smaržu. 04.09.2024. <https://www.plz.lv/dienas-ar-rudens-smarzu/>
- **Vita Zariņa.** Article in the journal "Bilance".07.10.2024. Laiks pārmaiņām! <https://www.plz.lv/bilances-galvena-redaktore-vita-zarina-laiks-parmainam/>
- **Vita Zariņa.** Article in the journal "Bilance". Atā, Bilance! Esi sveicināta, Bilance! <https://www.plz.lv/bilances-galvena-redaktore-vita-zarina-ata-bilance-esi-sveicinata-bilance/>
- **Vita Zariņa.** Mentor in the project of Association "Lidere", GREENWORAL – <https://www.lidere.lv/greenworall/>
- **Vita Zariņa.** Chair of the session "Macroeconomics, International Economics, Public Economics and Financial Economics", etECH conference, April 24, 2025.

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 2024/ 2025 EKA organised several educational events for academic staff:

- Staff Training Week (STW24), 23.09.2025.
- D'Learn webinar "Supporting the Green and Digital Transitions in Education and Training: Greening the Future", 12.12.2024.
- Annual Academic Conference "Organization of teaching, methodological, and scientific work within the study process", 30.01.2025.
- D'Learn seminar "AI for productivity: Practical Applications for Educators & Admins" 3-5.03.2025.
- International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities" (etECH2025), 23-24.04.2025.

Additionally representatives of EKA academic staff during 2024/2025 participated in different research competence trainings in another universities and institutions:

1. Gita Actiņa, On-line publication development school "Academic writing/ Publication writing", RTU;
2. Jelena Budanceva, Training "Google AI essential, Coursera and Riga Tech Girls;
3. Jevgenija Dehtjare, Doctoral Workshop "*Research Method and Reporting: reporting systematic literature review and developing research publications based on systematic literature review*"
4. Oksana Lentjušenkova, ENCATC Congress "*Culture that matters: Interdisciplinary Approaches for Sustainable Futures*"
5. Olegs Nikadimovs, LU doctoral study course "*Methodological aspects of quantitative and qualitative research approaches*"
6. Olegs Nikadimovs, Summer Doctoral School, Valency University (Spain)
7. Anna Strazda, 18th ASBBMC25 "*Human-Tech Era: Humans and Technology Shaping Sustainable Societies Together*", RISEBA
8. Anna, Strazda, Doctoral Workshop "*Research method and reporting: reporting systematic literature review and developing research publications based on systematic literature review*", RISEBA
9. Jelena Titko, Training "*FinTech Business Models*", RBS
10. Larisa Turuševa, Training "*Augstskolas didaktika: mūsdienu teorijas un prakse*", LU
11. Larisa Turuševa, Pearson Webinar "*Adapting Assessment in the Age of AI: From Challenge to Opportunity*", on-line

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 2024/2025 there were received 269 applications, 248 of them represented EKA. EKA students submitted 218 research abstracts as well as 7 descriptions of creative and artistic works (programmes "Interior Design" and "Digital Games Design and Graphics"). In addition, EKA students submitted 99 full text articles to the EKA/AK Student research paper collection.

In 2024/2025, EKA students also participated in other scientific and creative activities listed below:

- In September 2024, "Interior Design" second-year students participated in **creative workshop "Design Manifesto"** led by Lefteris Heretakis. During this event second-year students of the "Interior Design" study programme participated in a week-long workshop titled Design Manifesto, led by international lecturer Lefteris Heretakis. During the workshop, students developed and refined their personal design manifestos through intensive creative work. Lefteris Heretakis, Course Director at Buckinghamshire New University (UK), brought extensive international teaching experience and shared his unique perspective on design education. As the founder of the New Art School and the Design Education Forum, Heretakis emphasized the importance of combining traditional and digital skills in contemporary design practice. <https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=1540&lng=lva#gsc.tab=0>
- In January 2025, the gallery "Smilga" hosted an exhibition of works by Interior Design students from the EKA University of Applied Sciences. The exhibition **featured glass artworks** created during the study process and explored the concept of "Impulse" from various physical, psychological, and social perspectives. Inspired by Oscar Wilde's quote, "Impulse without reflection is chaos; impulse with reflection is art," students offered metaphorical and semiotic interpretations of inner and external motivation. The annual glass exhibition has become a tradition at EKA, presenting young designers' creativity to the public for the fifth consecutive year. <https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=1582&lng=lva#gsc.tab=0>
- In January 2025, "Computer game design" students participated in **WinterCon** – a Comic Con-style celebration of geek culture. Visitors had the chance to explore student-created games, ranging from virtual reality experiences to tactical board games. Highlights included *MixMaster VR*, *Eco-Bytes Tycoon*, *Tactical Barrage*, *Wriggles' Adventure*, and *Hunters of the Looney Bin*. The Latvian Game Stand was organized in collaboration with UniCon Latvia, the EKA University of Applied Sciences, and Laura Vilsona, showcasing student talent and

strengthening industry-academic cooperation.
<https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=1589&lng=lva#gsc.tab=0>

- In January, 2025, fourth-year students of the “Cultural Management” programme held a public exam in the form of a **Therapeutic Art Masterclass titled “In the Waves”**. The event was part of the study course *Creative Workshop: Therapeutic Art* and took place at AMORALLE LEVEL UP in Riga. Participants engaged in a deeply personal and creative experience, using artistic expression as a tool for emotional release, self-reflection, and inner peace. Through painting and guided introspection, the masterclass offered a unique blend of art and self-discovery, highlighting the transformative potential of creative practices in cultural education.
<https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=1583&lng=lva#gsc.tab=0>
- In May 2025, first-year students of the “Cultural Management” programme at EKA organized a public exam in the form of **seven creative workshops** under the course *Visual Art: Creative Workshop*, led by lecturer Baiba Guste, entitled “**Ambassadors of Artistic Diversity**”. The event brought colour and inspiration to all participants. Attendees explored diverse artistic styles and historical contexts, from Roman architecture and Dadaist collage to Cubism, Op Art, and abstract expressionism. The workshops encouraged creativity, play, and reflection. The event highlighted students’ practical skills in art-based engagement and was supported by the course instructor, EKA leadership, and the marketing team. <https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=1669&lng=lva#gsc.tab=0>

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*, *Oopen*, *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*, *JAMOV*, *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>
- Online submission system (via Sciendo) for the journal *Sustainability, Social Innovations and Digital Transformation* <https://sciendo.com/journal/SSIDT>

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

- “Main Folder” in OneDrive
- Moodle folder “Administrācija” <https://www.augstskola.lv/moodle/course/view.php?id=1100>
- 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>

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

- Project management platform: AdminProject <https://www.adminproject.eu/>
- Plagiarism detection: iThenticate <https://www.ithenticate.com/>
- Collaborative Library: <https://thecollaborativelibrary.com/>
- Project idea sharing platform (in cooperation with the European Digital Learning Network): DLearn Trello board <https://trello.com/b/i9s7ZNjg/dlearn>

In 2024/2025, 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 (66% of permanently employed (as per 17.06.2025)) and joint research activities, the results of which are reflected in scientific papers. 37% of the prepared papers in 2024/2025 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) or in scientific seminars and workshops, for example, workshop “AI for Productivity: Practical Application for Educators & Admins”, delivered on March 3-5 by Gianluca Coppola, President of DLearn Association.

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 2025, EKA Science Club unites 36 members.

EKA staff members jointly participated in EKA organized international events: etECH2025 – 29 EKA staff members; IAW2025 – 19 EKA staff members; STW2025 – 4 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/>

The 7th International Economic Forum took place in Riga during March 7-9, 2025. Representatives of EKA Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, Vice-Rector for Science and International Relations and Edgars Čerkovskis, European Commission Expert, Director of Circular Economy Master study programme participated in the plenary session with the report "Innovation and Ethics for Circular Economy" on March 7. On the next day the same EKA representatives moderated forum's section "Innovation and Ethics for Circular Economy".

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, Student Conference. EKA staff participated in the Alberta College Forum "Sustainable Development 2024" organised on November 23, 2024. Alberta College also cooperates with EKA in other fields, such as organization of visits to the enterprises. For example, on May 7, students of the Information Technology program of EKA and Alberta College, together with IT study program faculty member Aivars Herings, went on an informative and valuable excursion to the TET DATTUM data center in Riga.

On April 14-16, the "Event Master" competition organized by EKA and Alberta College has successfully concluded, during which 22 talented students created and defended their unique event concepts for the contemporary art museum "Zuzeum".

It is also planned to organize Research Incubator in August 2025 in cooperation with Alberta College.

Cooperation with Novikontas College

On September 18-19, 2024 EKA staff participated in the Participation of EKA in the IASST conference "Equipping green industries with safety-critical skills", organised by Novikontas College. Jelena Titko and Kristīne Užule participated as the key speakers in the session "Safety leadership and culture" with the report "The influence of psychological traits on staff perception of the importance of workplace safety culture".

Cooperation with the School of Public Administration (VAS)

On March 24, 2025 the agreement 06-15/1-2025 was signed between EKA and VAS in an order to proceed the research "Barriers (factors) that hinder the digital transformation process in public administrations". The School of Public Administration (VAS) will participate with its expertise, as well as, as part of the research, will send out questionnaires prepared by the School to public administration institutions and institutions.

4.3. National cooperation (with business and public sector)

Cooperation with the association Baltic Circular Eco-system (BaCES)

On April 2025, during the etECH conference, the official inauguration of the Baltic Circular Economy Ecosystem (BaCES) took place. Member of the board of BaCES is EKA Vice Rector for Science Jelena Titko. Director of the study program "Circular economy and social entrepreneurship" Edgars Čerkovskis is also very actively involved in the activities of the association.

Cooperation with the Latvian Personnel Management Association (hereinafter – LPVA)

On May 26 the agreement 4-17/25/03 was signed between EKA and LPVA in an order to proceed the research "The Digital Transformation of the Organization". LPVA will participate with its expertise, as well as, within the framework of the research, will send out questionnaires prepared by the EKA to the respondents of the study, LPVA members.

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 HR Intergroup Meeting on May 10 (where she presented a report "Networking Intelligence as an Element of Human Capital Development"). She also participates in several BNI groups, such as Cander (with the presentation "Duties of a Modern Manager" on November 21, 2024) and Steihaur (with the presentation "The role of women in science and innovation" on April 16, 2025 and presentation "EKA achievements 2014-2024" on June 4, 2025).

Cooperation with the SIA Tilde

Tilde is one of Europe's leading language technology companies.

The guest lecture "Large Language Models – Practical Insight for Programmers", led by Dr.sc.comp. Mārcis Pinnis, Head of Artificial Intelligence Development at SIA Tilde, provided an in-depth insight into the operation and use of large language models (LVMs). The lecture took place on May 24, 2025. Its goal was to explain to IT students both theoretically and practically what (large) language models are, how they are trained, and how they can be used in various practical applications of natural language processing.

Cooperation with the Bank of Latvia

On March 22, the guest lecture with Olga Lielkalne – Chief Economist of the Monetary Policy Analysis Division of the Monetary Policy Department of the Bank of Latvia was held at EKA. The chief economist explained in her lecture the nature of the Eurozone monetary policy and its impact on inflation and the economy as a whole. The audience gained a deeper understanding of the activities of the central bank and macroeconomic processes.

During the study year 2024-2025 cooperation in development of the book "Financial literacy and investments within the context of life-long learning" for Springer continued with the Bank of Latvia.

Cooperation with AirBaltic

On March 22, 2025 the guest lecture by Kristaps Mucīņš, revenue Analyst at AirBaltic took place in EKA in the framework of its course "Organization of scientific research methods and academic work".

Cooperation with Getliņi EKO Environmental Education Center

On February 21, 2025 students of EKA in the field of circular economy and social entrepreneurship, together with Professor Tambovceva (RTU) and Program Director Čerkovskis, visited the Getliņi EKO Environmental Education Center to gain an in-depth understanding of modern circular economy approaches to resource management and energy production.

Such practical study visits provide students with the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in practice, get acquainted with the latest trends in the circular economy, and develop a sustainable perspective on resource management.

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 Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship Program Director Edgars Čerkovskis was elected as a member of the new council at the general meeting of the Latvian Social Entrepreneurship Association (LSUA) on March 20. Liva Svarce, representative of LSUA participated in the session “Social Impact Research” during etECH conference on April 23-24, 2025.

Cooperation with NewDoor Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator

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

On April 2025, during the etECH conference, the official inauguration of the Baltic Circular Economy Ecosystem (BaCES) took place. BaCES was co-founded by EKA, New Door and Panakumu Universss, supported by New Door member of the board Diana Lapkis.

Other co-founder of New Door, Maria Povilaite participated in etECH plenary session as a key speaker with her report “Social impact measurement and management”. Both co-founders participated in the conference’s session “Social impact research” with the report “Social innovation ecosystem impact assessment framework study”.

Both New Door co-founders also actively participate in scientific research, participating in cooperation with EKA researchers in international conferences, such as 15th International Scientific Conference Business and Management in Vilnius in 15-16 of May, 2025. 2 reports were presented there under the research direction “Social Impact Research”:

- Titko J., Lapkis D., Uzule K., Povilaite M., Dehtjare J. Social innovations in social services: concept and main features.
- Uzule K., Dehtjare J., Sannikova A., Čerkovskis E., Lapkis D., Kiladze L. A conceptual maturity model for social entrepreneurship within the framework of integrated reporting.

In the year 2025 New Door also participated in the submittance of the project application SMP-COSME-2024-SEE: Social economy enterprises: capacity building and business opportunities for social circular enterprises.

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 “Apritprasme” records and organizes public stages during LAMPA Conversation Festival in the years 2024 and 2025.

Cooperation with IEBER.LV

EKA and IEBER.LV provide joint workshops for students on creation of sustainable business ideas. For example, on January 11, 2025 a creative workshop was held in EKA, led by Agnese Gaidelone from the company ieber.lv

Cooperation with Riga Business Association.

On February 18, 2025 the national workshop of the ESF project GREENET, in which the Riga Entrepreneurs' Association is an associated partner, took place online. EKA Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship Program Director Edgars Čerkovskis introduced the project's goals, research results and future challenges for both the entire European Union and Latvia. The lecturer emphasized the achievements already made in achieving the goals of Latvia's Green Deal.

4.4. International cooperation

Circular STEM project

Since 2023, EKA is a partner in the International project "Boosting Circular Economy Competences for STEM Teachers" (Circular STEM).

Project coordinator: Agrupamento de Escolas de Frazão, Paços de Ferreira (Portugal). Project partners: European Digital Learning Network (Italy), Institut za moderno obrazovanje (Serbia), POLITEKNIKA IKASTEGIA TXORIERRI S.COOP (Spain), EKA University of Applied Sciences - EKA (Latvia), EIT RawMaterials GmbH (Germany).

Circular STEM aims to develop an innovative learner-centred methodology to train STEM teachers of students aged 13-18 to introduce circular economy (CE) competences in the school curriculum, using an entrepreneurial approach to education that also leverages on digital skills. The project will have an underlying approach focusing on empowering girls in using digital tools and raising their interest in STEM subjects.

The Circular STEM project has been working on the creation of the Circular STEM Academy. EKA, as the project partner responsible for the implementation of this activity, has developed a Moodle website, which hosts all the developed learning materials (60) created by each of the project partners. Over the past six months, this website has been tested both among the project partners and in schools in Serbia, Portugal and Spain. The academy has created and hosted materials for learning about the circular economy in STEM subjects. The Moodle course will be completed by the end of July, after which it will be available for public use. In parallel, work has been underway to develop a memorandum of understanding, which provides for the conclusion of agreements with at least two secondary education institutions, committing them to use the developed materials.

Also, on June 19, 2025, a Multiplier Event was held at EKA. Secondary school teachers and other interested parties participated. During the event, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Jolanta Baltina (Rīgas Tālmācības vidusskola) and Kristiāna Kalniņa (Panākumu Universss).



Singing of Memorandum of Understanding

On 1–2 July 2025, Dr. oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs, Project Manager of the Scientific Institution of the EKA University of Applied Sciences, participated in the final meeting of the partners of the

Erasmus+ project “Circular STEM.” The meeting took place at the Politeknika Txorierri training centre in Bilbao, Spain.

Circular STEM is financed and supported by the European Commission, Erasmus + Programme, KA220-SCH - Cooperation partnerships in school education (Project grant agreement No. 2022-1-PT01-KA220-SCH-000086954)

FIFA Research Scholarship

In 2024, FIFA Selection Committee has selected and awarded research scholarship to Karina Zalcmane and Marina Kamenecka-Usova (representatives of EKA study programme “Law”) in carrying out the research project “Globalization of Football – The Emergence of Baltic Football League and Legal Analysis of Governance Practices for Success”.

In October 2024, as part of the project, Karina Zalcmane and Marina Kamenecka-Usova were in the Netherlands and Germany, where they interviewed the management of the Dutch Eredivisie League.

At the end of May 2025, they submitted the entire project.



CEO of Eredivisie Jan de Jong, General
Secretary of Eredivisie Victor Vliegthart,
October 2024

GREENENTRE4DEAF project

EKA University of Applied Sciences is a partner in the new 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 is funded by the European Union Erasmus+ programme KA220-HED Cooperation partnerships in higher education, its number is 2024-1-ES01-KA220-HED-000245483 and duration 01.12.2024.-30.11.2026. (24 months).

The project's goal is to improve higher education's ability to make flexible pathways by starting an accredited GREEN ENTREPRENEURIAL course with a modular structure for people who work with deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Specifically, GREENENTRE4DEAF will set up ENTREGREEN LIVING HUBs to support modular courses on green and business skills for deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) students.

The project aims to create inclusive, green-focused entrepreneurial education for deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) individuals by developing innovative teaching methods and establishing GREENENTRE LIVING HUBs. It fosters green skill acquisition, digital transformation, and social

inclusion by enhancing educators' competencies and providing digital tools like mobile apps and VR simulators. The project supports sustainable, transferable outcomes across sectors, enabling DHH learners to understand entrepreneurial and environmental concepts, thus empowering them to contribute actively to a greener, more inclusive society.

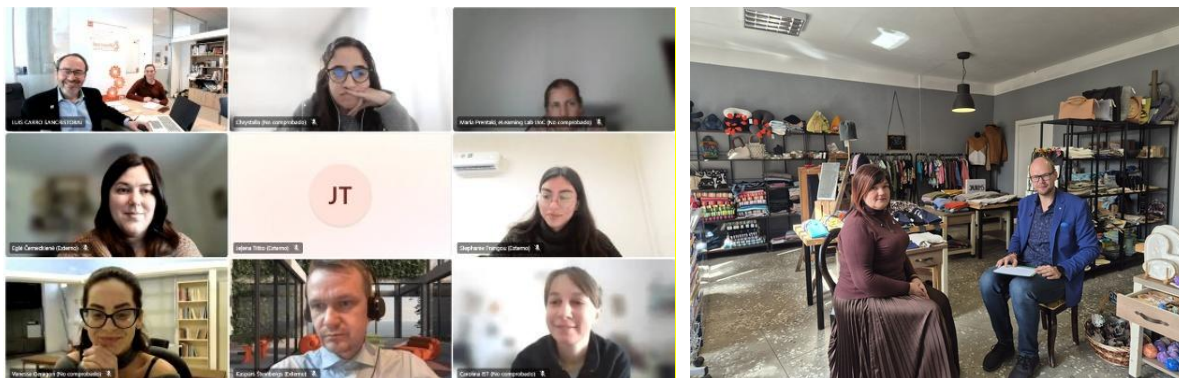
The coordinator of the project is UNIVERSIDAD DE VALLADOLID, Spain.

Partners of the project are following institutions: PANEPISTIMIO KRITIS, Greece; Fondazione Istituto dei Sordi di Torino, Italy; EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia; European Digital Learning Network, Italy; DISE LTD, Cyprus; KLAIPEDOS VALSTYBINE KOLEGIJA, Lithuania; European Association of Erasmus Coordinators, Cyprus.

Project achievements since December 2024:

- Six project partner meetings have been held, at which EKA was represented by the project manager of the EKA Scientific Institution, Dr. oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs.
- Two meetings of the project EKA team have been held in January and June.
- A map of good practice examples has been developed, which includes ten examples from Latvia, where organizations have created an inclusive environment for DHH individuals (hard of hearing and deaf individuals) in various ways. E. Čerkovskis and K. Šteinbergs participated in the activity. Available here: <https://greenentre4deaf.eu/mapping-tool/>
- Three video interviews have been conducted, reflecting in detail the inclusion of DHH personnel in the labour market. E. Čerkovskis, M. Punculis, and Z. Veidenberga worked on the video production. The interviews were conducted with:
 - Santa Beitāne, Chairman of the Board of SIA "Mobilizing", about the activities of the driving school for DHH persons. Video available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S310opPMrZI>
 - Inga Muižniece, owner of SIA "Sondio," about a call centre that employs people with hearing impairments. Video available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rurF9Qomq0Y>
 - Eva Viļķina, founder of SIA "Visi var," discusses a social enterprise that employs people with hearing impairments and provides them the opportunity to sell their products. Video available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lMiZM-sIdPo>
- An analysis of study programs suitable for people with hearing impairments was conducted (K. Šteinbergs and A. Sannikova), and on July 18, the first consultation session was held with the participation of employers, teaching staff, and people with hearing impairments (A. Sannikova and E. Čerkovskis).
- A description of "green" professions suitable for DHH individuals was developed (K. Užule), which will be further integrated into VR scenarios.

In April 2025, during the annual International Academic Week (IAW 2025) organised by the EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA), Kaspars Šteinbergs introduced the idea and goals of the GREENENTRE4DEAF project, as well as the progress of its implementation, to representatives of the academic staff from 14 countries. IAW 2025 was attended by participants from Austria, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey, and the USA. During the presentation, a video interview with Santa Beitāne, the board member of the social enterprise "Mobilising", was shown, in which Edgars Čerkovskis, director of the EKA study program "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship", discussed the experience of including deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the labour market. The interview provided attendees with a deeper insight into the concept of the GREENENTRE4DEAF project and the social issues it aims to address.



K. Šteinbergs on kick off meeting on
December 16, 2024

E. Čerkovskis and Indra Seļukas,
April 2025



Workshop "GREENENTRE4DEAF"
during IAW, April 2025

GREENENTRE4DEAF Project is funded by the European Union Erasmus+ programme KA220-HED Cooperation partnerships in higher education, Project grant agreement No. 2024-1-ES01-KA220-HED-000245483.

SHIELD Project

The EKA University of Applied Sciences, together with international partners, is implementing a project, "United for Cyber Safety—Up-Skilling High School Communities for Protecting Students, SHIELD," within three years in the field of vocational education and training.

Project objectives:

- Enhance the cybersecurity skills of secondary school teachers, principals, and psychologists to address the challenges posed by increasing cyber threats effectively.
- Address the lack of knowledge and resources in schools regarding cybersecurity by providing targeted training, tools, and support services.
- Assist high school staff in developing and implementing cybersecurity policies that align with best practices and protocols for handling sensitive information and responding to incidents.

Project leading partner is CYRIL AND METHODIUS UNIVERSITY IN SKOPJE (Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia), project partners are SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST KLIMENT OHRIDSKI (Sofia, Bulgaria); UNIVERSITETI NDERKOMBETAR PER BIZNES DHE TEKNOLOGJI UBT SHPK (Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo); EKONOMIKAS UN KULTŪRAS AUGSTSKOLA (EKA University of Applied Sciences) (Riga, Latvia).

On December 2, 2024, the SHIELD project partners gathered at an online kick-off meeting to discuss and agree on the next steps in its implementation. The meeting participants were introduced to the project administration principles, implementation stages, timeline, support tools, achievable results, and financing. EKA University of Applied Sciences was represented at the meeting by EKA Vice-Rector for Science Dr.oec. Jelena Titko and EKA Scientific Institution Project Manager Dr.oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs.

Project achievements since December 2024:

- Four project partner meetings have been held, where EKA was represented by the project manager of the EKA Scientific Institution, Dr. oec. Kaspars Šteinbergs.
- The first TPM was held on 10-11 April in Skopje, where EKA was represented by the Vice-Rector for Science and International Cooperation, Prof. J. Titko.
- The first interviews with school representatives on cybersecurity issues have been conducted (P. Morevs).



Kick off meeting of SHIELD project,
December 2025

Project is funded by the European Union Erasmus+ programme KA220-VET Cooperation Partnership in Vocational Education and Training, project number is 2024-1-MK01-KA220-VET-000255683, and its duration is 01.11.2024.-31.10.2027. (36 months).

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.

Activities throughout the Action will help bridge the gap between research and practice. The Action will also provide policy guidance and recommendations for government, civil organisations and funding bodies.

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.

Connecting Critical Pedagogies, Inclusive Art Forms and Alternative Barometers for Urban Sustainability (CIRCUL'ARTs) (CA23117) project

CIRCUL'ARTs is a COST action project, its period is 18.10.2024-17.10.2028. CIRCUL'ARTs develops an innovative methodology to stimulate the emergence of solutions towards more circular and sustainable cities, based on a 'dynamic ecology of knowledge'. This implies new ways of co-creating knowledge, sharing it and transforming it into action, orientating our learning towards more practical action. Most of all, this new methodology consists in stepping out of a Euro-centric perspective and taking into consideration plural voices and needs, ancestral and indigenous knowledge, creative micro-strategies developed at a local level – a body of information that has remained hitherto unconsidered.

EKA representative, Professor Jelena Titko, is engaged in CA23117 as:

- Management Committee member from Latvia
- Member of the Working group WG4 - Innovation through creative and circular technologies
- Member of the Working group WG6 – Dissemination and Recommendations

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.

Establishing Networks to Implement the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations (IMPLEMENDEZ) (CA22128) project

IMPLEMENDEZ is a COST action project, its period is 05.10.2023-04.10.2027.

This Action involves a timely and much-needed strategy of convening regional and in-country networks of researchers, practitioners and policy makers working with each other and with the Action Team to build on our early work to enable wider implementation of the 'Mendez Principles', ending cruel and inhumane practices that have adversely affected so many lives through unethical interrogations.

EKA representative, Associate Professor Karina Zalcmāne, is engaged in CA22128 as a Member of the Working group WG2 - Law, Human Rights, Criminal Justice Themes.

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

Table 5. Summary of EKA participation in international projects in 2024/2025

<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	"Globalization of Football – The Emergence of Baltic Football League and Legal Analysis of Governance Practices for Success"	FIFA Research Scholarship	
2023-2027	EU Circular Economy Network for All: Consumer Protection through reducing, reusing, repairing (ECO4ALL)	COST ACTION CA22124	
2023-2027	Establishing Networks to Implement the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations (IMPLEMENDEZ)	COST ACTION CA22128	
2024-2028	Critical perspectives on career and career guidance (COCAG)	COST ACTION CA23112	
2024-2028	Connecting Critical Pedagogies, Inclusive Art Forms and Alternative Barometers for Urban Sustainability (CIRCUL'ARTs)	COST ACTION CA23117	
2024-2028	Digital Mental Health for Young People (YouthDMH)	COST ACTION CA23153	
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)

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).

On August 26, 2024 a contract No 4-8/24/09 was signed between EKA and DLearn President Gianluca Coppola to conduct the course "Designing and Writing Successful European Projects with Artificial Intelligence" during the international staff training week (EKA STW 2024). The course was delivered accordingly during the period of September 23-27, 2024.

It brought together 19 participants from various EU countries, including Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Spain and Turkey. Throughout the week, participants engaged in a series of enriching activities, led by Gianluca Coppola, President and Founder of the European Digital Learning Network.



Training during the course "Designing and Writing Successful European Projects with Artificial Intelligence", September 23-27, 2024

In winter, on December 12, 2024 a webinar titled "Supporting the Green and Digital Transitions in Education and Training: Greening the Future" was organized by EKA University of Applied Sciences in collaboration with the European Digital Learning Network ETS as part of the DigitEdu 2024 project. The event gathered 7 expert speakers and 52 listeners from across 14 countries to explore sustainable and digital innovations in education. The record of the webinar is available on YouTube for further use.

Later, in January, 21-22, DLearn Members gather in Milan for Project Lab 2025. DLearn members convened in Milan, Italy, on January 21-22, 2025, for their annual Project Labs event. This face-to-face meeting marked the culmination of collaborations initiated in 2024, with a primary focus on Erasmus KA2 Strategic Partnership projects. Over 20 project ideas were discussed and prepared for submission in March 2025.



DLearn Members gather in Milan for Project Lab 2025, January 21-22

The event also included a discussion on integrating AI into the development of project proposals and optimizing daily workflows. EKA University of Applied Sciences was represented by Vice-Rector for Science and International Cooperation, Dr. Jelena Titko, and Project Manager, Dr. Kaspars Steinbergs.

As part of its collaboration with DLearn, EKA University of Applied Sciences hosted an AI training session from March 3-5, 2025, led by DLearn President Gianluca Coppola. The training, titled "AI for Productivity: Practical Applications for Educators & Admins," focused on enhancing AI literacy and digital skills among EKA's administration, program directors, and Scientific Institution representatives.

Participants explored AI-powered tools such as QuillBot, Gamma AI, LearningStudioAI, TranskriptorAI, ChatPDF, SpeechfyAI, Fireflies.ai, Synthesia, Beautiful.AI, and PictoryAI to improve workplace efficiency, automate processes, and enhance communication. The training also featured discussions on AI ethics, best practices, and the integration of AI in education management.

This event reinforced EKA's commitment to digital transformation and its active role in the DLEARN network, equipping staff with essential AI-driven skills to enhance productivity and innovation in higher education.



AI training session, March 3-5, 2025

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



Membership in ENAI

In 2023, EKA became a member of the European Network of Academic Integrity (ENAI) <https://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/>

EKA representatives take part in activities of the ENAI Working groups (<https://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/academic-integrity-policies-working-group/>):

- Karina Zalcmane is involved in group “Academic Integrity Policies”
- Jelena Titko works in group “Academic Writing Ethically”

In June 2025 ENAI organised 11th Annual “European Conference on Ethics and Integrity in Academia 2025”, that was held in Uppsala University in Sweden. Assoc. Prof. Kristine Užule and Head of Research Administration Unit Anna Strazda contributed to this conference by presenting their latest findings:

- Uzule, K. (2025). Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity concepts in internal regulatory documents of higher education institutions in Latvia. The paper was discussed in scientific session “Equity and Diversity in Academic Integrity” on 17th June.
- Strazda, A., Titko, J. & Budanceva, J. (2025). Perception of Research Integrity by Researchers in Higher Education Institutions: Case of Latvia. The paper was discussed in scientific session “Policy Development” on 19th June.

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.

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.

In 2024 ENCATC organised the Congress, titled "Culture that matters: Interdisciplinary Approaches for Sustainable Futures," that took place in Lecce, Italy, from September 18-20, 2024. EKA Ast. Prof. Jelena Budanceva and Prof. Oksana Lentjušenkova participated in Congress events.

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.

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 April 23-24, 2025 EKA University of Applied Sciences in cooperation with Alberta College, Ferris State University, Ambis University, Sumy State University and Association of Latvian Economists organized the International Scientific Conference EMERGING TRENDS IN ECONOMICS, CULTURE AND HUMANITIES (etECH2025).

This was an 9th etECH conference that attracted participants from Argentina, Austria, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, North Makedonia, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, and USA, that presented their research results in eight parallel sessions:

- MACROECONOMICS, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, PUBLIC ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS (Chairpersons Dr. Associate Professor Vita Zariņa, Dr. Professor Inga Šīna EKA)
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY (Chairpersons Mg. Edgars Čerkovskis, EKA, Dr. Inga Uvarova BA School of Business and Finance, Dr. Professor Viktorija Skvarciany, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University)
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE FINANCE (Chairpersons Dr. Kaspars Šteinbergs, EKA, Ing. Renata Skypalova PhD, AMBIS University)
- SOCIAL IMPACT RESEARCH (Chairpersons Dr. Professor Velga Vēvere, EKA, Dr. Andriew Lim, Hotelschool The Hague, the Netherlands)
- LAW (Chairpersons Dr. Associate Professor Karina Zalcmane, Dr. Associate Professor Marina Kamenecka-Usova, EKA)
- PEDAGOGY AND EDUCATION (Chairpersons Dr. Associate Professor Kristine Užule, Dr. Larisa Turuševa, EKA)
- ICT SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMY, BUSINESS AND EDUCATION (Chairpersons Dr. Professor Uwe Busbach, University of Applied Sciences Kehl, Dr. Professor Tatjana Tambovceva, Riga Technical University)
- CULTURE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURE PROJECT MANAGEMENT / CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, ART AND DESIGN (Assistant Professor Jelena Budanceva, Assistant Professor Zane Veidenberga, EKA)



etECH2024 Plenary section 23/04/2025



Presentation of key speaker James Cochran, USA



Culture studies section best paper award ceremony

International Academic Week

On April 22-26, 2025, the EKA University of Applied Sciences organized an annual International Academic Week (IAW2025) in cooperation with Alberta College. This year, EKA hosted 43 participants from 14 countries: Austria, Colombia, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey, and the USA.

Table 6. IAW2024 activities

Date	Participant	HEI/ Organization	Activity
22.04.2025.	DORIA ROMERO ELSA MARIA	Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana-UPB Monteria, COLOMBIA	Tourism Contribution to Sustainable Development
22.04.2025.	VERONIKA NALEPOVA	European Research University, CZECHIA	Corporate taxes
22.04.2025.	ADAM JANISZEWSKI	University of Economics in Katowice, POLAND	Organizational communication – critical perspective on conditions & effects in the post-fordism workplace
22.04.2025.	LEONARDO PEROZO	Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo-INTEC, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Business Economics in Dominican Republic
22.04.2025.	ANN SAURBIER	West Liberty University, USA	Applying Personality and Perceptual Theory to Create and Lead More Effective Teams
22.04.2025.	NADEZDA KLABUSAYOVA	European Research University, Czech Republic	Quality Management

22.04.2025.	HATICE NIDA CIVAN	Beykent University, TURKEY	Brand Management
22.04.2025.	DOMINIKA KOLODZIEJ	University of Economics in Katowice, POLAND	International Quality Standards
22.04.2025.	JELENA BUDANCEVA	EKA University of Applied Sciences, LATVIA	Building a Student Community: Strengthening Connections, Wellbeing and Belonging
22.04.2025.	ALEXANDRA KUHNLE-SCHADN	IMC University of Applied Sciences, AUSTRIA	Accounting and Finance
22.04.2025.	TETTEH SANGMORKUOR	University of Professional Studies, Accra, GHANA	Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development
22.04.2025.	JELENA TOPIC BOZIC	Faculty for Industrial Engineering Novo mesto, SLOVENIA	Effective research skills: search strategies, citations, and reference management
22.04.2025.	AIJA POIKANE-DAUMKE,	EKA University of Applied Sciences, LATVIA	Cultural Diversity: Models, Behaviours, Misconceptions.
22.04.2025.	KASPARS STEINBERGS	EKA University of Applied Sciences, LATVIA	GREENENTRE4DEAF Project Experience
23.04.2025.	EUGENE ABLADE ONINKU	University of Professional Studies, Accra, GHANA	The law of breach of confidence: A comparative approach between Ghana and Latvia
23.04.2025.	MARCIN KOMANDA	Opole University of Technology, POLAND	Sales Management
23.04.2025.	AYCA MADEN	Beykent University, TURKEY	Innovation Management
23.04.2025.	AGNIESZKA POWIERSKA-DOMALEWSKA	State Academy of Applied Sciences, POLAND	Digital Balance
23.04.2025.	BARBARA DELADEM MENSAH	University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA), GHANA	Managerial Economics
23.04.2025.	STANISLAV ROJIK	College Polytechnics Jihlava, CZECH REPUBLIC	Marketing Management
25.04.2025.	MATEUSZ OSIECKI	Lazarski University in Warsaw, POLAND	International legal aspects of investigating aviation accidents and incidents
25.04.2025.	PEČIULIS TOMAS	Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, LITHUANIA	Advanced macroeconomics
25.04.2025.	MEHMET RECAI UYGUR	SMK College of Applied Sciences, LITHUANIA	Effect of war on Business Economics



IAW2025 participants

International Staff Training Week

The ERASMUS+ EKA STW2024 International Staff Training Week, hosted by EKA University of Sciences in cooperation with European Digital Learning Network (www.dlearn.eu) took place on

September 23-27, 2024. It brought together 19 participants from various EU countries, including Austria, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Spain and Turkey. Supported by the EKA Scientific Institution, the event named “Designing and Writing Successful European Projects with Artificial Intelligence” aimed to enhance HEIs staff’s (researchers, project managers, representatives of international relations etc) project writing skills.

Throughout the week, participants engaged in a series of enriching activities, led by Gianluca Coppola, President and Founder of the European Digital Learning Network including followed lectures and seminars:

- Myths and Facts About Chat GPT: how to use smartly AI for writing and managing EU projects
- Prompt Literacy: How to create effective prompts to get the best results from the AI’s model
- Responsible Use of Chat GPT
- Writing with Chat GPT: how we can engage with the AI to improve the quality of our contents
- Developing Winning Grant Proposal by the AI tools
- Writing Winning Grant - The Implementation

The week culminated with the co-working day, when the participants got an opportunity to write a new brand project using the AI and the notions learnt.

19 participants from 11 universities and other institutions participated in the event:

1. Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary
2. Kütahya Dumlupinar University, Turkey
3. Friedrich Schiller Universität Jena, Germany
4. University College Cork, Ireland
5. University of Lapland, Finland
6. Vilnius University, Lithuania
7. University of Applied Sciences FH Campus Wien, Austria
8. Fondazione Istituto dei Sordi di Torino ONLUS, Italy
9. Universidad Camilo José Cela, Spain
10. EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia
11. Alberta College, Latvia



STW2024 Final day



STW2024 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.

In 2025, the EKA in cooperation with the Alberta College organised the Students' international scientific-practical conference "INVENTIO" 2025: MOVE THE SCIENCE. The conference was held on May 30-31, 2025.

Following students were awarded for the best papers in the sessions:

- **FOREIGN STUDENTS SESSION I**

Darika Nirujani Nanayakkara Malalgodapitiya Gamage. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Integrating digital technologies to enhance CSR strategies for companies in Latvia (Sc. supervisor Velga Vevere).

Kavindi Ranasinghearachchi. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Citizen's satisfaction with service quality and digitization of the banking industry in Sri Lanka (Sc. supervisor Jelena Titko).

- **FOREIGN STUDENTS SESSION II**

Ashaka Ruchiran Jayathunga Balapitiya Liyanage. EKA University of Applied Sciences. The influence of implementing social entrepreneurial sustainability strategies on tourism development in Sri Lanka (Sc. supervisor Velga Vevere).

- **ONLINE SESSION**

Kristīne Broka. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Competitiveness of construction companies in Latvia and the influencing factors. (Sc. supervisor Agita Doniņa).

- **SESSION "DESIGN AND IT"**

Polina Fedotova, Margarita Ceceruka, Madara Elizabete Jaunbērziņa, Dāvis Bērziņš. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Development of the game "The Abyss of Me". (Sc. supervisor Anete Bērza)

Edgars Horsts. Alberta College. Development of a Virtual Reality Video Game with the Implementation of Cybersickness Mitigation Techniques (Sc. supervisor Maksims Žigunovs)

- **SESSION "CULTURE" I**

Anna Buža. EKA University of Applied Sciences. The impact of migration on the future plans of young people in Latvia. (Sc. supervisor Jelena Budanceva)

- **SESSION "CULTURE" II**

Darja Golubeva. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Youth tendency to sympathise with right-wing political parties. (Sc. supervisor Jelena Budanceva)

- **SESSION "MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING" I**

Polina Pursakova, Jūlija Kupcova, Sanda Paeglīte. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Innovations in the real estate rental market in Latvia (Sc. supervisor Vita Zariņa).

Kristīne Daktiņa. Alberta College. Societal Understanding of Public Relations (Sc. supervisor Ilze Krūmiņa).

- **SESSION "MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING" II**

Anna Krecere – Bernarte. EKA University of Applied Sciences. Factors influencing the sustainable behavior of Riga residents. (Sc. supervisor Jelena Titko)



Participants of the students' conference, 31.05.2025.

Learning and methodical conference

On January 30, 2025, the Educational-Methodological Conference "Organization of Teaching Methodological and Scientific Work in the Study Process" was held at the EKA, organized by the EKA University of Applied Sciences and Alberta College. The topic of the conference was "Organization of Teaching Methodological and Scientific Work in the Study Process" and it included following reports:

- Use of artificial intelligence tools in the development of teaching materials
- Advantages and benefits of using interactive branched scenarios developed in the H5P program in distance learning
- Application of generative artificial intelligence for the preparation and management of interactive lessons

Presenters:

- Edgars Čerkovskis, Mg.oec, Associate Professor, Director of the Academic Master's Study Programme Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship (EKA), Latvia
- Jolanta Dinsberga, PhD, Lecturer, Judge of the Permanent Court of Arbitration of Europe and the International Court of Arbitration, Latvia
- Levs Fainglozs, PhD, Artificial Intelligence Researcher, Latvia

5.2. EKA publishing activities

Each year, conference abstract proceedings are published as part of the etECH Conference. This year it includes 100 research abstracts (available at: https://www.augstskola.lv/upload/2025_etECH2025_Abstracts_proceedings_FINAL_UPD_060525.pdf)

The best articles are published in the scientific journal "Economics and Culture". The magazine is issued twice a year (in June and December) by the International Publishing House SCIENDO. <https://sciendo.com/journal/JEC?top-tab=volumes-issues>) Since 2023, "Economics and Culture" is indexed by ERIH+; since 2024 – by SCOPUS. Since 2025, all papers are submitted through the online submission system EditorialManager <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jec/>

Since 2015, EKA in cooperation with Alberta College, has been issuing a collection of scientific articles "Collection of student scientific research papers". 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, a collection of conference abstracts is published in the framework of a joint conference organized by EKA and Alberta College. The issue of 2025 contains 201 abstracts of student research.

In 2025, EKA signed the agreement with SCIENDO about the new journal "Sustainability, Social Innovations and Digital Transformation" (SSIDT) <https://sciendo.com/journal/SSIDT>. The first issue is planned for December 2025.

The issues published by EKA are available on the EKA webpage <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=829&lng=lva>

