

EKA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

**SCIENTIFIC AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY
2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

Riga 2024

“The Annual Report of the EKA University of Applied Sciences on scientific activities 2023/2024” is issued in accordance with the Law on Scientific Activity of the Republic of Latvia.

Author:

Jelena Titko

Vice-Rector for Science and International Relations, Dr. oec., Professor

e-mail: jelena.titko@eka.edu.lv

Annual Report on the Scientific Activity of the EKA University of Applied Sciences,
2023/2024

Riga: EKA University of Applied Sciences, 2024.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	4
THE PRIORITIES OF THE EKA UNIVERSITY IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH.....	5
Pr1 PRIORITY "QUALITY ASSURANCE IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY".....	6
Pr2 PRIORITY "INVOLVEMENT OF ACADEMIC STAFF IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY IN EACH STUDY DIRECTION"	8
2.1. Priority research directions and research teams.....	8
2.2. Scientific achievements of EKA academic staff.....	11
Pr3 PRIORITY "INVOLVEMENT OF STUDENTS IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY IN EACH STUDY DIRECTION"	22
Pr4 PRIORITY "COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY"	23
4.1. Institutional cooperation.....	23
4.2. National cooperation.....	24
4.3. International cooperation	28
4.4. EKA cooperation with business and public sector.....	26
Pr5 PRIORITY "Scientific reputation of EKA"	40
5.1. Scientific, academic and creative events organized by EKA	40
5.2. EKA publishing activities.....	46

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".

The policy challenge of the STDIG is to develop a research and development (R&D) system that ensures a sustainable development of R&D human capital, knowledge, skills, competences and technologies, thereby contributing to the acquisition of quality education and skills, enhancement of social and economic welfare and security, improvement of the quality of life and transition to a climate-neutral economy.

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.

The scientific vision of the EKA University of Applied Sciences is defined in line with the overall vision of EKA development: "EKA is developing as an inter-branch multicultural university. It prepares knowledgeable, creative and independent personalities who are excellent professionals in their areas. EKA is associated with competitive education, internationally acknowledged diplomas, high professional quality of our graduates, well-developed scientific research base and highly qualified academic and administrative personnel."

The main objective of EKA **in the development of science and research** is to enhance the competitiveness of the university by building a strong base of scientific infrastructure and human resources, strengthening the cooperation between the science and business sectors, developing the transfer of research results to business, thus contributing to the achievement of the Latvian national strategic development goals.

Our success pillars are:

Interdisciplinary approach to study process implementation. EKA implements study programmes in different thematic groups which, in turn, promote a multidisciplinary approach to carrying out research and creative work:

1. Social sciences, commercial sciences - study directions "Economics", "Business management, administration and real estate management" (hereinafter referred to as "Management direction") and "Law";

2. Natural sciences, mathematics, information technology – the study direction "Information technology, hardware, electronics, telecommunications, computer, and computer science " (hereinafter "IT direction")
3. The humanities and arts - study direction "Arts".

Intercultural environment. In today's globalized world, successful business is based on cross-cultural literacy, which provides opportunities to navigate freely in the international market. By combining the economy and culture in its conception, by offering study programmes in different languages, by giving its students the opportunity to participate in seminars of foreign professors and master study courses abroad, by organizing international scientific and creative events, EKA is preparing business people for their work in the international business environment.

Creative and innovative approach to study. EKA provides both a face-to-face and distance learning process in the e-environment, offering e-studies where lectures, seminars and tutorials with teachers, as well as examinations take place in online virtual classrooms. EKA students are provided with the opportunity to acquire knowledge through the innovative infrastructure of EKA: simultaneous interpreting classroom, business simulations, DIG laboratory, court hall and artistic creation rooms.

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 (ZRDAS2023) of the EKA University was developed in 2021. ZRDAS2023 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)".

ZRDAS2023 defines EKA's priorities in research and creative activities:

Priority "Quality assurance in research and creative activity" (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.

Priority "Involvement of academic staff in research and creative activity in each study direction" (Pr2)

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

Priority "Involvement of students in research and creative activity in each study direction" (Pr3)

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

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

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

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

Priority "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:

- institutional cooperation – cooperation between EKA academic staff
- national cooperation – cooperation of EKA academic staff with academic staff of other Latvian higher education institutions
- international cooperation – cooperation of EKA academic staff with academic staff of foreign universities
- EKA cooperation with the business sector (academic-corporate collaboration)

Priority “EKA reputation” (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.

ZRDAS2028

In 2023, the Development strategy for science and creative activity 2024-2028 (ZRDAS2028) was developed. The given report reflects of the achievements in the transition period (academic year 2023/2024), using the targets and indicators from ZRDAS2023.

Pr1 PRIORITY “QUALITY ASSURANCE IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY”

In 2023/2024, the academic staff of EKA consisted of more than 100 people, 43 of whom were elected to the academic posts of EKA (as of 31.07.2024, incl. 26 persons (60%) with a doctor’s degree.

Table 1 Academic staff elected in the academic positions of EKA

No.	Name, Surname	Scientific degree	Position	Direction
1	Jeļena Titko	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Professor	<i>Economics</i>
2	Anna Ābeltiņa	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Asoc.prof.	<i>Economics</i>
3	Aija Sannikova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
4	Ilona Lejniece	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
5	Ilga Lipšāne	<i>Mg.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
6	Vita Zariņa	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
7	Edgars Čerkovskis	<i>Mg.sc.soc.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Economics</i>
8	Inga Šina	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Professor	<i>Management science VZ</i>
9	Velga Vēvere	<i>Dr. phil.</i>	Professor	<i>Management science VZ</i>
10	Oksana Lentjušenkova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Asoc.prof.	<i>Management science VZ</i>
11	Tatjana Kuļikova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
12	Anna Svirina	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
13	Viktorija Skvarciany	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
14	Jevgenija Dehtjare	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
15	Tatjana Daudiša	<i>Mg.oec.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
16	Zane Veidenberga	<i>Mg.edu.mgmt.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
17	Kaspars Šteinbergs	<i>Mg.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
18	Kristīne Užule	<i>Dr.psyh.</i>	Asoc.prof.	<i>Management science VZ</i>
19	Larisa Turuševa	<i>Dr.paed.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
20	Ksenija Ijevļeva	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
21	Ingus Barovskis	<i>Dr.philol.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science KV</i>
22	Imants Ļaviņš	<i>Dr.hist.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science KV</i>
23	Ieva Andžāne	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science KV</i>
24	Jeļena Budanceva	<i>prof.Mg.sc.admin</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science KV</i>
25	Inga Oliņa	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Management science KV</i>
26	Egmonts Treiguts	<i>Mg.phys.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
27	Mārcis Pinnis	<i>Dr.sc.comp.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
28	Patriks Morevs	<i>Mg.math.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
29	Andrejs Liepiņš	<i>Mg.sc.comp.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
30	Jeļena Alfejeva	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
31	Marina Kamenecka-Usova	<i>PhD</i>	Asoc.prof.	<i>Law</i>
32	Karina Zalcmane	<i>PhD</i>	Asoc.prof.	<i>Law</i>
33	Armen Gabrielyan	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
34	Atis Bičkovskis	<i>prof.Mg.iur.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Law</i>
35	Natalja Verina	<i>Mg.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>

36	Baiba Guste	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Arts</i>
37	Ksenija Milča	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Arts</i>
38	Kitija Almane	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Arts</i>
39	Evija Skriba	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Arts</i>
40	Gatis Dilāns	<i>PhD</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	
41	Aija Poikāne-Daumke	<i>Dr.philol.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	
42	Nellija Titova	<i>PhD</i>	<i>researcher</i>	<i>Economics and business</i>
43	Natalja Cudečka-Puriņa	<i>PhD</i>	<i>researcher</i>	<i>Economics and business</i>

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

<i>Name, Surname</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Branch of science, sub-branch</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Jeļena Titko	<i>Dr. oec.</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	10.04.2027.
		Social sciences - economics and business	01.03.2026.
Inga Šīna	<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	10.07.2024.
Kristīne Užule	<i>Dr.psyh.</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	06.04.2025.
		Social sciences – education sciences	06.04.2025.
Karina Zalcmane	<i>PhD</i>	Social sciences – Law	01.11.2026.
Marina Kamenecka-Usova	<i>PhD</i>	Social sciences – Law	01.06.2025.
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.

Pr2 PRIORITY "INVOLVEMENT OF ACADEMIC STAFF IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY IN EACH STUDY DIRECTION"

2.1. Priority research directions and research teams

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

Table 3 EKA priority research areas for 2024-2028

RESEARCH AREA	Study direction	Coordinator
Sustainable development	Economics Management	EKA professor, Dr.oec. J. Titko
Intellectual capital management	Economics Management	EKA assoc. prof., Dr.oec., O. Lentjušenkova

Future of education and competencies	Economics Management	EKA assistant professor, Dr. oec., J. Dehtjare
Social entrepreneurship eco-system development/ CSR and ESG practices for stakeholders' value creation	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 assistant 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
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 Assistant Professor K.Milča
E-learning technologies and management	IT	EKA professor, Dr.oec. J. Titko

Table 4. International research teams operated in 2023 / 2024

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

	<p>Dr. Ágnes Sándor, Research Fellow, Budapest Business University (Hungary) Dr. Katarzyna Strzała-Osuch, prof. PSW, Rector, Powiślański University (Poland) Mg Paulina Osuch, Senate Representative for International Programs, Powiślański University (Poland)</p>
Intellectual capital management	<p>Dr. Daria Golebiowska-Tataj, professor University of Manchester, founder "Tataj Innovations" Ltd. (United Kingdom) Dr. Aurelija Ulbinaite, Assoc. professor, Vilnius University (Lithuania) Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, Researcher, Professor, EKA (Latvia) Dr. Vita Zariņa, Researcher, Assistant professor, EKA (Latvia) Dr. Kaspars Šteinbergs, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia) Dr. Jevgenija Dehtjare, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia) PhD cand. Natalja Verina, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia) PhD. cand. Julija Surikova, Turiba University (Latvia) Kaspars Karaševskis, PHH Group (Lithuania)</p>
Future of education and competencies	<p>Dr. Kristine Uzule, Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) PhD. cand. Julija Mironova, Research Assistant, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia) Dr. paed. Larisa Turuševa, Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA (Latvia) Dr. oec. Oksana Lentjusenkovs, Researcher, Rector, EKA (Latvia) Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, Researcher, Professor, EKA (Latvia) Mg. Edgars Čerkovskis, Research Assistant, EKA (Latvia) Mg. Diana Lapkis, CEO of NewDoor (Latvia) Mg. Galina Berjokina, Program Director, City Unity College (Cyprus) Mg. Igor Mogila, Researcher, International Science Group (Ukraine) Dr. oec. Liudmila Hanushchak-Yefimenko, Vice-Rector, Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (Ukraine) Ph. D. Remigijus Kinderis, Director, Klaipeda University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania) Mg. Lika Kiladze, Founder, Education Development and Employment Center (Georgia) Ph.D. Mourine Achieng, Researcher, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (South Africa) Dr. Khalil AĪT SAĪD, Assistant Professor in HRM, ISM-IAE-UVSQ-Paris Saclay, (France) Dr. Hamza Nidaazzi, Researcher, Cadi Ayyad University (Marocco) Dr. Debjani Banerjee, Professor, Vivekanand Education Society's Business School (India) Dr. Saltanat Meiramova, Associate Professor, candidate of pedagogical sciences, EAGI A.K. Kussayinov Eurasian Humanities Institute (Kazakstan) Dr. Ljupcho Efremov, Assistant Professor, American University of The Middle East (Kuwait) Dr. Neerja Kashive, Associate Dean Research & Head FPM, VES Business School, Mumbai (India) Zsuzsanna Géring, PhD., Senior Research Fellow, Budapest Business University, (Hungary) Dr. CSc. Tamás Gáspár, Associate Professor, Budapest Business University, (Hungary)</p>
Social entrepreneurship eco-system development/ CSR and ESG practices for stakeholders' value creation	<p>Dr. oec. Aija Sannikova, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia) Dr. phil. Velga Vēvere, Professor, EKA (Latvia) Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, Professor, Researcher, EKA (Latvia) Dr. oec. Inga Shina, Professor, EKA (Latvia) Dr. oec. Ilona Lejniece, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia) Ph.D. cand. Natalja Verina, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia) Mg. Edgars Čerkovskis, Assistant Professor, Research Assistant, EKA (Latvia) Mg. Oļegs Nikadimovs, Research Assistant, EKA (Latvia)</p>
Well-being in life and well-being at work	<p>Dr. oec. Oksana Lentjushenkova, Assoc. Professor, Rector, EKA (Latvia) Dr. Kristine Uzule, Researcher, EKA (Latvia) Dr. Jevgenija Dehtjare, Researcher, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia) Dr. Ann Saurbier, Professor, West Liberty University (USA) PhD. cand. Julija Mironova, Research Assistant, EKA (Latvia) Dr. Agnieszka Springer, Uniwersytet WSB Merito w Poznaniu (Poland). Dr. Andrii Loboda, Professor, Sumy State University (Ukraine). Dr. Viktorii Petrashenko, Associate Professor, Sumy State University (Ukraine) MSc, Bojan Kitanovikj, Junior Researcher, Teaching and Research Fellow at the Faculty of Economics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (N.Macedonia). Dr. Hamza Nidaazzi, Researcher, Cadi Ayyad University (Marocco) Dr. Debjani Banerjee, Professor, Vivekanand Education Society's Business School (India) Dr. Umut Türk, Associate Professor, Abdullah Gül University – AGU (Turkey) Dr. Elif Bengü, Associate Professor, Abdullah Gül University - AGU (Turkey)</p>

	<p>Dr. Ljupcho Efremov, Assistant Professor, American University of The Middle East (Kuwait)</p> <p>Dr. Saltanat Meiramova, Associate Professor, candidate of pedagogical sciences, EAGI A.K. Kussayinov Eurasian Humanities Institute. (Kazakstan)</p> <p>Dr. Hamza Nidaazzi, Researcher, Cadi Ayyad University (Marocco)</p> <p>Dr. Debjeni Banerjee, Professor, Vivekanand Education Society's Business School (India)</p> <p>Dr. Umut Türk, Associate Prof, Abdullah Gül University (AGU) (Turkey)</p> <p>Dr. Elif Bengü, Associate Prof, Abdullah Gül University (AGU) (Turkey)</p> <p>Dr. Maria Grace Herlina, S.Sos., Bina Nusantara University, Jakarta (Indonesia)</p> <p>Dr hab. Sabina Krupa, Lecturer, Powiślański University (Poland)</p>
Economics, Business Administration and Marketing	<p>Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, Researcher, Professor, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Oksana Lentjusekova, Researcher, Rector, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Vita Zariņa, Researcher, Professor, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Kristine Uzule, Researcher, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD Kaspars Šteinbergs, Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Inga Šina, Researcher, Professor, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. (DBA) Anna Svirina, Lecturer, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. paed. Larisa Turuševa, Researcher, Associate Professor, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD. cand. Julija Mironova, Research Assistant, Lecturer, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>MBA, Jelena Budanceva, Research Assistant, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Mg. Natalja Verina, Research Assistant, Assistant Professor, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Mg. Edgars Cerkovskis, Research Assistant, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. Phil. Velga Vēvere, leading researcher, Professor, University of Latvia (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. oec. Tatjana Tamboveca, Researcher, Professor, Riga Technical University (Latvia)</p> <p>Ph.D. Viktorija Skvarciāny, Professor, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Lithuania)</p>
Digital economy and business digital transformation	<p>Dr. Kristine Uzule, Researcher, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD. cand. Julija Mironova, Research Assistant, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Mg. Zanda Gobniece, Research Assistant, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>PhD Martin Kiselicki, Teaching & Research Assistant, PhD in Organizational Sciences & Management, Economic Faculty – Skopje, University Ss. Cyril & Methodious (N. Macedonia)</p> <p>PhD Anna Pavelieva, , National University "Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic", (Ukraine)</p> <p>Dr. Katie Power, Head of Department, Marketing & International Business, Munster Technological University (Ireland)</p> <p>Mg.art. Bruno Raguž, University of Applied Sciences Baltazar Zaprešić (Croatia)</p> <p>PhD Nino Pataraia, Ilia State University (Georgia)</p> <p>PhD Tomas Hlavsa, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Czech Republic)</p> <p>Mg. Claudia Maier, University of Applied Sciences Burgenland GmbH (Austria)</p> <p>Mg. Grigor Hayrapetyan, PhD cand., Yerevan State University (Armenia)</p> <p>Mg. Tsovinar Adamyan, PhD cand., Yerevan State University (Armenia)</p> <p>Dr.psyh. Shani Oppenheim-Weller, Hadassah Academic College (Israel)</p> <p>PhD, Ayelet Goldstein, Hadassah Academic College (Israel)</p> <p>Dr.oec., Ilona Lejniece, EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Mg. Elvis Dibanins, PhD cand., EKA (Latvia)</p>
Sports Law	<p>Dr. Karina Zalcmāne, Asoc., Professor of EKA (Latvia)</p> <p>Dr. David McArdle, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Law School, Stirling University (Scotland, UK)</p> <p>Dr. Nemes András, Professor in law at the University of Physical Education Budapest, Attorney at law of the Dr. Nemes András Law firm (Hungary).</p> <p>Dr. Anna Di Giandomenico, Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Political Science, University of Teramo (Italy).</p> <p>Dr. Maria Francesca Serra, Professor of UNICUSANO (Italy)</p> <p>Dr. Alexandru-Virgil VOICU, Professor of the University of Chisinau (Republic of Moldova), professor at the University Babes-Bolyai (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) and professor at the National Academy of Physical Education and Sports in Bucharest (Romania)</p> <p>Dr. Marina Kamenecka-Usova, Asoc., Professor of EKA (Latvia)</p>

2.2. Scientific achievements of EKA academic staff

In 2023/2024, the academic staff of the EKA University of Applied Sciences have published (or submitted to publication) 41 publications in peer-reviewed scientific publications,

including 31 articles in internationally peer-reviewed publications, which already have been included in the internationally quoted databases Web of Science Clarivate Analytics, SCOPUS, ERIH+ (8 papers – in Q2 journals).

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

1. **Vevere, V.**, Singh, K., & Linina, I. (2024, June). Framework for enhancing customer loyalty of telecommunication companies in India: a case of reliance jio infocomm Ltd. In ENVIRONMENT. TECHNOLOGIES. RESOURCES. Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference (Vol. 2, pp. 303-309). **SCOPUS**
2. Linina, I., Jansevica, G., & **Vevere, V.** (2024, June). Organization of participatory budget (PB) development in Latvian municipalities. In ENVIRONMENT. TECHNOLOGIES. RESOURCES. Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference (Vol. 1, pp. 227-234). **SCOPUS**
3. **Nikadimovs, O., & Vēvere, V.** (2024, June). The use of generative artificial intelligence in higher education: university social responsibility and stakeholders' perceptions. In ENVIRONMENT. TECHNOLOGIES. RESOURCES. Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference (Vol. 2, pp. 226-231). **SCOPUS**
4. Gobniece, Z., **Titko, J.** (2024). Staff Competences for Digital Transformation: Bibliometric analysis. Virtual Economics, 7(1), 25-46. [https://doi.org/10.34021/ve.2024.07.01\(2\)](https://doi.org/10.34021/ve.2024.07.01(2)) **SCOPUS Q2**
5. **Dehtjare, J.**, Berjozkina, G., **Mironova, J.**, Mogila, I. & Dolia, O. (2024). Improving Quality of Administration Process in HEIs: Professional Competence Perceived by Academic Staff in Ukraine. *Economics and Culture*, 21(1) 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2024-0001> **SCOPUS**
6. Kiladze, L., **Dehtjare, J.**, **Mironova, J.** & Lapkis, D. (2024). Understanding Social Entrepreneurs' Views on Strategies for Ensuring Social Economy Sustainability. *Economics and Culture*, 21(1) 106-113. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2024-0008> **SCOPUS**
7. **Dehtjare J.**, **Mironova J.**, **Uzule K.** Fostering academic staff engagement by enhancing its competences into the innovative education process. *Economics, Management, and Financial Markets* 19(1), 2024, pp. 87–100, ISSN 1842-3191, eISSN 1938-212X – accepted, to be published in 2024 **ERIH PLUS**
8. Verdenhofa, O., Dzenis, O., **Dehtjare, J.**, Djakona, V., & Gavkalova, N. (2024). Strategic management as a tool for the development of Public Sphere Entities. *Public Policy and Administration*, Vol 23(2), 176–196. <https://doi.org/10.13165/vpa-24-23-2-05> **SCOPUS**
9. 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. <https://doi.org/10.37394/232015.2024.20.27> **SCOPUS**
10. **Dehtjare, J.**, **Uzule, K.**, **Turuševa, L.**, **Mironova, J.**, & Hanushchak-Yefimenko, L. (2024). Organizational Management Change in HEIs: Perceptions of Academic Staff. *Management Theory and Studies for Rural Business and Infrastructure Development*, 46(1), 45-53. **WOS**
11. **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+**
12. **Veidenberga, Z.** (2023). Transferring implied values of the Latvian source text diminutives into English: Piloting translation guidelines with novice translators. *Studies about Languages / Kalbų studijos*, 42, 5–16. <https://doi.org/10.5755/j01.sal.1.42.33098> **SCOPUS Q2**
13. **Dehtjare, J.** & **Uzule, K.** (2023). Sustainable Higher Education Management: Career Drivers of Academic Staff. *Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability*, 25(2) 89-105. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jtes-2023-0018> **SCOPUS Q2**

14. **Titko, J., Svirina, A., Astike, K., Uzule, K., Shina, I. Zarina, V.** (2023). Impact Of Country-Level Cultural Development On The Achievement Of Sustainable Development Goals. *Business, Management and Economics Engineering*.
<https://doi.org/10.3846/bmee.2023.19423> **WOS, SCOPUS Q2**
15. **Titko, J., Steinbergs, K., Achieng, M., & Uzule, K.** (2023). Artificial Intelligence for Education and Research: Pilot Study on Perception of Academic Staff. *Virtual Economics*
<https://www.virtual-economics.eu/index.php/VE/article/view/300> **SCOPUS Q2**
16. **Sannikova, A., Vevere, V., & Titko, J.** (2023). Competences necessary for a social entrepreneur: a case study of Latvia. *Business: Theory and Practice*, 24(2), 604–612.
<https://doi.org/10.3846/btp.2023.19703> **SCOPUS Q2**
17. Chochia, A., Kerikmäe, T., & **Skvarciany, V.** (2023). Global Economic Challenges for Sustainable Entrepreneurs. *TalTech Journal of European Studies*, 13(1), 3-7. **SCOPUS Q2**
18. **Uzule, K.** (2023). Integrated Reporting As A Model For Sustainability Management Reporting: The Case Of Northeastern European Airports. *Aviation*
<https://doi.org/10.3846/aviation.2023.20607> **SCOPUS**
19. **Uzule, K. & Verina, N.** (2023). Digital Barriers in Digital Transition and Digital Transformation: Literature Review. *Economics and Culture*, 20(1) 125-143.
<https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2023-0011> **SCOPUS**
20. Šostaka, D., Borzovs, J., Cauna, E., Keiša, I., **Pinnis, M., & Vasiljevs, A.** (2023). The Semi-Algorithmic Approach to Formation of Latvian Information and Communication Technology Terms. *Baltic Journal of Modern Computing*, 11(1). **WOS:000992733100001**
21. **Skvarciany, V., Lapinskaitė, I., & Stasytytė, V.** (2023). Efficiency of Digital Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development: DEA-Tobit Approach. *Prague Economic Papers*, 32(2), 129-158. **SCOPUS**
22. **Titko, J., Tambovceva, T., Atstaja, Dz., Lapinskaite, I., Solesvik, M., Svirina, A., Uzule, K.** (2023). Attitude towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship among Students: Pilot Study in Latvia and Lithuania. *TalTech Journal of European Studies*, 13(1)/(37), 107-132.
<https://doi.org/10.2478/bjes-2023-0006> **SCOPUS Q2**
23. **Vevere, V., Shina, I.** (2023). The Factors of Green Marketing Affecting Consumer Purchase Intention in Latvia. *Vide. Tehnologija. Resursi - Environment, Technology, Resources*, 1, pp. 240-246) <https://doi.org/10.17770/etr2023vol1.7210> **SCOPUS**
24. Linina, I., **Vevere, V., Zvirgzdina, R.** (2023). Strategy Development for use of Influencers in Communication of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) with Consumers. *WSEAS Transactions on Business and Economics*, 20, pp. 1607-1614
<https://doi.org/10.37394/23207.2023.20.141> **SCOPUS**
25. **Vevere, V., Rihamadze, K.** (2023). INNOVATION MANAGEMENT MODEL FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs): GEORGIA. *Acta Prosperitatis*, 14, pp. 172-185.
<https://doi.org/10.37804/1691-6077-2023-14-172-185> **ERIH PLUS**
26. Grantina, E. & **Budanceva, J.** (2023). Incorporating Art Events Into Marketing Activities - Good Practice By European Zoos. *Economics and Culture*, 20(2) 12-31.
<https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2023-0013> **SCOPUS**
27. **Budanceva, J. & Svirina, A.** (2023). Consumption of Cultural Content in the Digital Environment in the Post-Pandemic Latvia. *Economics and Culture*, 20(2) 76-87.
<https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2023-0017> **SCOPUS**
28. **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+**

29. **Lentjushenkova, O.** (2023). Cultural intelligence and interpersonal trust as drivers for innovative work and intellectual capital development at organizations. *Marketing i menedžment inovacij*, 14(3), 153-162. **WOS**
30. **Nikadimovs, O.** (2023). Corporate Social Responsibility–Assessment of Facilitating and Impeding Factors for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Latvia. *European Integration Studies*, (17), 222-241. **WOS**
31. Prigunovs, D., **Morevs, P.**, Parfjonovs, M., Salgals, T., Kudojars, R., & Bobrovs, V. (2023, July). Performance Analysis of Hybrid Raman-EDFA Amplifier in WDM Transmission Systems. In *2023 Photonics & Electromagnetics Research Symposium (PIERS)* (pp. 1787-1791). IEEE. **SCOPUS**

Other publications:

1. **Titko, J.**, Tambovceva, T., **Skvarciany, V.**, Lapinskaite, I., **Uzule, K.**, Faganel, A., Jasińska-Biliczak, A., **Budanceva, J.**, **Dehtjare, J.**, **Mironova, J.** (2024). Attitudes to sustainable entrepreneurship and environmental values of students: testing measurement scale and preliminary results of cross-country study. In: *Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2024"*, May 16-17, 2024, Vilnius, Lithuania, 42-29. <https://doi.org/10.3846/bm.2024.1252>
2. **Dehtjare, J.**, Kinderis R., **Mironova, J.**, **Uzule, K.**, Hanuschak-Yefimenko L. Fostering the resilience of HEIs by the introduction principles of education for sustainable development: a pilot study. / *International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2024"*, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University- Vilnius, May 16-17, 2024.
3. **Budanceva, J.** (2024, January). PROFESSIONAL BURNOUT SYNDROME AMONG FEMALE TEACHING STAFF IN LATVIA. In *6th International Conference on Governance and Strategic Management (ICGSM) "ESG Standards and Securing Strategic Industries"* (pp. 157-166).
4. Tambovceva, T., **Titko, J.**, Bumanis, G., Bajare, D. (2023). Barriers to Effective Construction and Demolition Waste Management in Latvia. In: Leal Filho, W., Dinis, M.A.P., Moggi, S., Price, E., Hope, A. (eds) *SDGs in the European Region. Implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals – Regional Perspectives*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-91261-1_25-1
5. **Dehtjare, J.**, **Uzule, K.**, **Mironova, J.** (2024). Digital innovations in the Baltic Countries as a tool of digital economy for working market. In B. Savić (Ed.), *Book of proceedings. Vol 4 / International Multidisciplinary Conference "Challenges of Contemporary Higher Education" - CCHE 2024, Kopaonik January 29th - February 3rd 2024* (pp. [Pages]). Belgrade: Conference of Academies for Applied Studies in Serbia (CAASS), University Business Academy in Novi Sad, Faculty of Contemporary Arts. ISBN-978-86-82744-05-4; ISBN 978-86-82744-00-9 (series). COBISS.SR-ID 139390473. https://www.academia.edu/119152211/5_pdf
6. **Vēvere, V.** (2023). Brīdis starp: piesātinātās pauzes Viktora Freiberga grāmatās "Kinomāna slimības vēsture" un "Viktora otrā grāmata". *Aktuālas problēmas literatūras un kultūras pētniecībā*, 28. Liepāja:LiePA, 223-233. Doi: 10.37384?APLKP.2023.28.223
7. **Zarina, Vita & Vevere, Velga & Shina, Inga & Baby, Blesson.** (2024). Assessment of the impacts of experience marketing on the brand image of textile companies in Latvia. *Conference: XIX International May Conference on Strategic Management – IMCSM24 Proceedings*, pp. 453-462.
8. **Vevere, V.** & Dange, K. & Linina, I. & Zvirgzdina, R. (2024). Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within SmartLynx Airlines to Increase Operational Efficiency. *WSEAS TRANSACTIONS ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS* vol. 21. 1677-1683

9. Linina, I. & Villerte, K. & **Vevere, Velga** & Zvirgzdina, R. (2024). User Experience (UX) Design Websites as a Marketing Tool. WSEAS TRANSACTIONS ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS. 21. 1461-1471
10. **Nikadimovs, O.** (2024). GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. Publishing House "Baltija Publishing". <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-397-2-33>

Each year EKA hosts International Scientific Conference "**Emerging trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH)**". The 2024 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 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY":

- Kaspars Šteinbergs, Edgars Cherkovskis. IMPLEMENTATION OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES IN STEM SUBJECTS
- Ilona Lejniece, Helmut Lejnieks. HOW TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CARBON BLACK IN THE ENVIRONMENT TYPES OF PROCESSING, EFFICIENCY, ECONOMIC BASIS IN EUROPE

Participants of the section on "EMERGING TRENDS IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP":

- Jevgenija Dehtjare, Jūlija Mironova. UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS' VIEWS ON STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING SOCIAL ECONOMY SUSTAINABILITY
- Aija Sannikova, Jelena Titko. SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS' COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK AS A COMPONENT OF SOCIAL ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

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

- Inga Šina, Velga Vevere, Vita Zarina. SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING OF LATVIAN BANKS
- Kristine Uzule. THE INTEGRATED REPORTING FRAMEWORK FOR DESIGNING A HYPERLOOP-DRIVEN MATURITY MANAGEMENT MODEL, EMPOWERING WORKFORCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- Oksana Lentjusenkovā, Jūlija Surikova, Natalia Verina, Kaspars Karasevskis. DRIVERS INFLUENCING TRUST BUILDING IN DIGITAL ECONOMY OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
- Olegs Nikadimovs. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN COMMUNITY WELFARE, EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT, AND CORPORATE PERFORMANCE

Participants of the section on "EMERGING TRENDS IN LAW":

- Elvis Dibanins, Ilona Lejniece. CHALLENGES AND INNOVATION TO DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM OF LATVIA
- Marina Kamenecka-Usova, Karina Zalcmane. THE EMERGENCE OF THE BALTIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND LEGAL ANALYSIS OF OPTIMAL GOVERNANCE PRACTICES FOR SUCCESS
- Jolanta Dinsberga. THIRD PARTIES IN REPO TRANSACTIONS (REPOS)

Participants of the section on "EMERGING TRENDS IN MARKETING, COMMUNICATION AND BRANDING":

- Julia Surikova. THE APPLICATION OF GENERATIVE AI IN MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS: THE BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF THE EMERGING TREND

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

- Jevgenija Dehtjare, Jūlija Mironova. IMPROVING QUALITY OF ADMINISTRATION PROCESS IN HEIs: PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE PERCEIVED BY ACADEMIC STAFF IN UKRAINE
- Jevgenija Dehtjare, Kristine Užuļe, Julia Mironova. INVESTIGATING STAFF'S VIEWS REGARDING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION: A PILOT STUDY

- Kristine Uzule, Jelena Titko, Jevgenija Dehtjare, Edgars Cerkovskis. ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN EUROPE: A CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT MODEL FOR BRIDGING A GAP BETWEEN THE LEGISLATION AND IMPLEMENTATION LEVELS OF INCLUSIVITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- Jevgenija Dehtjare. SKILLS FOR HIGH-PERFORMING STUDY PROCESS: MULTIPLE PERCEPTIONS ON THE ISSUE

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

- Maksims Žigunovs. MUSHROOM COMMUNICATION SIGNAL TEMPLATES USAGE IN OPTICAL CHARACTER RECOGNITION
- Kristine Uzule, Natalja Verina, Jevgenija Dehtjare. RELEVANCE OF AI SKILLS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPETENCES
- Julia Mironova, Jevgenija Dehtjare. TRANSFORMATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION BY GENERATIVE TOOLS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – CROSS COUNTRY STUDY

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

- Jelena Budantseva, Ludmila Briede. PARTICIPANTS AND ORGANIZERS PERSPECTIVES OF RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL 2023
- Emna Boudaya, Velga Vevere. ISSUES OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INTEGRATION PROGRAM
- Inese Boša, Kaspars Steinbergs. RISK MANAGEMENT IN AN INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATIVE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL "SANSUSI"
- Elvita Ārgle, Velga Vevere. RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESSES IN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT EXPEDITIONS
- Larissa Turuseva. THE IMPORTANCE OF CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION TRAINING FOR EKA STUDENTS

In 2023/2024, EKA's academic staff also participated with their reports in other international scientific conferences:

- Jelena Titko, Anna Svirina, Natalja Verina. EUMMAS A2S Conference on Global Social and Technological Development and Sustainability, Bucharest 2024, Romania. May 22-24, 2024. Presentation: *Relationship between Perception of Digital Transformation and Individual Psychological Capabilities of Academic Staff: Pilot Study in Latvia.*
- Natalja Verina, Kristine Uzule. International Scientific Conference „SOCIAL INTERACTIONS: RETHINKING MODERN ISSUES" organized by SMK University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania). November 16, 2023. Presentation: *Classification of Employee Digital Skills as a Tool for Overcoming Digital Transformation Barriers.*
- Inga Šina. 13th International conference "Environment. Technology. Resources", Rezekne, Latvia, 2023. Presentation: *The Factors of Green Marketing Affecting Consumer Purchase Intention in Latvia.*
- Jelena Budanceva. International scientific and educational conference "Future of Education and Skills" (FuturEDU) conference, EKA University of Applied Sciences and European Digital Learning Network (Dlearn), Riga, Latvia, November 8-9, 2023. Presentation: *Digital framework for students' psychological support.*
- Marcis Pinnis. International scientific and educational conference "Future of Education and Skills" (FuturEDU) conference, EKA University of Applied Sciences and European Digital Learning Network (Dlearn), Riga, Latvia, November 8-9, 2023. Presentation: *Virtual Assistants: Capabilities and Risks in Education*

- Jelena Budanceva. ASBBMC 17th Annual Scientific Baltic Business Management conference (Latvija), May 29, 2024. Presentation: *Fostering Strategic Resilience in a Non-Ergodic World Through Ethical Leadership: A Literature Review*
- Uzule K., Dehtjare J., Turuseva L., Mironova J. Sustainable and Socially Responsible Development in the Network of Socioeconomic Relations. Gdansk, WSB Merito University, September 28-30, 2023. Presentation: *Transformation of Higher Education in Ukraine: From the Perspective of Academic Staff to Organizational Management.*
- Dehtjare J. International scientific and educational conference "Future of Education and Skills" (FuturEDU) conference, EKA University of Applied Sciences and European Digital Learning Network (Dlearn), Riga, Latvia, November 8-9, 2023. Presentation: *Digital Education in the Context of National Digital Strategy.*
- Dehtjare J., Mironova J., Turusheva L., Uzule K. International Scientific Conference „SOCIETAL INTERACTIONS: RETHINKING MODERN ISSUES", SMK University of Applied Sciences, Vilnius, November 16, 2023. Presentation at the plenary session: *Higher Education in BANI World: A Need for Change.*
- Uzule K., Titko J., Dehtjare J., Zarina V. International Scientific Conference „SOCIETAL INTERACTIONS: RETHINKING MODERN ISSUES", SMK University of Applied Sciences, Vilnius, Lithuania, November 16, 2023. Presentation: *Building a Bridge Between Entrepreneurship Competence Framework and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for Attaining SDG4 "Quality Education".*
- Dehtjare J., Uzule K., Mironova J. (2024). International Multidisciplinary Conference "Challenges of Contemporary Higher Education" - CCHE 2024, Kopaonik January 29th - February 3rd 2024 Belgrade, Serbia. Presentation: *Digital innovations in the Baltic Countries as a tool of digital economy for working market.*
- Dehtjare J., Mironova J., Uzule K. International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2024", Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vilnius, Lithuania, May 16-17, 2024. Presentation: *Fostering the resilience of HEIs by the introduction principles of education for sustainable development: a pilot study.*
- Titko J., Skvarciany V., Uzule K., Budanceva J., Dehtjare J., Mironova J. International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2024", Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vilnius, Lithuania, May 16-17, 2024. Presentation: *Attitudes to sustainable entrepreneurship and environmental values of students: testing measurement scale and preliminary results of cross-country study.*
- Dehtjare J., Mironova J., Uzule K. EUMMAS A2S Conference on Global Social and Technological Development and Sustainability, Bucharest, Romania, May 22-24, 2024. Presentation: *Fostering academic staff engagement by enhancing its competences into the innovative education process.*
- Velga Vevere. 27th International Conference on Circuits, Systems, Communications and Computers (CSCC), Rhodes Island (Rodos Island), Greece, July 19-22, 2023. Presentation: *Strategy Development for use of Influencers in Communication of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) with Consumers.* 2th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON APPLIED ECONOMICS "CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN ECONOMY POLAND. 29-30 JUNE 2023. Presentation: *Business students' social entrepreneurship competence: evidence from private universities" in Latvia and Czech Republic"*
- Velga Vevere. WSB Merito University in Gdansk 2023 Conference "Sustainable and socially responsible development in the network of socioeconomic relations", 28 sept. 2023 - 30 sept. 2023, Gdańsk. Presentation: *Metrics of university social responsibility – an empirical study*
- Velga Vevere. Globalization and its socio-economic consequences, Žilina University, Slovakia, 10-12 October 2023. Presentation: *Factors affecting actions of citizens and companies in the charity segment in Latvia within global context*

- Velga Vevere. Globalization and its socio-economic consequences, Žilina University, Slovakia, 10-12 October 2023. Presentation: *The impact of the current geopolitical situation on retail companies in Latvia*
- Velga Vevere. International Scientific and Educational Conference Future of Education and Skills FuturEDU 2023, NOVEMBER 8, 2023, RIGA, LATVIA. Presentation: *Are We ready for Diverse Study Environment in EKA University of Applied Sciences?*
- Velga Vevere. DU XXXIV International Humanities Conference "January Readings" 25-26, 2024 in January. Daugavpils, Latvia. Presentation: *American transcendentalism and ecopoetics: R. W. Emerson and H. D. Thoreau*
- Velga Vevere. LU 82nd international scientific conference, Riga, Latvia March 19, 2024. Presentation: *Martha Craven Nussbaum on fear and cultivating courage*
- Velga Vevere. Liepāja 30th international scientific conference "CURRENT PROBLEMS IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE RESEARCH", Liepāja, Latvia, March 21-22, 2024. Presentation: *Seren Kirkegaard in the danish golden age media agenda*
- Velga Vevere. 21st International conference on European processes ICEP-24, Kaunas, Lithuania, 10 May, 2024. Presentation: *Possibilities of improving external communication channels in the state administrative institutions in Latvia*
- Velga Vevere. International Scientific Conference "Business and Management", Vilnius, Lithuania, 16-17 May, 2024. Presentation: *DEVELOPING MEASUREMENT SCALE OF UNIVERSITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY*
- Velga Vevere. XX International May conference on strategic management (IMCSM24), Bor, Serbia, 2024. Presentation: *Assessment of the impacts of experience marketing on the brand image of textile companies in Latvia*
- Olegs Nikadimovs. International Scientific Conference „SOCIETAL INTERACTIONS: RETHINKING MODERN ISSUES", SMK University of Applied Sciences, Vilnius, Lithuania, November 16, 2023. Presentation: *Corporate Social Responsibility as a Factor Affecting Sustainable Competitive Advantage*
- Olegs Nikadimovs. - International Scientific and Educational Conference Future of Education and Skills FuturEDU 2023, NOVEMBER 8, 2023, RIGA, LATVIA. Presentation: *University Social Responsibility, Inclusivity, Diversity and Human Skills: Stakeholders' Perceptions*
- Edgars Cerkovskis. International Symposium on Circulation and Bioeconomy, Monterrey, Colombia. Report to the plenary session. February 19. – 23, 2024. Presentation: *Circular Economy for STEM Education. Latvian experience*
- Jelena Titko. International Symposium on Circulation and Bioeconomy, Monterrey, Colombia. Report to the plenary session. February 19 – 23, 2024. Presentation: *Theoretical Perspectives of Circular Economy*
- Jelena Titko. 16th International Scientific Conference, entitled "Knowledge - Economy - Society" CMQ2024, College of Management and Quality Sciences of the Krakow University of Economics, May 20th-21th, 2024, Krakow, Poland. Presentation: *Challenges and Solutions in the Development of Virtual Learning Spaces: Case of VILESA Project.*
- Edgars Cerkovskis. The applied research conference of the Association of Latvian Colleges "EDUCATION. GROWTH. DURABILITY. 2024" plenary session reporter. March 15, 2024, Riga, Latvia. Presentation: *Nākotnē noderīgu prasmju apguves recepte*
- Aija Sannikova. the XII International Scientific and Practical BSU Conference "Transformation of Society in the Field of Social and Human Sciences", Riga, Latvia, November, 2023.
- Natālija Cudečka-Puriņa. International Scientific and Educational Conference Future of Education and Skills FuturEDU 2023, NOVEMBER 8, 2023, RIGA, LATVIA. Presentation: *Inclusive Digital Education – a Tool to Understand Circular Economy*

- Kristine Uzule. International conference "The Modern Economic, Technological, and Societal Trends: New Challenges or Opportunities". November 2023, Vilnius University, Lithuania. Presentation: *The integrated reporting-based model for attaining Sustainable Development Goal 8 at an organisational level: The case of human and financial capitals*
- Kristine Uzule, Vita Zarina, Inga Shina. International Scientific Conference "Business and Management", Vilnius, Lithuania, 16-17 May, 2024. Presentation: *Fostering Advanced Performance Management Synergistically with Transformational and Benevolent Leadership: Identifying Key Performance Indicators for Human-Related Capitals in Integrated Reporting Aligned with SDG8*
- Kristine Uzule, Jevgenija Dehtjare, Edgars Cerkovskis. International Scientific and Educational Conference Future of Education and Skills FuturEDU 2023, NOVEMBER 8, 2023, RIGA, LATVIA. Presentation: *BENEFIT project as an example of inclusive digital higher education.*
- Kristine Uzule, Edgars Cerkovskis, Jevgenija Dehtjare, Jelena Titko. International Scientific Conference „SOCIETAL INTERACTIONS: RETHINKING MODERN ISSUES" organized by SMK University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania). November 16, 2023. Presentation: *Value Creation Of Inclusive Education In Latvian Education Policy Documents.*
- Kristine Uzule, Jevgenija Dehtjare, Jelena Titko, Vita Zarina. International Scientific Conference „SOCIETAL INTERACTIONS: RETHINKING MODERN ISSUES" organized by SMK University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania). November 16, 2023. Presentation: *Building a Bridge Between Entrepreneurship Competence Framework and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for Attaining SDG4 "Quality Education".*
- Kristine Uzule. International Scientific Conference „SOCIETAL INTERACTIONS: RETHINKING MODERN ISSUES" organized by SMK University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania). November 16, 2023. Presentation: *The Relationship between Sustainable Development Goal 8 and Performance: The Case of Airports. International Scientific Conference "Societal Interactions: Rethinking Modern Issues"*
- Kristine Uzule. International Scientific Conference „SOCIETAL INTERACTIONS: RETHINKING MODERN ISSUES" organized by SMK University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania). November 16, 2023. Presentation: *Classification of Employee Digital Skills as a Tool for Overcoming Digital Transformation Barriers. International Scientific Conference "Societal Interactions: Rethinking Modern Issues". SMK University of Applied Sciences, Vilnius*

Participation of EKA academic staff in the activities of Editorial Boards and Committees of scientific journals indexed by SCOPUS/ Web of Science / ERIH+ databases:

Jelena Titko:

- Editor-in-Chief "Economics and Culture"
<https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/jec/jec-overview.xml>
- "Marketing and Management of Innovations"
<https://mmi.fem.sumdu.edu.ua/en/content/editorial-board>
- "Business, Management & Economics Engineering"
<https://journals.vgtu.lt/index.php/BME/editorialboard>
- "Scientia et Societas" (ISSN 1801-7118)
<https://www.sets.cz/index.php/ojs/about/editorialTeam>

Viktorija Skvarciany:

- Editor-in-Chief "Business, Management & Economics Engineering"
<https://journals.vilniustech.lt/index.php/BMEE/editorialboard>
- "Prague Economic Papers" https://pep.vse.cz/about-journal/inf-990000-0300>About_us.php
- "Economics and Culture" <https://sciendo.com/journal/JEC?tab=editorial-board>

Velga Vevere:

- "European Integration Studies" <https://eis.ktu.lt/index.php/EIS/about/editorialTeam>

Oksana Lentjusenkova / Kristine Uzule:

- "Economics and Culture" <https://sciendo.com/journal/IEC?tab=editorial-board>

Monographs:

Karina Zalcmāne, Marina Kamenecka-Usova. Sporta tiesības: Aktuālās problēmas, izaicinājumi un jaunākās tendences. Rīga: Ekonomikas un kultūras augstskola, 2023. ISBN 978-9984-24-257-6

Other achievements:

- Natalija Verina. Speaking at the BNI Steinhauer Group networking event on digital transformation in Latvia, 2023.
- Inga Shina. Eurydice report "Key data on language teaching in schools in Europe" Podcast, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XSi9xkD VM>
- Inga Shina. Eurydice report "Informatics education in European schools". Podcast, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EBFibwAHeo>
- Jelena Budanceva. Creation of the cultural strategy of the Ropaži district, 2023. <https://www.ropazi.lv/lv/media/71358/download?attachment>
<https://www.ropazi.lv/lv/jaunums/apstiprinata-ropazu-novada-kulturas-attistibas-strategija-2024-2028-gadam>
- Jevgenija Dehtjare. Plenary session presentation at the International Scientific Conference „SOCIAL INTERACTIONS: RETHINKING MODERN ISSUES”, SMK University of Applied Sciences, Vilnius, November 16, 2023.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, The International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities," held in Riga, Latvia, from April 19-21, 2023, head of section.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, LAS VI International Economic Forum, head of the "Circular Economy as a Basis for SD" section
- Edgars Cerkovskis, International conference "Future of Education - FuturEDU2023". 09.11.2023. moderator.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, The applied research conference of the Association of Latvian Colleges "EDUCATION. GROWTH. DURABILITY. 2024" 15.03.2024. plenary session reporter.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 27.07.2023. ERST Finance: Business appetite with Edgars Cherkovski, podcast participant.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, September 9, 2023, Sigulda Cultural Forum. Presenter.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 18.09.2024. Seminar "Innovation for social impact" - Discussion on the positive impact of technology on society. Head of the working group
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 29.09.2023. Panel discussion on plastic pollution organized by student corporation "Selga". Panelist.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 20.02.2024. "Why study mathematics?". Podcast host.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 19.05.2024. "Teach and learn happy and healthy!" Podcast host.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, March/April 2024. Journal "IR" Special issue. Article.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 10.05.2024. Reporter of the "Sigulda County Business Forum" section, panel discussion participant.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 07.05.2024. DELFI.LV article "Opinion on exam results, responsibility of public or distance learning schools?"
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 12.05.2024. Article DELFI.LV "Moving into the Future with Technology and Motivated Young Educators"

- Edgars Cerkovskis, 14.05.2024. "How does a family shape a child's personality and what does it look like in real life" Host of the podcast.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 07.06.2024. "Crisis is an opportunity for the persistent" Ilze Kalniņa. Podcast host.
- Edgars Cerkovskis, 05.07.2024. Conversation festival LAMPA. Discussion "Has the education system heard about the circular economy?". Discussion participant.
- Velga Vevere. Lecture/seminar "What is critical thinking and what is its role in modern business processes" - Latvian University of Biosciences and Technologies (external seminar for students)
- Velga Vevere. Lecture "All people are capable of critical thinking, or really" as part of the ERASMUS+ BIP course "Media Literacy in the Digital Age" (BA Turība)
- Velga Vevere. Participation in the discussion of S. Kirkegaard on the "Phonograph" program of "Navel" radio (05.05.2024)
- Vita Zarina. Journal "Balance" editor in chief.
- Aija Sannikova. Networking event and participation in the five-year conference of KM social enterprises "Proud. Evaluate. Celebrate!" (12.10.2023)
- Aija Sannikova. Member of the Smart Silver Ecosystem Network. SMARTAGECARE project, European Erasmus+ program.
- Natalija Cudecka-Purina. COST Circular B, working group, face-to-face meeting September 2023 Cordoba.
- Natalija Cudecka-Purina. COST LIAISE working groups, face-to-face meeting April 2024 Alicante.
- Natalija Cudecka-Purina. Providing advice on the integration of Latio ESG in real estate in the context of property valuation, 2023.
- Karina Zalcmāne. Security at the Paris Olympic Games and assessment of counter-terrorism strategies in the context of heightened terrorist threats. 6. Augusts 2024 /NR. 32 (1350) <https://juristavards.lv/doc/285632-parizes-olimpisko-spelu-drosiba-un-pretterorisma-strategiju-novertejums-paaugstinata-terorisma-draud/>
- Ksenija Miļča. Participation in a discussion on training in video gaming sector in Latvia, Latvijas Radio. https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/dzive--stils/tehnologijas-un-zinatne/25.10.2023-kadi-ir-latviesu-razojumi-un-sasniegumi-globalaja-tirgu-latvijas-radio-peta-vidospelu-izstradi-latvija.a529033/?utm_source=lsm&utm_medium=theme&utm_campaign=theme#6
- Ksenija Miļča. Participation in Latvijas Radio 3 programme "Kāpēc dizains?" (*Why design?*) <https://klasika.lsm.lv/lv/raksts/kapec-dizains/digitalas-speles-un-dizains.a186382/>
- V.Zariņa. organised and moderated a professional conference on the benefits and challenges of the new tax reform "Jaunā nodokļu reforma. Priekšrocības un izaicinājumi". 24.11.2023. <https://www.plz.lv/preces/bilance-konference-2023/>
- Jeļena Budanceva. Head of the work group for developing the culture development strategy at Ropaži County. <https://www.ropazi.lv/lv/ropazu-novada-kulturas-attistibas-strategijas-2024-2028-gadam>
- Mārcis Pinnis. How is it possible to manipulate human minds with AI and how people can protect themselves? https://xtv.lv/rigatv24/video/MZN2Z00BNz3-02_03_2024_nacionalo_interesu_klubs_1_dala
- Ksenija Miļča. Latvijas Radio discussion on Latvian products and achievements in the global market. Latvian Radio researching video game development in Latvia " Kādi ir

latviešu ražojumi un sasniegumi globālajā tirgū? Latvijas Radio pēta videospēļu izstrādi Latvijā". https://www.lsm.lv/raksts/dzive--stils/tehnologijas-un-zinatne/25.10.2023-kadi-ir-latviesu-razojumi-un-sasniegumi-globalaja-tirgu-latvijas-radio-peta-videospelu-izstradi-latvija.a529033/?utm_source=lsm&utm_medium=theme&utm_campaign=theme#6

- Ksenija Milča. Latvijas Radio 3 programme "Kāpēc dizains?" (*Why design?*). Discussion on digital games and design „Digitālās spēles un dizains”. <https://klasika.lsm.lv/lv/raksts/kapec-dizains/digitalas-speles-un-dizains.a186382/>
- V.Zariņa, Jaunā nodokļu reforma: vai ir gaidāma un kad. (*The new tax reform: is it expected and when*). Journal Balance 2024. <https://www.plz.lv/jauna-nodoklu-reforma-vai-ir-gaidama-un-kad/>
- V.Zariņa. organised a conference on the expectations of the new tax reform „JAUNĀ NODOKĻU REFORMA VAI IR GAIDĀMA UN KAD?”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ui3VglRLcs>

Pr3 PRIORITY "INVOLVEMENT OF STUDENTS IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY IN EACH STUDY DIRECTION"

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)

Each EKA study programme includes a study course on research methodology: bachelor programmes – "Research Organization" and Master programmes – "Research organization and academic work". In addition, a number of other courses have an integrated research component, such as the study course "Sociology", "Strategic and change management", "Environmental policy", etc.

According to Article 3.2.35. of the "GUIDELINES ON PREPARATION AND DEFENSE OF STUDY PAPERS, PROJECT PAPERS AND THESES AT THE EKA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES": "the master's degree students shall be admitted to the defense of thesis, if they had previously submitted an article to the Student Scientific and Applied Conference".

Every year, EKA hosts a Student Conference with students from all EKA study directions, students from Alberta College and other higher education institutions. In 2023/2024, EKA students submitted 165 research abstracts, as well as 17 descriptions of creative and artistic works (programmes "Interior Design" and "Digital Games Design and Graphics"). In addition, EKA students submitted 86 full text articles to the EKA/AK Student research paper collection.

In 2023/2024, EKA students also participated in other scientific and creative activities:

- Students representing the Master programme "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship" took part in various scientific conferences, for example, "Climate Changes and Circular Economy" (World Wildlife Fund), "Social Entrepreneurship in digital age" (Latvian Social Entrepreneurship Association in cooperation with Microsoft Latvia), "Social innovation and Circular Economy" (SSE Riga).

- International students of the IT programme participated in “8th international scientific-practical conference”, in Lithuania, 18.04.2024. https://www.utenos-kolegija.lt/upload/file_manager/Naujienos/2024/Konferencijos%20programa%20LT-2024-04-17.pdf
- In February 2024, glass art exhibition “Symbiosis” took place and it was made by the students of “Interior design” and “Computer game design” programmes.
- Programme “Brand design” students participated in the event “Design sprint”. In a creative workshop students designed UX (user experience) design for farm “Lielvaicēni”. <https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=1438&lng=lva>
- Programme “Brand design” students worked on a project of creative academy “Radi” in cooperation with Latvian Academy of Arts and Latvian Academy of Culture. <https://www.fold.lv/2024/03/radi-akademija-radosa-biznesa-idejas-ar-socialo-ietekmi/>
- Students from “Culture management” and “Interior design” programmes participated in international research “Economic (il)literacy of consumers. Investigating individuals’ expectations based on experiments and algorithmic methods”, headed by Polish researcher professor Magdalena Szyszko from Uniwersytet WSB Merito w Poznaniu, 28.09.2023

Pr4 PRIORITY "COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY"

In defining the objectives for promoting cooperation in research and creative activity, cooperation is addressed from various viewpoints:

- institutional cooperation: cooperation between EKA academic staff in research and creative activities
- national cooperation: cooperation of EKA academic staff with academic staff of other Latvian higher education institutions
- international cooperation: cooperation of EKA academic staff with academic staff of foreign universities
- EKA cooperation with businesses and public sector

4.1. Institutional cooperation

Cooperation of EKA academic staff is carried out mainly through participation in research teams (37% of permanently employed) and joint research activities, the results of which are reflected in scientific papers. 37% of the prepared papers in 2023/2024 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 "Research Methods for Data Processing: The Use of VOSviewer and STATA", 19.06.2023. Moderators: Dr, Associate Professor Oleksii V. Lyulyov, Dr. Associate Professor Tetyana Pimonenko, Sumy State University /Ukraine/

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 2024, EKA Science Club unites 26 members.

EKA staff members jointly participated in EKA organized international events:

etECH2024 – 28 EKA staff members

IAW2024 – 16 EKA staff members

STW2023 – 16 EKA staff members

FuturEDU – 16 EKA staff members

4.2. National cooperation (with HEIs and research institutions)

Cooperation within the MAKE-IT project

In 2021-2023, EKA and the Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA) implemented the ERDF project 'Innovation grants for students in the fields of arts, culture, economic and IT interdisciplinary areas (MaKE IT)', No 1.1.1.3/21/A/003.

The project was implemented in cooperation with partners: "Foundation of the EKA University of Applied Sciences", BA School of Business and Finance, Ventspils High Technology Park Foundation, Limited Liability Company "ALBERTA KOLEDŽA", Limited Liability Company "Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences", LLC "EUROLDCS".



Fig. 1. Results of MAKE-IT project

Project "Innovation grants for students in the interdisciplinary areas of art, culture, economics and IT (MaKE IT)" (Agreement on the implementation of the European Union fund project No. 1.1.1.3/21/A/003)

Cooperation within AUTORADE project

On 26 October 2022, the EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA) and the Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFLA) signed the agreement No 8.2.3.0/22/A/004 on the implementation of the ESF project "Automation Tools for Creative Industries AutoRADE". The duration of the project is 14 months (31.10.2022. until 31.12.2023). Project partners:

- University of Latvia
- Transport and Communications Institute
- Rezekne Technology Academy

- Vidzemes Augstskola
- University of Liepaja
- Latvian digital accelerator
- Ventspils High Technology Park
- Valmiera Development Agency

AutoRADE project aimed at introducing digital initiatives that will promote the modern, innovative research process in the creative industries.

ESF projekta «Automatizācijas rīki radošajām industrijām AutoRade» rezultāti



Fig. 2. Results of AUTORADE project

Project "Automated Tools for Creative Industries (AUTORADE)" (Agreement on the implementation of the European Union fund project No. 8.2.3.0/22/A/004)

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/> In 2023, EKA organized 2 sessions:

- *Circular economy as the basis of sustainable development* (Moderator: PhD cand., Mg.oec. Edgars Cerkovskis, Director of the EKA study program "Circular Economics and Social Entrepreneurship", European Commission expert on macro and regional economics, Latvia)
- *Financial Literacy and Innovations in the Financial Sector* (Moderator: prof., Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, Researcher at the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences, Vice-Rector for Science and International Relations of the University of Applied Sciences (EKA), Aija Brikse, Head of the Financial Literacy Division at the Bank of Latvia, Latvia) https://economicforum.lv/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PROGRAMMA_FORUM_19.09.23-1.pdf

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.

4.3. National cooperation (with business and public sector)

Cooperation with the Bank of Latvia

In the year 2023/2024 the implementation of the Strategy for financial literacy of Latvian residents for the period 2021-2027 took place. (<https://www.bank.lv/en/component/content/article?id=12782:latvijas-banka-will-be-the-responsible-institution-in-the-field-of-financial-literacy>)

The working group involves representatives from many institutions, such as Ministry of Economics, Consumer Rights Protection Center, State Employment Agency, Financial Sector Association, Latvian insurers' Association, BA School of Business and Finance, Riga Technical University, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Joint Stock Company "Development Finance Institution Altum", Joint Stock Company "NASDAQ Riga", JSC "SEB banka", subsidiary of Luminor Bank AS in Latvia, JSC "Swedbank", "Intrum Latvia" Ltd., "Junior Achievement Latvia", and others. <https://www.finansupratiba.lv/zinas/paraksta-sadarbibas-memorandu-latvijas-iedzivotaju-finansu-pratibas-strategijas->

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 – 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.

The cooperation agreement was signed in 2024 on "Cleaning the data of the European Social Enterprise Monitor (ESEM) and creating the Latvian ESEM report, describing, analyzing the data and creating the design of the report" (16/04/2024).

Cooperation with "Finanšu izglītības biedrība" (Society for Financial Education)

Cooperation in the research "Knowledge and attitude towards financial investments among young people". As a result, joint article was published in the year 2023: "Knowledge, attitude and behavior towards investments: pilot study on Latvian sample". <https://doi.org/10.3846/bm.2023.971>

Cooperation with NewDoor Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator

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

New Door member of the board Diana Lapkis was moderating a section "Inclusiveness and diversity of education" during FuturEDU conference, November 8-9, 2024. It was also responsible for moderation of a section "Social Entrepreneurship" during etECH conference on April 24-25.

EKA representative dr.oec. Jevgenija Dehtjare participated in New Door acceleration program on its graduation event on May 23, 2023. The acceleration program is part of the cycle of social entrepreneurship activities of the Ministry of Welfare "Developing social entrepreneurship together!", financed by the European Social Fund.

EKA representative Jelena Titko participated as an expert in the project "Social Innovations: development of their characteristics, definitions, idea and bid assessment criteria and their application methodology".

Cooperation with Reach for Change

Reach for Change is an international non-profit founded in Sweden.

Since 2010, Reach for Change has been empowering local social entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions that improve the lives of children and youth.

The participants of the EKA business incubator and the students of the "Circular economy and social entrepreneurship" program participated in the interactive workshop organized by Reach for Change, which took place on October 11, 2023.

Cooperation with BNI

During the study year 2023/2024 the cooperation with Business Network International Latvia (BNI Latvia) "Steinhauer" group members took place in research about Networking Intelligence as a driver for Relational Capital development and Business Performance.

Cooperation with SIA "Numeri"

During the year 2024, the cooperation took part according to the research theme "Employee entrepreneurial competences in relation to business and social aspects of organizational development", EKA project on entrepreneurship competences.

Cooperation with Novikontas Maritime College

The cooperation took part within the research "Relationship between Perception of Digital Transformation and Individual Psychological Capabilities of Academic Staff" in the year 2024. The cooperation was effectuated in line with the research direction "Well-being in life and well-being at work" <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=1497&lng=lva> and the joint publication was published: "Relationship between Perception of Digital Transformation and Individual Psychological Capabilities of Academic Staff: Pilot Study in Latvia" <https://doi.org/10.22381/jsme12120243>

Cooperation with CleverPoint SIA

Representatives of EKA Scientific Institution took part in the psychophysiological research education program provided by the Clever Point SIA. The education program took part during the spring-summer 2024.

Cooperation with POC

On November 1, 2023, a cooperation agreement was concluded between EKA and A/S "Center for Prosthetics and Orthopedics", (POC) according to the terms of which the parties agreed to start cooperation in the implementation of joint research projects, scientific and other events. Accordingly, in the fall of 2023, the EKA Scientific Institution carried out the execution of the order for the research study "Prerequisites for creating an ideal health center". (agreement No. 16-10/26/07-01)

4.4. International cooperation

EIT HEI initiative, Network IQ Alliance (NIQ)



EKA University of Applied Sciences is one of the few Latvian universities that is a partner in one of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT) HEI Initiative (Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education) projects. The initiative's call for proposals supported the project "Building Forward Better' ecosystems: Harnessing the power of networked communities to scale up and accelerate the impact of entrepreneurial universities" (Network IQ Alliance), in which EKA is a full partner. Network IQ Alliance (NIQ) is a community of entrepreneurial universities from Spain, Poland, Latvia, Ireland and the UK, an innovative SME, a network of research institutes, an industry network, and a global network of science and technology parks in 77 countries.

The goal of NIQ project is to empower purpose-driven entrepreneurial people to amplify growth opportunities from the networks they build to innovate better, faster and have long-term resilience. To achieve this, the Network IQ Alliance consortium is committed to mainstream network intelligence (nIQ) – a system-change methodology developing digital competencies at the ecosystem level for innovation and networking.

In 2023, EKA representatives participated in various activities, related to the project. For example, Jevgenija Dehtjare participated in Network IQ project dissemination, delivering an impactful series of lectures titled "Leadership and Networking" at Klaipėdos state college (KVK), Lithuania, spanning 8 hours on November 16- 17, 2023. The primary objective was to disseminate the ideas and principles of the Network IQ project to both international students and teaching staff at KVK.



dr.oec. Jevgenija Dehtjare in KVK,
November 16-17, 2023



Dr.oec. Kaspars Steinbergs at the "Horizon4Poland`23"

From November 21 to 22, Kaspars Steinbergs, project manager of the scientific institution of the EKA University of Applied Sciences, participated in the event "Horizon4Poland'23," organized by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT) HEI project Network IQ Alliance partner "Łukasiewicz - Institute of Organization and Management in

Industry." Horizon4Poland'23 is a matchmaking event addressed to business and the scientific industries. The event is a unique chance to network between companies and R&D institutions seeking for partners and projects to become a part of the Horizon Europe Programme. During the event, K. Steinbergs participated in several activities related to the Network IQ Alliance project and various EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC).

In March 2024, rector of the EKA University of Applied Sciences, researcher, associate professor Dr. oec. Oksana Lentjushenkova shared the latest knowledge about the possibilities of improving the quality of higher education at the two-day (14-15.03.2024) international seminar in Poznan, Poland organized by Network IQ Alliance. The researcher enriched the seminar with two presentations - "Quality of nIQ courses: presentation of the approach implemented" and "Excellence Hubs - Conceptual framework and formal requirements".

On April 24, 2024, the EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the global research and innovation company "Tataj Innovation" on the setting up of the "Network IQ Baltic Excellence Hub". Such a platform of excellence will promote academic excellence, research, and entrepreneurship, and in its implementation, the university will play an important role in organizational processes and participation.



dr.oec. Oksana Lentjushenkova in Poznan, Poland,
March 14-15, 2024



dr.oec. Oksana Lentjushenkova and dr. Darja Tataj
are signing the Memorandum, Riga, April 24, 2024

Also on April 24, during the "International Academic Week 2024" taking place at the EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA), the workshop "Building Virtual Identity" of the "Network IQ Alliance" project took place, during which the participants, under the leadership of the founder and Head of "Tataj Innovation", professor Daria Golebiowska-Tataj, and the EKA rector, associate professor Oksana Lentjushenkova, got acquainted with various ways and tools to internationalize the universities and built multiple international research collaborations.

On May 8, 2024, the "Network IQ Best Practice" seminar took place online, during which its participants shared experiences and discussed the results of the implementation of the Train-the-Trainer activities of the "Network IQ Alliance" project. During the "Best Practice" seminar, Jevgenija Dehtjare participated in the coaching session and her coach was Prof. Daria Gołębiowska-Tataj.

The EIT HEI Initiative Pilot Phase Conclusion Event took place in Brussels on June 3-4, 2024 and EKA University of Applied Sciences participated in it, as a part of the project "Building Forward Better' Ecosystems - Harnessing the Power of Networked Communities to scale-up and accelerate the impact of entrepreneurial universities – Network IQ Alliance". The university was represented by dr. Jevgenija Dehtjare, the head of the development of EKA Scientific Institution. The event brought together 250 representatives from the 65 projects of the HEI Initiative's Pilot Phase. It represented an important moment for the Initiative and

its community, celebrating accomplishments and building on the collective vision for the next phase.



Jevgenija Dehtjare and Carmen Adan, Network IQ coordinator at HEI Pilot Phase Conclusion Event, Brussels, June 3-4, 2024



Prof. Darja Tataj is delivering workshop “Building virtual identity” in Riga, April 24, 2024



Fig. 3. Results of NIQ project https://www.linkedin.com/posts/networkiq-alliance_network-iq-2024-project-results-activity-7226868439074672640-1fTi/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

UXiship project

Erasmus+ KA2, Capacity Building in the field of higher education, “Accelerating ICT students’ start-up development competence via interdisciplinary modular courses in the HEI curricula” (Uxiship). Initial project implementation period: November 2019 - November



2022. In view of the impact of the COVID-19 constraints on project activities, the project eligibility period was extended by 12 months, until 14 November 2023, following a request from the project coordinator to amend the contract between the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency and the Hochschule Wismar/University of applied Sciences.

EU partner universities: Hochschule Wismar, University of applied Sciences (Germany); Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia); EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia). Partner universities in Kazakhstan: Kostanay State University; Almaty Management University; Caspian State University

The consortium has set the following objectives:

- revise and update under EU universities' supervision the contents of ICT curricula;
- define learning outcomes that should evolve as a result of ICT-based entrepreneurship module implementation in ICT majors curricula;
- update partner countries universities staff knowledge in accordance with industry challenges, guest lecturing and internships;
- create online scalable model of ICT-based entrepreneurship hard and soft skills development module that can be implemented in partner countries;
- enhance ICT competence by wide involvement of engineering and technology students in learning-by-doing IT-practices including block chain, internet of things, automation etc.;
- elaborate guidelines for recognition of joint ICT-based entrepreneurial module within ECTS credit system in partner countries;
- implement ICT-based entrepreneurial module in ICT university curricula in partner universities.

In 2023, from August 14 to 18, the EKA delegation visited the Almaty Management University in Kazakhstan within the framework of the UXiship project. The purpose of the visit was to examine the possibilities of integrating entrepreneurial content into IT study programmes. During the visit, the EKA team introduced colleagues from project partner universities in Kazakhstan with their examples of integrating business content for IT students and also got acquainted with the experience of Kazakh colleagues. The EKA University of Applied Sciences was represented on the visit by the rector O. Lentjusenkova, vice-rector of science J. Titko, professors V. Vevere and V. Zarina, assistant professors E. Cerkovskis, K. Steinbergs, J. Budanceva, N. Verina, programme director K. Karasevskis, and quality manager J. Pildavs.



Meeting in AlmaU, Astana, August 14-18, 2023



Meeting in Riga, October 2-6, 2023

From October 2 to 6, 2023, representatives from various Kazakhstan universities visited EKA University of Applied Sciences within the framework of the "UXiship" and "UnWaste" projects. During the visit, different "Train-the-Trainer" activities were organized throughout the week: lectures, discussions, demonstrations, a tour, as well as dinner. Within the framework of the "UXiship" project, 14 representatives from the following Kazakhstan universities were visiting EKA: Almaty University of Management, Caspian University of Technology and Engineering named after Sh.Yessenov, and A. Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University.

UXiship outcomes:

- Number of new/updated study courses: 40
- Number of developed MOOCs: 2 (in the fields Technopreneurship and Business strategy)
- Number of learners / trainees enrolled (per intake / course delivery): 1900
- Number of partner country "non-HEI individuals" trained (priv. sector, NGOs, civil servants and etc.): 200

UXiship is financed and supported by the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Union Capacity building in the field of higher education (Project ref. No. 609870-EPP-1-2019-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP).

UnWaste project

Erasmus+ KA2, Capacity Building in the field of higher education, "Advancing circular economy in partner countries by development and implementation of Master programme "Waste management" (UnWaste). Project implementation period: January 2021 - January 2024.



EU partner universities: Hochschule Wismar, University of applied Sciences (Germany); Tallinn University of Technology (Estonia); EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia). Partner universities from the Republic of Kazakhstan: Ahmet Baytursynov Kostanay State University, Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau State University, Saken Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University.

From October 2 to 6, 2023, representatives from various Kazakhstan universities visited EKA University of Applied Sciences within the framework of the "UXiship" and "UnWaste" projects. From the "UnWaste" project, 17 representatives from the following universities

visited: A. Baitursynov Kostanay Regional University, Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau State University, and S. Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University.

From March 10 to 14, 2024, representatives of the EKA University of Applied Sciences, implementing the international project "UnWaste" , visited Astana, where they met with partner universities from Kazakhstan, to jointly carry out various project-related activities. During the meeting, the Republic of Kazakhstan was represented by three partner universities - A. Baytursynov Kostanay State University, Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau State University, Saken Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University.

The EKA University of Applied Sciences was represented by EKA vice-rector for sciences and international cooperation, Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, "UnWaste" project coordinator from EKA Dr. oec. Kaspars Steinbergs, visiting professor Dr. oec. Tatjana Tambovceva, head of the development of the EKA Scientific Institution, Dr. oec. Jevgenija Dehtjare, director of the EKA master's study program "Circular economy and social entrepreneurship" Mg.oec. Edgars Cerkovskis, director of the EKA study program "Management Studies" Mg. iur. Natalja Verina. As a proud representative of HEInnovate initiative, EKA University of Applied Sciences, represented by its head of the development of Scientific Institution, dr. oec. Jevgenija Dehtjare has delivered a workshop under the title "HEInnovate: is your HEI prepared for future challenges?" to our colleagues in Kazakhstan. The workshop took place in the framework of the UnWaste project, financed and supported by the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Union Capacity building in the field of higher education (Project ref. No. 618715-EPP-1-2020-1-1-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP) and was held on the 12th of March, 2024 in Astana.



HEInnovate initiative workshop in Kazakstan,
March 12, 2024



EKA visit to Kazakstan, March 10-14, 2024

UnWaste is financed and supported by the ERASMUS+ programme of the European Union Capacity building in the field of higher education (Project ref. No. 618715-EPP-1-2020-1-1-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP).

VILESA project

In 2021-2024, EKA participated in the implementation of the international project "Development of a virtual learning space as a tool for developing students' critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity skills in the context of COVID19" (VILESA).



Project coordinator: Vilniaus kolegija/ Vilnius University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania)

Project partners:

- Krakow University of Economics (UNIWERSYTET EKONOMICZNY W KRAKOWIE) (Poland),

- Iron Cat, developer of virtual and extended reality solutions (Lithuania)
- EKA University of Applied Sciences- EKA (Latvia)
- Lithuanian Practice Enterprise Association, LIBA (Lithuania)

The aim of the VILESA project is to solve the problems of application of modern teaching/learning methods in social sciences by digitizing the study content by using a Virtual reality platform. The application of modern technologies to the digitization of study content encourages creativity and creates opportunities for users to get involved in the content creation process themselves. Encouraging creativity, adapting content to the younger generation of learners (Generation Z) is based on developing practical skills while reducing environmental impact and contributing to business sustainability. The project is intended to reinforce and sustain such positive behavioural trends.

On August 14-18, 2023, EKA staff members – participants of another Erasmus+ project “Accelerating ICT students’ start-up development competence via interdisciplinary modular courses in the HEI curricula” (Uxiship) – visited Almaty Management University to participate in the Train-the-Trainer activities. One of them was the workshop “Use of Virtual Reality solutions in the study process” conducted by Edgars Cerkovskis.

During the multiplier event of the VILESA project, which was organized by the EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA) in two parts on April 23 and May 29, 2024, the results achieved during the implementation of the project were presented to a wide audience.

During the International Academic Week (IAW) 2024 held at the end of April, the staff of foreign universities from 13 countries got acquainted with it, while at the online event held at the end of May, students and teaching staff of local Latvian distance learning institutions got acquainted with it.

On May 14 and 15, 2024, the final meeting and conference of the VILESA project took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, during which the achieved results were discussed and the developed learning virtual reality (VR) tools were tested and presented to a wider audience. During the implementation of the project, nine VR classes as learning tools have been developed in English and in the languages of the partner countries: Lithuanian, Polish, and Latvian. Two VR classes were created by the EKA University of Applied Sciences: Circular Economy and Culture Project Management. This event was hosted by the lead partner of the VILESA project, Vilnius University of Applied Sciences (Vilniaus Kolegija, VIKO). EKA was represented by the vice-rector of sciences and international cooperation, Prof. Jelena Titko, project manager of the Scientific Institution of the university, Kaspars Steinbergs, director of the master study program "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship," Edgars Cerkovskis, as well as Andrejs Birzgals, lecturer of the Game Design program.



E. Cerkovskis at his workshop at ALMAU, Kazakstan, August 14-18, 2023



VILESA final meeting in Vilnius, May 14-15, 2024

The VILESA project is financed and supported by the European Commission, Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2 – Cooperation partnerships in higher education (grant agreement No. 2021-1-LT-01-KA220-HED-000023551).

BENEFIT project

Since September 2022, EKA is a partner in the International project “Blended Learning and Evaluation Practices for Inclusive Digital Higher Education” (BENEFIT). Project coordinator: Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (North Macedonia). Project partners:



- Sveuciliste u Zagrebu (Croatia),
- Asociacia na prepodavatelite po iekonomika i upravljenje v industriata (Bulgaria),
- University of Peloponnese (Greece),
- EKA University of Applied Sciences - EKA (Latvia).

The BENEFIT project’s main objective is expanding the quality and efficiency of education provided by HEIs, by further building on the Erasmus+ project "EMBED - European Maturity Model for Blended Education". Such activities set the foundation for inclusive blended learning and teaching methods as modernized and dynamic models for the HEIs. By doing so, HEIs are adequately transforming to the needs of modern era, by promoting better student experiences, greater personalisation and significantly higher efficiency. Furthermore, the need for implementation of the blended learning concept is also noted by the European Commission through the “Digital Educational Plan 2021-2027” as its potential benefit are immense.

On September 14 and 15, 2023 the EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA) participated in the partner meeting of an international project, BENEFIT, which took place in Zagreb, Croatia.



Participants of the BENEFIT meeting in Zagreb, September 14-15, 2023



Participants of the BENEFIT meeting in Sofia, June 3-4, 2024

On June 3 and 4, 2024, the EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA) participated in the international BENEFIT project partner meeting held in Sofia, Bulgaria. EKA was represented by vice-rector for science, professor Jelena Titko and researcher, associate professor Kristine Uzule.

BENEFIT is financed and supported by the European Commission, Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 2 – Cooperation partnerships in higher education (grant agreement No. 2022-1-MK01-KA220-HED-000087530).

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.

From April 9 to 11, 2024, a seminar and meeting took place in Belgrade, Serbia, during which representatives of the EKA University of Applied Sciences (EKA) together with the partners of the "Circular STEM" project from Serbia, Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal evaluated the results so far, and also discussed further activities. In less than a year, a focus groups have been organized, six learning modules and practical workshops have been developed. During the seminar where the partners presented the work done, the director of the EKA study program "Circular economy and social entrepreneurship" Mg.oec. Edgars Cerkovskis presented the learning module "Digital Literacy and Tools in the Circular Economy", which he developed as part of the project.



E. Cerkovskis at the meeting in Belgrade, April 9-11, 2024

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 Reseach 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".



Karina Zalcmane and Marina Kamenecka-Usova during their visit to Bern (Switzerland) aimed at taking interview with Claudius Schäfer, CEO of the Swiss Super League, June 25-27 2024

Table 5. Summary of EKA participation in international projects in 2023/2024

Period	Title of the project	Grant agreement No	Coordinator
2019 - 2023	Accelerating ICT students' start-up development competence via interdisciplinary modular courses in the HEI curricula (Uxiship)	609870-EPP-1-2019-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	Hochschule Wismar (Germany)
2021-2024	Advancing circular economy in partner countries by development and implementation of Master programme "Waste management" (UnWaste)	618715-EPP-1-2020-1-1-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	Hochschule Wismar (Germany)
2021 - 2024	Development of a virtual learning space as a tool for developing students' critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity skills in the context of COVID19" (VILESA)	2021-1-LT-01-KA220-HED-000023551	Vilniaus kolegija (Lithuania)
2022--2024	Building forward better' ecosystems - assessing the power of unworked communities to scale-up and improve the impact of entrepreneurial universities - Network IQ Alliance "		Fundacio Privada Universitat i Tecnologia (Spain)
2022-2024	"Blended Learning and Evaluation Practices for Inclusive Digital Higher Education" (BENEFIT)	2022-1-MK01-KA220-HED-000087530	Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (North Macedonia)
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	

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).

As a member of DLEARN, EKA University of Applied Sciences hosted the "FuturEDU 2023" International Scientific and Educational Conference from November 8 to November 9, 2023, in Riga, Latvia. The event was organized by request of and in cooperation with the DLEARN. The international event brought together leading experts, educators, and stakeholders to discuss and shape the future of education and skills in the digital age. FuturEDU 2023 provided a platform for thought-provoking discussions, knowledge sharing, and networking among education professionals, fostering innovation and collaboration to shape the future of education and skills.



FuturEDU conference in Riga, November 8-9, 2023

On January 24-25, 2023, EKA University of Applied Sciences, represented by its Vice Rector for Sciences prof., dr.oec. Jelena Titko joined Dlearn meeting in Piraeus, Greece, hosted by IDEC, for the annual project labs. The event featured seminars on European initiatives and calls, such as Teacher's Academies, Alliances for Innovation, and Centres of Vocational Excellence, followed by group brainstorming sessions to enhance members' capacity for designing new initiatives. <https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=577&lng=eng>

On April 24-25, 2024, Gianluca Coppola, the president of the European Digital Learning Network (Dlearn) has participated as a key note speaker at etECH conference plenary session with the report "The future educational scenarios shaped by digital transformation. Conventional teaching is outdated"? [https://www.augstskola.lv/upload/Future%20of%20education Plenary%20session GCo ppola.pdf](https://www.augstskola.lv/upload/Future%20of%20education%20Plenary%20session%20GCo%20ppola.pdf)

In June 2024 Dlearn became an international partner of EKA University of Applied Sciences hosted a cross-country research project entitled: Institutional and Personal Barriers towards Digital Transformation in Higher Education. The agreement No 4-17/24/1 was signed on June 27 to start the cooperation.

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 Lentjusenkovna – member of the Research Centre for Strategic Management
- Jevgenija Dehtjare, Kristine Uzule, Jelena Budanceva – members of the Research Centre for Human Resource Management

On May 22- 24, 2024 EKA made its inaugural appearance at the EUMMAS (European Marketing and Management Association) A2S Conference on Global Social and Technological Development and Sustainability in Bucharest, Romania. The conference,

organized by the EUMMAS Academic Consortium comprising over 30 universities and business schools, focused on the theme "Navigating the New Frontier: Responsible Innovation, Circular Economy, and Digitalization of Business and Public Administration Sectors in the Era of AI and Big Data" <https://conference.eummas.net/bucharest2024/> . EKA was represented by the Vice-Rector for Science Jelena Titko and the Head of the Development of the Scientific Institution Jevgenija Dehtjare:

Conference outcomes:

- Presentation "Relationship between Perception of Digital Transformation and Individual Psychological Capabilities of Academic Staff: Pilot Study in Latvia"
- Presentation "Fostering academic staff engagement by enhancing its competences into the innovative education process".
- Paper: 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>
- Paper: Dehtjare, J., Mironova, J., and Užule, K. (2024). "Fostering Academic Staff Engagement by Enhancing Its Competences into the Innovative Education Process," Economics, Management, and Financial Markets 19(1): 87–100. doi: 10.22381/emfm19120245.

Membership in ENAI

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

EKA representatives will take part in activities of the ENAI Working group:

- Karina Zalcmane: "Academic Integrity Policies" <https://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/academic-integrity-policies-working-group/>
- Jelena Titko: "Academic Writing Ethically"

Pr5 PRIORITY "Scientific reputation of EKA"

5.1. Scientific, academic and creative events organized by EKA

International Scientific Conference

On April 24-25, 2024 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 (etECH2024).

This was an 8th etECH conference that attracted participants from Germany, USA, UK, Italy, Finland, France, Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Bulgaria, Romania, North Macedonia, Croatia, Portugal, Georgia, Ukraine, and Latvia presented their research results in nine parallel sessions:

- MACROECONOMICS, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, PUBLIC ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS (chairpersons dr. prof. Vita Zarina, dr., as.prof. Kristine Uzule, EKA)
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY (chairpersons Mg., PhD cand. Edgars Cerkovskis, Dr., assistant prof. Kaspars Steinbergs, EKA)
- SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (chairperson Mg. Diana Lapkis, New Door)
- BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE FINANCE (chairpersons dr., as. prof. Oksana Lentjusenkova, PhD cand., assistant prof. Natalja Verina, EKA)
- LAW (chairpersons dr. as. prof. Karina Zalcmane, dr., as. prof. Marina Kamenecka-Usova, EKA)
- MARKETING, COMMUNICATION AND BRANDING (chairpersons dr., prof. Inga Shina, dr., prof. Velga Vevere, EKA)
- PEDAGOGY AND EDUCATION (Dr., assistant prof. Larissa Turuseva, PhD cand., assistant prof. Zane Veidenberga, EKA)
- ICT SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMY, BUSINESS AND EDUCATION (Dr., prof. Uwe Busbach, Kehl University of Public Administration, Mg. Jurijs Radionovs, EKA)
- CULTURE STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURE PROJECT MANAGEMENT / CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, ART AND DESIGN (MBA, assistant prof. Jelena Budanceva, EKA, Dr. Nadiia Lolina, Institute of Historical Research)



etECH2024 Plenary section 25/04/2024



EtECH2024 greetings by Embassy of Finland in Latvia. JAAKKO KOIVUSAARI, Deputy Head of Mission



Pedagogy and education section best paper award ceremony

International Academic Week

On April 12-26, 2024, the EKA University of Applied Sciences organized an annual International Academic Week (IAW2024) in cooperation with Alberta College.

Table 6. IAW2024 activities

Date	Participant	HEI/ Organization	Activity
22.04.2024.	REGINA ZSUZSANNA REICHER, PhD	Budapest Business University, Faculty of Finance and Accountancy (Hungary)	MARKET SEGMENTS AND TARGETS
22.04.2024.	ANITA KOLNHOFER-DERECSKEI, PhD	Budapest Business University, Faculty of Finance and Accountancy (Hungary)	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY – LITERATURE REVIEW
22.04.2024.	URGITA SEKLIUCKIENE, Dr.	School of Economics and Business, Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania)	INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS: GLOBAL CHANGES THAT INFLUENCE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE FIRMS
22.04.2024.	ZANE VEIDENBERGA, Assistant Professor	EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)	LATVIA FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES
22.04.2024.	IVANA MALA, PhD	Prague University of Economics and Business, Faculty of Informatics and Statistics (Czech Republic)	SILVER GENERATION WORK HISTORY
23.04.2024.	PIOTR DZIK, Dr.	Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Katowice (Poland)	A MODERN VISUAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM AS A SOCIAL COMMUNICATION TOOL IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
23.04.2024.	BESIKI TABATADZE, PhD	European University (Georgia)	FRONTEND TECHNOLOGY (HTML, CSS, JAVASCRIPT, REACT)
23.04.2024.	BESIKI TABATADZE, PhD	European University (Georgia)	BACKEND TECHNOLOGY (PHP, LARAVEL)
23.04.2024.	NADIHA LOLINA, Dr. Arts	CARA Fellow of IHR UOL (UK)	ART THERAPY FOR BURN-OUT PREVENTION
23.04.2024.	GRETA DANILAVICIENE, Mg.	Kaunas University of Technology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (Lithuania)	GIVING AN EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION
23.04.2024.	GYONGYI CSONGRADI, PhD	Budapest Business University, Faculty of Finance and Accountancy	NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ECONOMY
24.04.2024.	MARIA GOLEC, PhD,	WSB Merito University in Poznan, Faculty of Finance and Banking, Institute of Economics and Finance (Poland)	INFLATION AND ITS IMPACT ON LOANS
24.04.2024.	ANNA SOŁTYSIK-PIORUNKIEWICZ,	University of Economics in Katowice (Poland)	KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS
	Dr. hab., as. Prof. WITOLD CHMIELARZ, Dr. hab., prof.	University of Warsaw (Poland)	
24.04.2024.	Dr. DARIA GOŁĘBIEWSKA-TATAJ, Honorary Professor	University of Manchester (UK)	NETWORK IQ WORKSHOP “BUILDING VIRTUAL IDENTITY”

	Dr. OKSANA LENTJUSENKOVA, Associate Professor,	EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)	
24.04.2024.	MIKKEL TRYM, International consultant ZSUZSA JAVORKA, Partner and the Lead for the Education and Skills Thematic Group at Technopolis Group	Incubator at Copenhagen University and the Copenhagen Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab Technopolis Group	HEInnovate WORKSHOP



IAW2024 participants

International Staff Training Week

The EKA STW2023 International Staff Training Week, hosted by EKA University of Sciences, brought together 34 participants from various EU countries, including Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, and Turkey. Supported by the EKA Scientific Institution, the event aimed to enhance academic staff's writing and research skills. <https://www.augstskola.lv/index.php?parent=337&lng=eng>

Throughout the week, participants engaged in a series of enriching activities, including lectures such as "Must know and must-have for researchers" by J. Titko, "Visualisations for research and teaching" by Dr. Anna Svirina, "Data types" and "Research design and structure" by Dr. oec. Jelena Titko, and "Bibliometric analysis: core stage and principles" and lecture "How to get your article published" by Dr. Tetyana Pimonenko and Dr. Oleksii Lyulyov; workshops like "Computer-based qualitative research and design" led by Dr. Kaspars Šteinbergs. A session with scientific journal editors to gain insights into publishing was held and a networking workshop by Dr. oec. Jevgenija Dehtjare, EKA Scientific Institution's head of development was provided, accompanied by the presentation on the Network IQ project by EKA University of Sciences rector Dr. oec. Oksana Lentjušenkova.

The teams set up during the STW2023 created five research ideas to work on:

- Macroeconomic factors affecting job satisfaction.
- Skills for high-performing study process: Multiple perceptions on the issue.
- On the Assessment of the Environmental Pillar of ESG Disclosures: A comparative study.

- The Trust Barriers in Business Settings in Eastern Europe.
- Challenges of Climate-related Disclosures in Banking Sector: the Case of Baltic States

37 Researchers from 17 universities and other institutions participated in the event:

1. University of Peloponnese, Greece
2. Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania
3. Vilnius University, Lithuania
4. İzmir Democracy University, Turkey
5. Wrocław University of Economics and Business, Poland
6. Police Academy in Szczytno, Poland
7. The Management University, Poland
8. Paweł Włodkowic University in Płock, Poland
9. Vilnius University, Lithuania
10. Warsaw School of Economics, Poland
11. Communication School, Turkey
12. CTL Eurocollege, Cyprus
13. University of Applied Sciences Burgenland, Austria
14. Zagreb University of Applied Sciences, Croatia
15. Journal Publishing Centre, Lithuania
16. Sumy state university, Ukraine
17. EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia



STW2023 Gala Dinner



STW2023 Opening

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 2024, the EKA University of Applied Sciences held the Students' international scientific-practical conference "INVENTIO" 2024: MOVE THE SCIENCE. The conference was held on May 18, 2024, the session for international students was held on April 26.

The international students were awarded for the following best papers on the April 26:

- Madushani Saumya Jayarathne Ikkagoda Arachchige, EKA, Factors Affecting Staff Turnover In The Apparel Sector In SriLanka (sc. supervisor: Prof., Dr.oec. Jelena Titko)
- Nurzhanova Zhasmin, EKA, POSSIBILITIES OF ELECTRIC CAR BUSINESS IN KAZAKHSTAN (sc. supervisor: Mg. Edgars Čerkovskis)

- Ambuja Bangalore Srinivasa, EKA, Guidelines For Development Of Strategy For Global Competitive Advantage Of Latvian Cosmetic Companies (sc. supervisor: Prof., Dr.oec. Jelena Titko)
- Oleksandr Zakharov, Marija Rozonova, EKA, Relationship between Income Level and Customer Satisfaction in the Apparel Industry among Latvian Consumers (sc. supervisor: Prof., Dr.oec. Vita Zariņa)
- Thomas Pichot Fernandes, Juan Carlos Gonzalez Rodriguez, EKA. To identify demand of gym in Latvia (sc. supervisor: Prof., Dr.oec. Vita Zariņa)

The day of May 18 included work in different sections as well as creative workshops:

- Section "Business management and marketing, business economics and accounting" (best paper Patriks Nuka, Kristofers Nipkens, EKA, Mūsdienu videospēļu industrijas virzība (supervisor: Mg. Anete Bērza))
- Section "Human Resources I and Law" (best paper Elizabete Zīverte, EKA, Latvijas augstskolu studentu mākslīgā intelekta lietošanas paradumi (sc. supervisor: MBA, asistant professor Jeļena Budanceva))
- Section "Human Resources II" (best paper Marta Klovāne, EKA, Mikroagresijas – mikro apvainojumi ikdienā (sc. supervisor: MBA, asistant professor Jeļena Budanceva))
- Section "Cultural management" (best paper Roberts Cēris, EKA, Smagā metāla mūzikas žanra klausītāja un koncertu apmeklētāja profils Latvijā (sc. supervisor: MBA, asistant professor Jeļena Budanceva) and Sabīne Lasmane, EKA, Ērgļu pagastā dzīvojošo jauniešu iesaistīšanās un apmeklētība pagastā notiekošajos kultūras pasākumos. (sc. supervisor: MBA, asistant professor Jeļena Budanceva))
- Section "Information technologies" (best paper Kristis Jansons, EKA, Kali Linux distributīva iespējas datortīkla monitorēšanai un drošības pārbaudei (sc. supervisor: sc.comp., Mg.Math., visiting asistant Prof. Roberts Glaudiņš))
- Section "Management" (best paper Oskars Martinsons, EKA, Darbaspēka problēmas Rīgas viesnīcu pārvaldības uzņēmumos (sc. supervisor: Prof., Dr.oec., Vita Zariņa))



Participants of the students' conference, 18.04.2024.

Learning and methodical conference

The Educational-Methodical Conference of the EKA University of Applied Sciences and Albert College "Organization of educational methodological and scientific work in the study process" (<https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=615&lng=lva>) took place on February 1,

2024. The topic of the conference was “The use of artificial intelligence in the study process” and it included following reports:

- Use of artificial intelligence in research and data analysis;
- The use of artificial intelligence in the study process (exact sciences);
- The use of artificial intelligence in the study process (social sciences).

Presenters:

Levs Fainglozs, Phd, Artificial Intelligence Researcher, Latvia;

Adam Mayes, COPENHAGEN ACADEMY OF DIGITAL ART, Denmark;

Oleksandr Krakovetskyi, PhD, Microsoft AI MVP/RD Certified Trainer, Ukraine.

5.2. EKA publishing activities

Each year, conference abstract proceedings are published as part of the etECH Conference. This year it includes 165 research abstracts (available at: <https://www.augstskola.lv/?parent=829&lng=lva>)

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 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 2024 contains more than 160 abstracts of student research. In addition, in the field of Arts, collection “Description of Students’ Creative Projects and Works of Art” was published, which brought together 13 descriptions of works of art created by the students of the study programme “Interior design” and 4 computer game descriptions made by the students of the study programme “Computer game design and graphics”.

In 2023, EKA published a monograph written by the representatives of the study programme Law: Karina Zalcmāne, Marina Kamenecka-Usova. *Sporta tiesības: Aktuālās problēmas, izaicinājumi un jaunākās tendences*. Rīga: Ekonomikas un kultūras augstskola, 2023. ISBN 978-9984-24-257-6

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