

EKA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

**SCIENTIFIC AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY
2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

Riga 2022

Annual Report on the Scientific Activity of the EKA University of Applied Sciences,
2021/2022

“The Annual Report of the EKA University of Applied Sciences on scientific activities 2021/2022” is issued in accordance with the Law on Scientific Activity of the Republic of Latvia.

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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.

Pr1 PRIORITY “QUALITY ASSURANCE IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY”

In 2021/2022, the academic staff of EKA consisted of more than 120 people, 53 of whom were elected to the academic posts of EKA (as of 20.06.2022, incl. 32 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	Staņislavs Keišs	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	professor	<i>Economics</i>
2	Vita Zariņa	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	professor	<i>Economics</i>

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3	Jeļena Titko	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	professor	<i>Economics</i>
4	Anna Ābeltiņa	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	asoc.prof.	<i>Economics</i>
5	Aija Sannikova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
6	Ilona Lejniece	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
7	Ilga Lipšāne	<i>Mg oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
8	Inga Brasla	<i>prof.Mg.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
9	Pāvels Patļins	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
10	Edgars Čerkovskis	<i>Mg.sc.soc.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Economics</i>
11	Inga Šīna	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	professor	<i>Management science VZ</i>
12	Velga Vēvere	<i>Dr. phil.</i>	professor	<i>Management science VZ</i>
13	Oksana Lentjušenkova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	asoc.prof.	<i>Management science VZ</i>
14	Ksenija Ijevļeva	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
15	Tatjana Kuļikova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
16	Anna Svirina	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
17	Viktorija Skvarciāny	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
18	Tatjana Daudiša	<i>Mg oec.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Management science VZ</i>
19	Jeļena Jermolajeva	<i>Dr. paed.</i>	asoc.prof.	<i>Management science KV</i>
20	Ingus Barovskis	<i>Dr.phil.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science KV</i>
21	Imants Ļaviņš	<i>Dr.hist.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science KV</i>
22	Ieva Andžāne	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science KV</i>
23	Ance Gricmane	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>lecturer</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	Egmonts Treiguts	<i>Mg.phys.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
26	Mārcis Pinnis	<i>Dr.sc.comp.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
27	Jūlija Lebedinska-Ļitvinova	<i>Dr.math.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
28	Aleksandras Targamadze	<i>Candidate of Techn.sc.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
29	Rinat Minyazev	<i>Candidate of Techn.sc.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
30	Dmitrijs Finaškins	<i>Mg.sc.ing</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
31	Patriks Morevs	<i>Mg.math.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
32	Andrejs Liepiņš	<i>Mg.sc.comp.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
33	Jeļena Alfejeva	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
34	Vita Ņemenova	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
35	Una Skrastiņa	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
36	Juris Juriss	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
37	Marina Kamenecka-Usova	<i>PhD</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>

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38	Karina Zalcmane	PhD	assistant professor	Law
39	Larisa Saukāne	Dr.iur.	assistant professor	Law
40	Arta Snipe	PhD	assistant professor	Law
41	Atis Bičkovskis	prof.Mg.iur.	lecturer	Law
42	Natalja Verina	Mg.iur.	assistant professor	Law
43	Ināra Brante	Mg.iur.	assistant professor	Law
44	Inese Stankeviča	Mg.iur.	assistant professor	Law
45	Baiba Guste	Mg.art.	lecturer	Arts
46	Zoja Geraskina	Mg.art.	assistant professor	Arts
47	Ksenija Milča	Mg.art.	lecturer	Arts
48	Kristiana Kazarjana	Mg.art.	assistant professor	Arts
49	Kitija Almane	Mg.art.	lecturer	Arts
50	Larisa Turuševa	Dr. paed.	asoc.prof.	Translation
51	Gatis Dilāns	PhD	asoc.prof.	Translation
52	Aija Poikāne-Daumke	Dr.phil.	assistant professor	Translation
53	Zane Veidenberga	Mg.edu.mgmt.	assistant professor	Translation

Several EKA academic staff members elected to academic positions have received the rights of experts of the Latvian Council of Science (as of 20.06.2022. – 34%).

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>
Vita Zariņa	Dr.oec.	Social sciences - economics and business	18.11.2022.
Jeļena Titko	Dr. oec.	Social sciences - economics and business	31.03.2024.
		Social sciences - education sciences	16.10.2022.
Inga Šina	Dr.oec.	Social sciences - economics and business	18.11.2022.
Oksana Lentjušenkova	Dr.oec.	Social sciences - economics and business	03.09.2023.
Aija Sannikova	Dr.oec.	Social sciences - economics and business	03.09.2023.
Ilona Lejniece	Dr.oec.	Social sciences - economics and business	04.11.2023.
Una Skrastiņa	Dr.iur.	Social sciences - Law	03.09.2023.
Karina Zalcmane	PhD	Social sciences - Law	03.02.2024.
Marina Kamenecka-Usova	PhD	Social sciences - Law	01.06.2025.
Velga Vēvere	Dr.phil.	Humanities and arts: Philosophy, ethics and religion	03.09.2023.
		Social sciences - economics and business	18.12.2022.
Mārcis Pinnis	Dr.sc.comp.	Natural science – computer science and informatics	23.04.2023.

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. In 2021/2022, teams were created in four directions (Table 4).

Table 3 EKA priority research areas 2021 /2022

NAME OF THE RESEARCH AREA		Study direction	Coordinator
In Latvian	In English		
Ilgtermiņa attīstība un aprites ekonomika	Sustainable development and circular economy	Economics	EKA professor, Dr.oec. J. Titko
Aktuālās tendences ekonomikā un finansēs	Emerging Trends in Education and Finance	Economics	EKA professor, Dr.oec. V.Zarina
Aktuālās tendences vadībizinātnēs un mārketingā	Emerging Trends in Education and Marketing	Management	EKA professor, Dr.oec. I.Šina
Sociālās inovācijas un sociālā uzņēmējdarbība	Social innovations and social entrepreneurship	Management	EKA professor, Dr.phil V.Vēvere
IKT un digitalizācijas pētījumi	Research in ICT and digitalization	IT Management	EKA assistant professor, Dr. A.Svirina
Kultūras pētījumi un kultūras projektu vadība	Cultural studies and culture project management	Management	EKA assistant professor, MBA J.Budanceva
Aktuālās tendences jurisprudencē	Emerging Trends in Law	Law	EKA assistant professor, PhD K.Zalcmane
Sporta tiesību mūsdienu problemātika	Current issues in Sports law	Law	
Pētījumi izglītībā	Research in Education	All study directions	-

Table 4. International research teams established in 2021 / 2022

Research direction	Team members
Sustainable Development and Circular Economy	<p>Research coordinator: Dr. Jelena Titko, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Čerkovskis, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) • Dr. Anna Svirina, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) • Dr. Armand Faganel, Associate Professor, University of Primorska (Slovenia)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Maryna Solesvik, Professor, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (Norway) • Dr. Natālija Cudečka-Puriņa, Associate Professor, BA School of Business and Finance; Researcher, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) • Dr. Anna Jasinska-Biliczak, Assistant Professor, Opole University (Poland)
Current issues in Sports law	<p>Research coordinator: Dr. Karina Zalcmāne, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. David McArdle, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Law School, Stirling University (Scotland, UK). • Dr. Nemes András, Professor in law at the University of Physical Education Budapest, Attorney at law of the Dr. Nemes András Law firm (Hungary) • Dr. Anna Di Giandomenico, Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Political Science, University of Teramo (Italy) • 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). The President of the Legal Commission of the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee; • Dr. Marina Kamenecka-Usova, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)
Research in ICT and digitalization	<p>Research coordinator: Dr. Anna Svirina, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tatjana Tambovceva, Professor, Riga Technical University (Latvia) • Dr. Jelena Titko, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) • Dr. Viktorija Skvarciany, Associate Professor, VILNIUS TECH (Lithuania) • Dr. Ephias Ruhode, Associate Professor, Wits Business School, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) • Dr. Mourine Achieng, University of South Africa: Graduate School of Business Leadership (South Africa) • Gianluca Coppola, President, European Digital Learning Network (Italy) • Francesca Pissarello, Policy officer and Project manager, European Digital Learning Network (Italy) • Dr. Uwe Busbach, Professor, Hochschule Kehl University of Applied Sciences (Germany) • Dr. Marina Z. Solesvik, Professor of Innovation and Management, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (Norway) • Mg. (PhD cand.) Andrejs Liepins, college programme "Programming" director, Alberta college (Latvia) • Mg. Patriks Morevs, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) • Mg. Jurijs Radionovs, Bachelor programme "Programming engineer" director, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) • Mg. (PhD cand.) Natalja Verina, Assistant Professor EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)
Cultural studies and culture project management	<p>Research coordinator: MBA Jelena Budanceva, Assistant Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Velga Vevere, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) • Andrius Juškys, Vilniaus kolegija / University of Applied Sciences, The Faculty of Arts Creative Technologies, (Lithuania) • Mg. Kristina Astike, PhD student, VILNIUS TECH (Lithuania) • Kristīne Užule, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia) • Dr. Indre Lapinskaite, Associate Professor, VILNIUS TECH (Lithuania) • Dr. Kaspars Šteinbergs, Assistant Professor, Alberta koledža (Latvia)

2.2. Scientific achievements of EKA academic staff

In 2022/2021, the academic staff of the EKA University of Applied Sciences have published 55 publications in peer-reviewed scientific publications, including 35 articles in internationally peer-reviewed publications, which already have been included in the

internationally quoted databases Web of Science, Clarivate Analytics and SCOPUS. In addition, EKA academic staff have also published monographs and textbooks.

Publication of EKA academic staff (incl. publications indexed in Web of Science or Scopus databases):

1. Rizhamadze, K., & **Ābeltina, A.** (2022). Assessing the Effects and Policy Interventions Amidst COVID-19 Crisis: Focus on Georgian SMES. In *Eurasian Business and Economics Perspectives* (pp. 169-189). Springer, Cham. SCOPUS
2. Rizhamadze, K., & **Ābeltina, A.** (2021). The Factors that Promote Business Growth Opportunities for SMEs in Latvia in Wholesale and Retail Trade Sector. In *Eurasian Business and Economics Perspectives* (pp. 115-126). Springer, Cham. SCOPUS
3. **Jermolajeva, J.**, Silchenkova, S., & **Turusheva, L.** (2021). Study of University Students' Learning Motivation for Improving the Educational Process Efficiency (in Riga and Smolensk Samples). *Cultural Management: Science and Education*, 5(2), 111-126. SCOPUS Q2
4. **Lentjushenkova, O.**, **Titko, J.**, Lapina, I. (2021). Measuring of Intellectual Capital Investments in Higher Education: Case of Latvia. *International Journal of Quality and Service Sciences*, 13(4), 601-617. doi: 10.1108/IJQSS-05-2020-0071. SCOPUS WOS:000683887900001 Q2
5. Bel'skis, Z., Zirne, M., Slaidiņš, V., & **Pinnis, M.** (2021). Natural Language Based Posting Account Classification. *Baltic Journal of Modern Computing*, 9(2), 180-194. DOI10.22364/bjmc.2021.9.2.03 WOS:000665758600003
6. **Pinnis, M.**, Busemann, S., Vasiļevskis, A., & van Genabith, J. (2022). The German EU council presidency translator. *KI-Künstliche Intelligenz*, 36(1), 99-104. DOI10.1007/s13218-021-00744-4 WOS:000709791000001
7. Bergmanis, T., & **Pinnis, M.** (2021). Dynamic terminology integration for covid-19 and other emerging domains. *WMT 2021 - 6th Conference on Machine Translation, Proceedings* pp. 821-827 SCOPUS
8. Bergmanis, T., & **Pinnis, M.** (2021). Facilitating terminology translation with target lemma annotations. *EACL 2021 - 16th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Proceedings of the Conference* pp. 3105-3111. SCOPUS
9. **Skvarciany, V.**, & Vidžiūnaitė, S. (2022, June). Decent work and economic growth: the case study of the BRICS countries. In *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia* (Vol. 10, No. 2, pp. 73-89). SCOPUS
10. Lapinskaitė, I., Stasytė, V., & **Skvarciany, V.** (2022). Assessing the European Union capitals in the context of smart sustainable cities. *Open House International*, (ahead-of-print).
11. **Skvarciany, V.**, Jurevičienė, D., Žitkienė, R., Lapinskaitė, I., & Dūdė, U. (2021). A different approach to the evaluation of smart cities' indicators. *TalTech Journal of European Studies*, 11(2), 130-147. SCOPUS Q1
12. Dūdė, U., Žitkienė, R., Jurevičienė, D., **Skvarciany, V.**, & Lapinskaite, I. (2021). Evaluation of outsourcing development in the service sector. *Economies*, 9(2), 44. SCOPUS Q2
13. **Skvarciany, V.**, Lapinskaitė, I., & Volskytė, G. (2021). Circular economy as assistance for sustainable development in OECD countries. *Oeconomia copernicana*, 12(1), 11-34. SCOPUS Q1
14. **Skvarciany, V.**, & Jurevičienė, D. (2021, September). An approach to the measurement of the digital economy. In *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia* (Vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 89-102). SCOPUS
15. Morkunas, M., Volkov, A., & **Skvarciany, V.** (2021). Estimation of retail food prices: case of Lithuania. *International Journal of Learning and Change*, 13(2), 218-232. SCOPUS Q3
16. Jurevičienė, D., **Skvarciany, V.**, & Kravec, K. (2021). Assessment of reputational risk impact on commercial banks financial performance. *International Journal of Economics and Business Research*, 21(1), 62-86. SCOPUS Q2
17. Rowen, J., & **Snipe, A.** (2021). The Promise and Perils of Urban Land Restitution in Latvia. *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, 15(1), 47-65. DOI 10.1093/ijtj/ijaa028 WOS:000684135700004 Q2
18. **Svirina, A.**, & Anand, A. (2021). Dubious or decisive? Digging deeper into the uncharted path of academic ghostwriting. *Journal of Organizational Change Management*. 35(1), pp. 38-58 SCOPUS Q2

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19. **Svirina, A.**, Appalonova, N., Garanin, D., Lukashevich, N., & Koshkin, I. (2021). Fintech developmental trends: the role and influence of sustainable digital logistics. In E3S Web of Conferences (Vol. 258, p. 02019). EDP Sciences. SCOPUS
20. Horak, S., Klein, A., & **Svirina, A.** (2021). Trust, reciprocity and reputation in informal networks in post-Soviet Russia. *European Journal of International Management*, 15(4), 657-685. SCOPUS Q2
21. Tambovceva, T., **Titko, J.**, **Svirina, A.**, Atstaja, Dz., Tereshina, M. (2021). Evaluation of the Consumer Perception of Sharing Economy: Cases of Latvia, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. *Sustainability*, 13, 13911. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su132413911> SCOPUS WOS:000742134000001 Q2
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25. **Lentjushenkova, O.**, **Titko, J.**, Lapina, I. (2021). Measuring of Intellectual Capital Investments in Higher Education: Case of Latvia. *International Journal of Quality and Service Sciences*, 13(4), 601-617. doi: 10.1108/IJQSS-05-2020-0071. SCOPUS WOS:000683887900001 Q2
26. **Sannikova, A.**, **Titko, J.** (2021). Social entrepreneurship and social inequality: a case study of Latvia. In *Economic Science for Rural Development Conference Proceedings* (No. 55), 188-195. doi: 10.22616/ESRD.2021.55.019 SCOPUS
27. **Verina, N.**, **Titko, J.**, **Shina, I.** (2021). Digital Transformation Outcomes in Higher Education: Pilot Study in Latvia. *International Journal of Learning and Change (IJLC)*, 13 (4/5), 459 – 473. SCOPUS Q3
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29. Linina, I., Zvirgzdina, R., & **Vevere, V.** (2021, June). Client Relationship Management in Latvian Retail Enterprises Under COVID-19 Circumstances. In *ENVIRONMENT. TECHNOLOGIES. RESOURCES. Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference* (Vol. 1, pp. 155-161). SCOPUS
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31. **Vevere, V.** (2021). Radical demand and spontaneity in KE Løgstrup's phenomenological ethics with continuous reference to S. Kierkegaard. *HORIZON. Феноменологические исследования*, 10(1), 123-139. DOI10.21638/2226-5260-2021-10-1 WOS:000663542100008 SCOPUS Q2
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35. **Zalcmane, K.**, **Kamenecka-Usova, M.**, & **Bickovskis, A.** (2021). The Problematic Issues of Sports Law in Latvia: Compliance of Labour and Tax Legislations from the Sustainable Development Perspective. *European Journal of Sustainable Development*, 10(4), 291-291. WOS:000727955100027
36. **Ābeltiņa, A.**, & Rizhamadze, K. (2021). Challenges to Managing Virtual Teams in Georgian SMEs. In *SHS Web of Conferences* (Vol. 119). EDP Sciences. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/202111903003>

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37. **Ābeltiņa, A.,** & Rizhamadze, K. (2021). The complexity of relationships within business and the importance of common ground. In SHS Web of Conferences (Vol. 90, p. 01001). EDP Sciences. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20219001001>
38. Rizhamadze, K., & **Ābeltiņa, A.** (2021). The Role of Quality Improvement in the Innovation practices in SMEs in Latvia. In SHS Web of Conferences (Vol. 115, p. 02007). EDP Sciences. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/202111502007>
39. **Titko, J.,** Tambovceva, T., Atstaja, Dz., Lapinskaite, I., Solesvik, M. (2022). Attitude Towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship among Students: Testing a Measurement Scale. In: Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2022", May 12-13, 2022, Vilnius, Lithuania, 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.3846/bm.2022.893>
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42. Linina, I., Arbidans, D., & **Vevere, V.** (2021). Identification of business management improvement factors for start-up companies in Latvia in the conditions of globalization. In SHS Web of Conferences (Vol. 129, p. 08011). https://www.shs-conferences.org/articles/shsconf/abs/2021/40/shsconf_glob2021_08011/shsconf_glob2021_08011.html
43. Tambovceva, T., **Titko, J. Svirina, A.,** Tereshina, M. (2021). Deterrents to participation in Sharing Economy activities: Cross-Country Survey. SHS Web of Conferences Globalization and its Socio-Economic Consequences 2021, 129, 05014 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/202112905014>
44. **Budanceva, J.** Soida, S. & Sondore, L. (2022). Opportunities for the Development of International Cooperation for Professional Orchestras. Economics and Culture, 19(1) 108-120. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2022-0010>
45. **Lentjushenkova, O.** (2021). Human Capital Development at Higher Education Institutions. Economics and Culture, 18(2) 5-14. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jec-2021-0010>
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47. Simenenko, O. and **Lentjushenkova, O.** (2021). Advantages and Disadvantages of Distance Working. In: Perspectives of Business and Entrepreneurship Development: Digital Transformation for Business Model Innovation: Proceedings of Selected Papers, Czech Republic, Brno, September 16-17, 2021. Brno: Brno University of Technology, 2021, pp. 125-142. ISBN 978-80-214-6005-8. <https://conference.fbm.vutbr.cz/ic/index.php/ic/libraryFiles/downloadPublic/23/PROCEEDING-SELECTED-2021.pdf>
48. **Jermolajeva, J., & Turusheva, L.** (2022, May). FIRST-YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL/COGNITIVE MOTIVES FOR STUDYING IN RIGA AND SMOLENSK SAMPLES. In SOCIETY. INTEGRATION. EDUCATION. Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference (Vol. 1, pp. 100-112).
49. **Titko, J., Svirina, A., Radionovs, J., Liepins, A.** (2021). REQUIRED SKILLS FOR STUDENTS OF ICT-RELATED STUDY PROGRAMMES: GAP ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING CURRICULA IN RUSSIAN AND KAZAKH UNIVERSITIES. In: Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference "Innovation, Social and Economic Challenges", 43-47.
50. **Verina, N.** (2021). HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION. In: Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference "Innovation, Social and Economic Challenges", 17-25.
51. Mons, A., **Vevere, V.** (2021). Using behavioural economics to improve workplace collaboration based on predetermined workers' and business values, Acta Prosperitatis, 12, 67-75.
52. Zafran, M., **Vevere, V.** (2021). The influence of retail services and selling behaviors on customer's satisfaction, trust and loyalty intentions in retail industry of Pakistan, Acta Prosperitatis, 12, 203-221.

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54. **Cerkovskis, E.**, Gajdosikova, D., & Ciurlau, C. F. (2022). CAPITAL STRUCTURE THEORIES: REVIEW OF LITERATURE. Ekonomicko-Manazerske Spektrum, 16(1), 12-24. [dx.doi.org/10.26552/ems.2022.1.12-24](https://doi.org/10.26552/ems.2022.1.12-24)
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55. **Zalcmane, K., & Kameņeckā-Usova, M.** (2021). Whether Sports Liability is an Independent Type of Legal Liability. Socrates 2(20), 255-267. <https://doi.org/10.25143/socr.20.2021.2.255-267>

In 2021/2022, EKA academic staff wrote 14 papers published in Q1/Q2 scientific journals (e.g. *Oeconomia copernicana*, *Sustainability*, *International Journal of Quality and Service Sciences* and others).

Each year EKA is hosts International Scientific Conference "**Emerging trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH)**". The 2022 conference was organized in a number of hybrid sections involving representatives of all EKA study directions (full time staff and and visiting academic staff).

Participants of the joint section on "Sustainability and Circular economy / Macroeconomy, International Economics, Public Economics and Financial Economics":

- Viktorija Skvarciāny. *HOW EFFECTIVE EU COUNTRIES' DIGITAL ECONOMIES TRULY ARE?*
- Edgars Cerkovskis. *DEVELOPMENT OF THE LATVIAN CIRCULAR ECONOMY INDEX*

Participants of the section: "Emerging Trends in Business Administration, Marketing and Corporate Finance":

- Inga Shina. *INDIVIDUAL LEVEL PREDICTORS OF ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE IN MANUFACTURING COMPANIES*
- Inga Shina, Velga Vevere. *COVID-19 IMPACT ON START-UPS IN LATVIA*
- Ilona Lejniece. *ANGEL INVESTING, CREATING INVESTMENT STRATEGIES, WHY ECONOMY CAN BENEFIT FROM IT: CASE OF BALTIC COUNTRIES*
- Iveta Cirule. *OPEN INNOVATION IN BUSINESS INCUBATION IN LATVIA*

The section "Information technologies" hosted:

- Oskars Rasnacs. *MODELS FOR FORECASTING STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENTS DEPENDING ON ASSESSMENTS IN INFORMATICS AND STATISTICS COURSES*
- Dzintra Atstāja, Tatjana Tambovceva. *ICT SOLUTIONS DIGITIZING THE STUDY PROCESS AND ADULT EDUCATION*

The following participants participated in the section "EMERGING TRENDS IN LAW":

- Marina Kameņeckā-Usova. *GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NATIONAL SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERNAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION*
- Karina Zalcmane. *CRIMINAL LIABILITY IN SPORTS*
- Atis Bičkovskis. *JUSTIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF THE ZERO PERCENT VALUE ADDED TAX RATE*

Participants of the joint section entitled "Emerging Trends in Culture Studies and International Culture Project Management / Creative Industries, Art and Design":

- Ilze Krūmiņa, Inga Milēviča. *MEDIA USAGE SPECIFICS (VIDZEME REGION, LATVIA)*
- Anna Svirina. *CREATING NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: EVIDENCE FROM SOCIAL EXPERIMENTING*

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- *Oksana Lentjushenkova. CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE AND INTERPERSONAL TRUST AS A DRIVERS FOR INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT*
- *Dita Pfeifere. THE ISSUES OF DEFINING AND CLASSIFYING CULTURAL CENTRES*
- *Jelena Budanceva. OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRAS*
- *Harsh Chauhan, Natalja Verina. IMPACT OF SOCIOCULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS ON ATTITUDE TOWARD DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION*
- *Imants Ļaviņš. IMAGES OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA AND NATION IN THE INTERWAR WORLD EXIBITIONS*
- *Nadiia Lolina. AUTHENTIC ROOTS SURVIVAL: UKRAINIAN MODERN EXPERIENCE*

Participants of the section "PEDAGOGY AND EDUCATION":

- *Inga Shina, Vita Zarina. TRANSPORTATION OF BUSINESS EXPERIENCE TO THE EDUCATION SECTOR*
- *Natalja Verina, Vita Zarina, Edgars Cerkovskis, Jelena Budanceva. PERCEIVED IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL ISSUES: RESULTS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY CHALLENGE FOR LATVIAN STUDENTS*
- *Rita Burceva. VIEWS OF SCHOOL CAREER COUNSELLORS OR SUPERVISION*
- *Zane Veidenberga. DIALOGUE PROTOCOLS AND POST-TRANSLATION QUESTIONNAIRES: INSTRUMENTS FOR GETTING FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS WHEN PILOTING NEW TRANSLATION GUIDELINES*
- *Jelena Jermolajeva, Larissa Turusheva. EKA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES FIRST AND LAST YEAR STUDENTS' MOTIVATION FOR LEARNING*

In 2021/2022, EKA's academic staff participated with their reports in several international scientific conferences:

1. **Ļaviņš Imants.** International scientific conference "Divi Jūliji. Uzdrīkstēšanās", July 30, 2021, Gulbene, Latvia. *IDENTITY AND RESEARCH IN CREATIVITY*
2. **Ļaviņš Imants.** International conference "Theatrum Libri: The Press, Reading and Dissemination in Early Modern Europe". Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Vilnius, 1.-3.12.2021. *"SLOVANSKY NÁRODOPIS" ROLE IN THE FIRST AWAKENING MOVEMENT IN LATVIA*
3. **Ļaviņš Imants.** International Congress on the Study of the Middle Ages. Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds, Session 715, 05 JULY 2022. *COSMOGRAPHIC VISION IN NIZĀMĪ'S ROMANTIC EPIC HAFT PAYKAR*
4. **Ilona Lejniece.** Participation and presentation at the International Economic Forum IV Drafting and publication of summaries in the Forum's publication. Reports: *Relations between the State and Society in the context of regulatory enactments: case of Latvia; Challenges of design thinking and innovation in governance: case of Latvia*
5. **Oksana Lentjushenkova.** 18th International Scientific Conference "Perspectives of Business and Entrepreneurship Development: Digital Transformation for Business Model Innovation: Economic, Management, Finance and System Engineering from the Academic and Practitioners Views" (Brno University of Technology, Czech Republic, online).
6. **Mārcis Pinnis.** The 2021 Conference of the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA 2021; 2021. gada Amerikas Mašintulkošanas asociācijas konference).
7. **Mārcis Pinnis.** The 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing" (EMNLP 2021; 2021. gada Konference par empiriskām metodēm dabiskās valodas apstrādē). 7.-9.11.2021.
8. **Mārcis Pinnis.** „EMNLP 2021 Sixth Conference on Machine Translation" (WMT 2021; 6. Machine translation conference). The conference was held online. 10.-11.11.2021.

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9. **Vevere, V., Sannikova, A.,** Linina, I. International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2022", May 12-13, 2022, Vilnius, Lithuania. *Business students' perception of social entrepreneurship in Latvia and study curriculum development*
10. Linina, I., Zvirgzdina, R., **Vevere, V.** International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2022", May 12-13, 2022, Vilnius, Lithuania. *Ensuring consumer satisfaction with chatbots in the Baltic states*
11. **Vevere, V.,** Mahmoodi, M. XVIII International May conference on strategic management – IMCSM22, May 28, 2022, Bor, Serbia. *The relationship between supply chain agility and job satisfaction among employees of knowledge-based companies*
12. **Zarina, V., Vevere, V.** 23rd Annual international scientific conference "Economic Science for Rural development" May 12, 2022, Jelgava, Latvia. *Competitiveness of organic producers in Latvia.*
13. **Vevere, V., Shina, I.,** Ganina, S. ICEP-2022, April 7-8, 2022, Kaunas, Lithuania. *Corporate social responsibility as a factor promoting customer loyalty in the Latvian retail sector*
14. Linina, I., **Vevere, V.** 4th International Conference on Advanced Research Methods and Analytics "CARMA 2022", 29 June – 1 July, 2022 · Valencia, Spain. *Evaluation of the use of influencers for the development of consumer satisfaction in the Baltic consumer goods market*
15. **Vevere, V., Shina, I.** International conference "Globalizacija 2021", October 12-13, 2021. *Impact of laws and regulations on public benefit organizations in Latvia in context European Union*
16. Linina, I., Arbidans, Dz., **Vevere, V.** International conference "Globalizacija 2021", October 12-13, 2021. *Identification of business management improvement factors for start-up companies in Latvia in the condition of globalization*
17. **Vevere, V.** XVII JORNADAS KIERKEGAARD 2021 "ENFERMEDAD MORTAL Y FINITUDTO, Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 10-12, 2021. *To think oneself together with death: Gabriel Marcel and Søren Kierkegaard on death as an existential fact*
18. **Vevere, V.** The 6th Conference of the Central and East European Society for Phenomenology "Phenomenology and Sociality", December 2-4, 2021, Ljubljana, Slovenia. *Social geometry and social distancing*
19. **Vēvere, V.** International Scientific Conference "National identity: The gastropoetic aspect. Historical, inter-national and interdisciplinary context", November 25-27, 2021, Riga, Latvia. *Kafija ar Sērenu Kirkegoru. (Coffee with Søren Kirkegoru.)*
20. **Vēvere, V.** International scientific conference "CURRENT CHALLENGES IN LITERATURE AND CULTURAL RESEARCH", 24-25 March 2022. "The moment between: The saturated pauses in the books of V. Freibergs "Kinomāna slimības vēsture" and "Viktora otrā grāmata"
21. **Anna Svirina.** Sustainable Development of smart territories within digital transformation. International Scientific Conference "Digital transformation of Manufacturing, Infrastructure, and Service" April 28-29, 2022 (keynote)
22. Horak, Sven, Klein, Andreas & Svirina, Anna. Using Comparative Network Analysis to Explore Trust Relationships in Network Societies Academy of Management Annual Meeting, August 7-9, 2022
23. **Skvarciāny, V.** 15th International Days of Statistics and Economics, September 9-11, 2021, Prague (Czech Republic). Approach to Prioritisation of EU Countries Regarding Digital Economy.
24. **Skvarciāny, V.** International Scientific Conference Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH2022), April 2022, Riga (Latvia). Measuring Efficiency of Digital Economy: DEA Approach.
25. **Skvarciāny, V.** 12th International scientific conference "Business and management 2022", May 12-13, 2022, Vilnius (Lithuania). Decent work and economic growth: Case of EU.
26. **Titko, J.** 10th International Workshop "Advances in Circular Production", Ferrara, Italy, November 11, 2021. Construction and Demolition Waste Management in the context of a Circular Economy: Latvian Survey Results
27. **Titko, J.** International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2022", May 12-13, 2022, Vilnius, Lithuania. Attitude Towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship among Students: Testing a Measurement Scale

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28. **Turusheva, L.**, (2022). FIRST-YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL/COGNITIVE MOTIVES FOR STUDYING IN RIGA AND SMOLENSK SAMPLES. // SOCIETY. INTEGRATION. EDUCATION. International Scientific Conference May 27th-28th, 2022, Rezekne.
29. **Turusheva, L.**, (2021). Study of University Students' Learning Motivation for Improving the Educational Process Efficiency (in Riga and Smolensk Samples). 8th INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE "NEW TRENDS IN MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION ENGINEERING - REGIONAL, CROSS-BORDER AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES. 10 -11 June 2021. WSB University, Poland/ Germany

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

- Jelena Titko: Journal "Marketing and Management of Innovations" (<https://mmi.fem.sumdu.edu.ua/en/content/editorial-board>) un "Business, Management & Economics Engineering" (<https://journals.vgtu.lt/index.php/BME/editorialboard>)
- Viktorija Skvarciany: "Business, Management & Economics Engineering", "Prague Economic Papers" (https://pep.vse.cz/about-journal/inf-990000-0300>About_us.php)
- Velga Vevere: "European Integration Studies" (<https://eis.ktu.lt/index.php/EIS/about/editorialTeam>)

In 2021/2022, EKA academic staff participated in reviewing scientific papers in publications indexed by SCOPUS/ Web of Science / ERIH+ databases:

- Jelena Titko: papers in journals "Sustainability" (Q2), "Journal of Risk and Financial Management";
- Viktorija Skvarciany: papers in journals "Sustainability", "Risks", "Journal of Risk and Financial Management", "Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market and Complexity"
- Anna Svirina: papers in journal "Emerging Markets Case Studies"
- Oksana Lentjušenkova: papers in journal "Total Quality Management and Business Excellence"

In 2021, Ingus Barovskis, teacher of the study programme "Cultural Management", has published his book "Mythopoeia: mūsdienu mītrade".

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 3.2.16. 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 2021/2022, EKA

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students submitted 82 research abstracts, as well as 15 descriptions of creative and artistic works. In addition, EKA students submitted 71 full text articles to the EKA/AK Student research paper collection:

In 2021/2021, EKA students also participated in other scientific and creative activities:

- Event SQUID GAMES of the 4th year students of Cultural Management programme (within the study course PRODUCTION, provided by assistant professor Jeļena Budanceva, project group mentor, assistant professor). 10.12.2021
- Opening of the exhibition of the Interior Design programme students organized by the students of the year 4 of the Cultural Management programme (within the framework of the course PRODUCTION, course is delivered by assistant professor Jeļena Budanceva; project group mentor – assistant professor Ksenija Miļča), 18.12.2021
- Following the order placed by orchestra RIGA, students Sabīne Soida and Lāsma Sondore (B_KV) have conducted a study on international cooperation opportunities for professional orchestras. The result is a Bachelor Paper (evaluation at the defence - 10 (outstanding)) and a joint scientific paper submitted for publication at the etECH Journal.
- In the spring semester, the students of the bachelor programme at the workshop “Creative ideas” (groups B_M_P and B_M_NS) developed and submitted their document “Ideas for attracting more Latvian students at EKA”
- EKA Computer Game Design and Graphics programme students (Digimons) participated in a three-day international game industry event, Game Wave Festival 2021. The representatives of EKA had their own stand, where students Aleksandra Toropova, Edgars Simsons and Katrīna Uva Jansone demonstrated their own games.
- In the summer of 2021, EKA Interior Design programme students Elina Dambite, Una Foigta and Annija Norde together with constructors, under the supervision of the Study programme director Ksenija Miļča, carried out an ambitious interior update project in the premises of the canteen and welfare center of the Latvian National Defense Academy.
- The Interior Design programme students of EKA – Jeļena Ivanova, Viktors Andis Čuikins, Anastasija Suprun and Marta Ozola – have developed an interior design project for the Gaujas Medical Center - a campus of 860m², housed in two floors and comprising both medical treatment rooms, a hotel and fireplace room. The Center is located in the village of Gauja, in Inčukalns municipality, in one campus with Technical Cultural Center.
- 3.12.2021.-5.12.2021., the stand of the Interior Design department of EKA takes part in the Furniture & Design Isle competition “Design Arena” at Ķīpsala.
- 20.12.2021., at the Gauja Club an exhibition “0 punkts” of the art and environmental art objects of the Interior Design programme students of EKA was opened.
- 25.01.2022., Karlīna Jansone, EKA 4 th year student of Interior Design programme, participating in the competition for designing a logo for association “Cerību spārni”, has gained not only good experience, but also good evaluation – a 100 euro prize.

In addition, in 2021/2022, EKA students participated in the MAKE-IT project “Innovation grants for students in the fields of art, culture, economics and IT interdisciplinary areas” (No .1.1.3/21/A/003) and developed creative ideas:

- Team “Art Hunt” – students from Cultural Management and Information Technologies programmes
- Team “Styleprint” – students from Computer game design and graphics programme
- Team “Web&Content” - students from Marketing and Business Economics programmes
- Team “Gray Wolf Entertainment” – students from Computer game design and graphics programme

Several student teams also participated in the Financial challenge. "Financial Literacy Challenge" is a project carried out by the EKA University of Applied Sciences and FinLit representatives within the framework of the strategy to increase financial literacy among the people living in Latvia. The aim was to increase the interest of young people on financial literacy issues and enhance their knowledge. This is a one-month competition between student teams. EKA students competed in several teams:

- Team "Kultūrfinansisti" – students from the bachelor programme "Cultural Management";
- Team "Ekonomikas ledlauži" – students from the bachelor programme "Management"
- Team "Mixerī" – students from the bachelor programme "information Technology" and college programme "Logistics"
- Team "Tranzīts" – students from the college programme "Logistics"
- Teams "Finanšu saulītes" and "Artūrs@Co" – students from Master's programmes "Business Administration" and "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship"

EKA students and their mentors participated in a study "Perceived importance of financial issues: Results of financial literacy challenge for Latvian students" the results of which were presented at the International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH2022)".

EKA students participated as respondents in the study "Knowledge, attitudes and behavior among young people in Latvia towards investments". The study is carried out by the EKA University of Applied Sciences in cooperation with the Latvian Financial Education Association. The aim of the study is to assess the level of knowledge about investments and to understand the attitude of young people towards investments.

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 and joint research activities, the results of which are reflected in scientific papers. 30% of the prepared papers in 2021/2022 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 on data types/data processing method application errors on 29.08.2022.

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.

4.2. National cooperation

Cooperation within the MAKE-IT project

On 17 November 2021, EKA and the Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA) signed an agreement on the implementation of 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 aim of the project is to increase the entrepreneurial capacity of students by promoting cooperation between universities, students and businesses.

Students at all levels and of all programs, as well as students of senior years from professional secondary and general secondary schools are the main target group. The project target group participants will have access to grants and other support for the implementation of their own or team's innovative ideas.

The project will last 24 months (22.11.2021-21.11.2023) and will be 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 "EUROLCDs".

Cooperation with the Latvian Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics – Economic Forum

On 17 September 2021. EKA, in cooperation with the Latvian Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics, participated in the International Economic Forum



"FUTURE ECONOMY: Globalization Challenges faced by Europe and Baltics in the 21st century".

Professor J. Titko, EKA Vice-rector for Science, together with E. Čerkovskis, Director of Master's study programme "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship", organized section "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship", where representatives of the academic environment and business sector presented the results of their studies:

- **Edgars Čerkovskis.** TRENDS OF DEVELOPMENT OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY OF LATVIA (Mg. oec., PhD cand. Edgars Čerkovskis, director of the study programme "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship" at the EKA University of Applied Sciences, LATVIA)
- **Dr. Tatjana Tambovceva.** CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Professor at Riga Technical University, LATVIA)
- **Jānis Aizbalts.** SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES IN LATVIA AND EUROPE (Mr., Chairman of the Board of SIA "Eco Baltia vide", LATVIA)
- **Regita Zeila.** SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM IN LATVIA (Director of the Latvian Social Entrepreneurship Association, LATVIA)
- **Dr. Natalija Cudecka-Purina.** DEVELOPMENT OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN LATVIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (Head of Environmental Quality and Waste

Management Division of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, LATVIA)

- Dr. **Aija Sannikova**. SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN LATVIA: AREAS OF IMPACT (Member of the Social Entrepreneurship Commission of the Ministry of Welfare, Leading researcher at the Baltic International Academy, Assistant Professor at the EKA University of Applied Sciences, LATVIA)
- **Nadeeshika Silva**. DIGITAL EVOLUTION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT IN EU AND BALTIC COUNTRIES (Mg.sc. geol., PhD cand., Research Associate at the University of Moratuwa, SRI LANKA)

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.

Cooperation with the Latvian Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics – Innovation Camp

On 6 May 2022, the students of the Cultural Management programme of the EKA University of Applied Sciences, together with their teacher Edgars Čerkovskis, within the framework of the study course



"Introduction to business" took part in the Innovation Camp "GENDER INCLUSIVE SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP". The objective of the camp was to create new gender inclusive social policies, business processes, products and services to meet modern challenges – interdisciplinary teams worked on effective solutions to create a more gender inclusive social entrepreneurship ecosystem in Latvia.

During the event there was also a discussion on "THE LATVIAN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM AND GENDER INCLUSION", which was moderated by JEĻENA TITKO, EKA Vice-rector for Science, while the experts were: Dr. NINA LINDE, Director of the Institute of Economics of the Latvian Academy of Sciences; Dr. AIJA SANNIKOVA, Member of Social Enterprise Commission, Ministry of Welfare; EDGARS ČERKOVSKIS, Director of EKA Master's programme "Circular Economy and Social Entrepreneurship"; KATE PREDE-TRAUBERGA, MBA programme Director of Stockholm School of Economics; and VITA BRAKOVSKA, representative of the Knowledge and Innovation Society.

The event was organized by the Latvian Academy of Sciences in the framework of the project EQUALS-EU (European Regional Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital century, <https://eilza.lv/lv/petijumi-un-projekti/notiekosie-petijumi/>) project No. 101006396) Horizon 2020 Science for society and with it; SwafS-26-2020.

4.3. International cooperation

EIT HEI initiative, Network IQ Alliance

The EKA University of Applied Sciences as one of only few Latvian universities has been approved as a partner in an ambitious EU project within the framework of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) initiative for Higher Education Institutions (HEI) - "Building Forward Better'



ecosystems - Harnessing the power of networked communities to scale-up and accelerate the impact of entrepreneurial universities – Network IQ Alliance". Network IQ Alliance 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.

In total, 26 consortia have been approved for participation in the EIT HEI initiative, bringing together almost 300 partners, with only four universities in Latvia: the project "EuroSpaceHub" – the University of Latvia, "NOBALIS" – Latvian Agricultural University, "HIVE" – Riga Stradins University, the University of Latvia, and the project "Network IQ Alliance" – the EKA University of Applied Sciences.

The goal 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.

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.

UXship 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.

The consortium has set the following objectives:

- to develop joint interdisciplinary waste management master's program in partner universities;
- to enrol 50- 70 waste management master programme students and involve 3- 5 university instructors and industry mentors from each partner university;
- to develop academic curriculum for the waste management study programme and relevant engineering programmes at partner universities in line with EU standards and the Bologna process;
- transfer of knowledge to academic staff, ensuring transnational exchange of experience among academic staff, students and entrepreneurs through trainer training sessions provided by EU universities during internships in the EU;
- effective transfer of experience from appropriate waste management cluster projects;
- to raise awareness among politicians and the public about problems through round table discussions, consultations and project platforms, as well as social media;
- to ensure the sustainability and transfer of project results through effective and targeted information at regional, national and interproject levels.

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

Since December 2021, EKA has been participating 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: Vilnius kolegija/ Vilnius University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania)

Project partners:

- Insurance and Risk Management Institute (Draudimo ir rizikos valdymo institutas) (Lithuania),

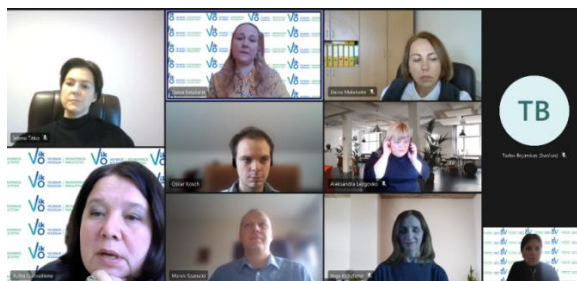
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- Krakow University of Economics (UNIWERSYTET EKONOMICZNY W KRAKOWIE) (Poland),
- Iron Cat, developer of virtual and extended reality solutions (Lithuania),
- EKA University of Applied Sciences- EKA (Latvia)

Project period: 1 December 2021 – 31 May 2024 (30 months).

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.

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).



Online meeting of VILESA partners on 31.01.2022.

Summarised information on EKA's international projects is shown in Table 5.

Table 5 EKA participation in international projects in 2021/2022

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"		Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Spain S.L. (Span)

Cooperation with individual foreign researchers

In April 2022, Renata Walczak, professor of Warsaw University Technology University took an internship at EKA to carry out her research in the field of management science.

In March-April 2022, Viktorija Skvarciany, Associate Professor of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University had her internship at EKA within the framework of the postdoctoral project "Integrated assessment of digital economy impact on European Union countries" sustainable development" (09.3.3.-LMT-K-712-19-0151).

4.4. EKA cooperation with business and public sector

Cooperation with the Bank of Latvia – strategy for financial literacy in Latvia

In order to implement the strategy for financial literacy of Latvian residents for the period 2021-2027, during the summer, 20 partners, including the EKA University of Applied Sciences, have signed a memorandum of cooperation. Partners committed to jointly increase financial literacy of Latvian residents by improving the skills of the population, creating a sustainable culture of financial literacy, ensuring a high quality financial environment and developing a strategic and cooperative approach.

The Memorandum has been signed by: Financial and Capital Market Commission, Bank of Latvia, 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", "Global Shape Community – Riga" project FinLit, Joint Stock Company "Citadele banka", Baltic International Bank SE.

Cooperation with FinLit

In 2021, within the framework of the strategy for financial literacy in Latvia (<https://www.finansupratiba.lv/strategija/>), EKA, in cooperation with FinLit, implemented the project "Challenge of Financial Literacy".

In phase 1 of the project, EKA academic staff and programme directors performed tasks as students to test their relevance and complexity. The mentor of the pilot project was Jelena Titko. EKA Vice-rector for Science.

The first project week was devoted to the theme "Personal budget", which required drafting personal budget, establishment of a nutrition plan for a week and planning daily life. The second week was devoted to the theme "Loan", which required creation of an application for a consumer credit, calculation of the amount that one can borrow, assessment of one's own credit history and comparison of expectations with needs and comparison of different loan offers. In the third week, "Savings", it was necessary to decide where to invest EUR 10 000, comparing different types of savings and instruments. The final stage of "Welfare



During Retirement" involved comparing pension schemes, finding out one's own pension savings and studying the possibility of "2nd pension level inheritance."

26 EKA students participated in the financial challenge working with mentors in six teams for four weeks:

- KULTŪRFINANSISTES – students of bachelor programme "Cultural Management"
- EKONOMIKAS LEDLAUŽI – students of bachelor programme "Management"
- MIXERI – students from "Logistics" and "Information technology" programmes
- TRANZĪTS – students from the "Logistics" programme
- FINANŠU SAULĪTES and ARTURS & Co – students from Master's programme "Business Administration"

EKA students admitted that their participation in the project was very valuable: "It made me think of my daily spending, plan my daily and weekly purchases, think about savings and try to make savings that will certainly be useful at any time of life. You have increased my interest in investments." Participants also emphasised that they have acquired knowledge and understanding of financial planning, differences between different pension levels, investment funds, stock exchanges, investments and crypto currencies.

Cooperation with the Bank of Latvia – conference for teachers

On 24 August 2022, the Bank of Latvia organized a conference for teachers "Does life in virtual reality require financial literacy? Economic news and 100-years of experience of the Bank of Latvia."

EKA teacher Edgars Čerkovskis organized a workshop "Virtual reality tools for the study process" for the teachers of grades 7-9.



E.Čerkovskis together with the moderator of the conference workshop K.Kravinskis, representative of the Bank of Latvia

Cooperation with the Finance Education Association

In 2021, the EKA University of Applied Sciences concluded a cooperation agreement with the Finance Education Association on carrying out research on the theme "Knowledge and Attitude towards Financial Investments among Youth"

The founders of the Latvian Finance Education Association are "Alphinox Quality", "Nasdaq Riga", "Vilands Associates" (operating under the brand "VA Communications"), Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Professor Anete Pajuste and the institutional market manager of "LHV Bank" Ivars Bergmanis.

By the end of 2022, it is planned to complete a student survey (expected number of respondents – 500).

Pr5 PRIORITY “Scientific reputation of EKA”

5.1. Scientific, academic and creative events organized by EKA

International Scientific Conference

In April 2022, in cooperation with Alberta College (Latvia), Walsh College (USA) and Sumy State University (Ukraine), the International Scientific Conference *Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities - etECH2022* was organized.

The annual International Scientific Conference has been held at the EKA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES since 2011. Since 2017, it has been organized under the title *Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities*.

In 2022, more than 87 participants from Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine, Portugal, Czech Republic, Scotland, Finland and Latvia participated in the conference with their contributions.

The ethECH2022 was organized in six hybrid sections (face-to-face and via BBB and Zoom platforms) involving participants with 54 reports on the results of their studies:

- Sustainability and Circular Economy / Macroeconomics, International Economics, Public Economics and Financial Economics (moderators: Associated Professor Viktorija Skvarciany (VILNIUS TECH, Lithuania; Edgars Čerkovskis, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia)
- Business Administration, Marketing and Corporate Finance (moderators: Professor Inga Šina, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia; Professor Velga Vēvere, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia)
- Pedagogy and Education (moderators: Professor Vita Zarina, EKA University of Applied Sciences Latvia; Associated professor Larisa Turuševa, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia)
- Law (moderators: Assistant Professor Karina Zalcmane, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia; Assistant Professor Marina Kamenecka-Usova, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia)
- ICT Solutions for Economy, Business and Society (moderators: Professor Uwe Busbach, University of Applied Sciences, Kehl; Professor Tatjana Tambovceva, Riga Technical University, Latvia)
- Culture Studies and International Culture Project Management/Creative Industries, Art and Design (moderators: Assistant Professor Jelena Budanceva, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia; Associate Professor Oksana Lentjušenkova, EKA University of Applied Sciences, Latvia)

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EKA Vice- rector for Science, Prof. J. Titko. Address at the Opening Ceremony of etECH2022. 21/04/2022



etECH2022 Welcome Party, 21/04/2022



etECH2022 closing dinner/award ceremony, 21/04/2022



With a colleague from Ukraine, Dr. Nadiia Lolina

International Academic Week

On 19 and 22 April 2022, the EKA University of Applied Sciences organized an annual International Academic Week (IAW2022) in cooperation with Alberta College. Within the constraints of COVID-19, the event took place in a hybrid format: face-to-face at EKA and on Zoom and Moodle platforms.

Table 6 IAW2022 activities

Date	Participant	HEI/ Organization	Activity
19.04.2022.	Ing. DAVID RIHA , MBA PhD	Prague University of Economics and Business (Czech Republic)	LECTURE for students: The art of Marketing: How to build a strong brand?
19.04.2022.	JOSE RAMON SAURA , PhD. Tenured Professor	Rey Juan Carlos University (Spain)	LECTURE for staff: Quantitative and qualitative research methodologies
19.04.2022.	VERA GELASHVILI , Associate Professor	Rey Juan Carlos University (Spain)	LECTURE for staff: Different channels of publishing
19.04.2022.	Dr. EDYTA MIODUCHOWSKA-JAROSZEWICZ , Prof. Dr. MIRELA ROMANOWSKA	University of Szczecin (Poland)	LECTURE for students: Financial analysis
20.04.2022.	Dr. AGATA BASIŃSKA-ZYCH , Assistant Professor,	Institute of Economics and Finance of WSB University in Poznan (Poland)	LECTURE for students: Project management
20.04.2022.	IRENA KLIMAVIČIENĖ , Lecturer	Accounting and Finance Department, Kaunas University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania)	LECTURE for students: The Goals of Sustainable Development in Today's Context

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20.04.2022.	Ing. LIBENA JAROLIMKOVA PhD	Prague University of Economics and Business (Czech Republic)	LECTURE for students: Cultural Tourism
20.04.2022.	Ing. BLANKA BEJDÁKOVÁ PhD.	Prague University of Economics and Business (Czech Republic)	LECTURE for students: Hospitality Management
20.04.2022.	MARIA GOLEC PhD, Associate Professor	Institute of Economics and Finance, WSB University in Poznan (Poland)	LECTURE for students: Methods of individual credit risk mitigation in credit institutions
20.04.2022.	MBA SVETLANA ZHURAVEL	PMProfs LTD Owner, Multi-million start-up "Printify" Strategic initiative general manager, ICU Certified Coach since 2019, ICU Business and Executive Coach, NLP practitioner since 2017, Professional manager, PMP certified with more than 17 years experience in IT/Banking/Fintech/Transformation, Mentor of RigaTechGirls (Latvia)	LECTURE for staff: Spiral dynamics model in education: How to get your students and employees be motivated and efficient at studies and work?
20.04.2022.	ANCE GRICMANE , Mg.art., Assistant Professor	EKA University of Applied Sciences, CEO Emotion lab (Latvia)	WORKSHOP: Art therapy integration into study process for better students' engagement and stress reduction
21.04.2022.	Dsc. Eng. RENATA WALCZAK Professor	Faculty of Civil Engineering, Mechanics and Petrochemistry of Warsaw University of Technology (Poland)	LECTURE for students: Internet of Things Acceptance in Smart City of Płock, Poland
21.04.2022.	AGNIESZKA POWIERSKA , Assistant Professor	Higher Vocational State School in Wloclawek (Poland)	LECTURE for students: Storytelling and Effective Communication
21.04.2022.	EDGARS CERKOVSKIS	EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia)	LECTURE for staff: Virtual reality application to study process
21.04.2022.	Dr. EWA PODLEWSKA , Professor	Higher Vocational State School in Wloclawek (Poland)	LECTURE for students: Principles of social influence
21.04.2022.	Dr. rer. pol. STEFAN BONGARD , Professor	Department of Service and Consulting at the of Ludwigshafen University of Business and Society (Germany)	LECTURE for students: Alternative Drives of Logistics



Opening event of IAW2022 EKA, 19.04.2022.



Final day of IAW2022, the House of Blackheads 22.04.2022.

International Staff Training Week

On 21 and 24 September 2021, the EKA University of Applied Sciences organized International Staff Training Week 2021 "Training on Academic Writing and Research methods".

This year, the event was organized in a new format: creative workshops on research planning, application of the structure of scientific papers and research methods + magazine editors + group work for developing research ideas and structure.

21 September

- Lecture "PUBLICATION STRATEGIES: IDENTIFY JOURNALS AND ADAPT YOUR ARTICLE TO JOURNAL'S UNWRITTEN RULES". **Dr. Abel Polese**, senior researcher at Tallinn University (Estonia)

22 September

- Lecture "MUST KNOW AND MUST HAVE FOR RESEARCHERS". **Dr. Jelena Titko**, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia).
- Workshop "DESIGN THINKING FOR RESEARCH". **Dr. Iveta Cirule**, SIA BIORGANIK5, Postdoctoral Researcher "Project Open Innovation".
- Workshop "BRAINSTORMING, MINDMAPPING AND HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT". **Dr. Velga Vevere**, Professor, EKA University of Applied Sciences (Latvia).

23 September

- Workshop "RESEARCH METHODS FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES". Dr. Viktorija Skvarciany, Associate Professor, VILNIUS TECH (Lithuania).

Researchers from several universities participated in the event:

- Vilnius Tech (Lithuania)
- Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences (Germany)
- University of Parma (Italy)
- Technical University of Kosice (Slovakia)
- Prague University of Economics and Business (Czech Republic)
- High School of Banking (Poland)
- Tuscia University (Italy)
- Begum Rokeya University (Bangladesh)

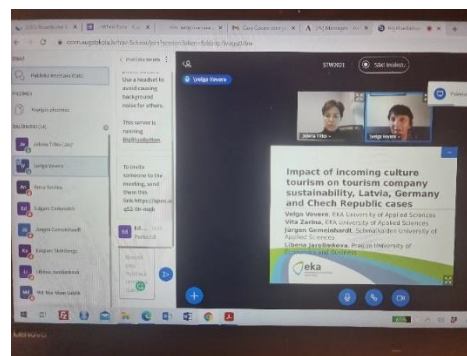
The teams set up during the STW2021 created four research ideas to work on:

- THE ROLE OF GAMIFICATION FOR CIRCULAR ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES (I.Shina (Latvia), V.Prilenska (Latvia), G.Conti (Italy))
- CULTURE AS A DRIVER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CASE OF LATVIA (J.Budanceva (Latvia), N.Verina (Latvia), V.Grybaite (Lithuania))
- IMPACT OF INCOMING CULTURE TOURISM COMPANY SUSTAINABILITY: LATVIA, GERMANY AND CZECH REPUBLIC CASES (V.Vevere (Latvia), V.Zarina (Latvia), J.Gemeinhardt (Germany), L.Jarolimkova (Czech Republic))
- CULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSESSMENT MODEL (K.Astike (Lithuania), E.Cerkovskis (Latvia), K.Steinbergs (Latvia), S.Juhasova (Slovakia), N.A.Siddik (Bangladesh))

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Online opening of STW2021

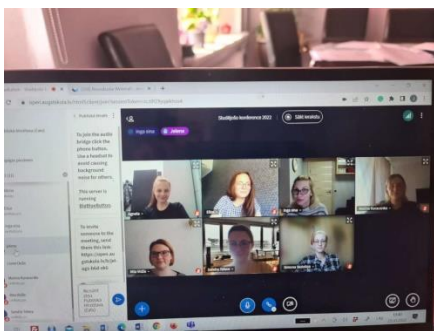


Work of a research team on an idea for a paper

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 2022, the Student Conference and, in view of the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, sections of the 2022 conference were organized in a hybrid format. On 25 March, in virtual Moodle environment, using the video conference system BigBlueButton (BBB): section INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, section CULTURAL MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING, and section MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP. On 22 April 2022, SECTION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS was organized as part of the etECH2022 conference.

This year, not only students from EKA and Alberta College, but also Erasmus+ incoming students participated in the student conference.



Participants of "Management" section, 25.03.2022.



Participants of the foreign student section, 22.04.2022.

Learning and methodical conference

This year, the academic and methodological conference of the EKA University of Applied Sciences and Alberta College "Organization of learning and methodological work and research activities during the study process" took place on 15 February in the Moodle environment.

Theme of the conference: DISTANCE TRAINING PROCESS – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHING STAFF

Conference reports:

- **Agnis Škuškovniks**, Alberta College. Interesting functions of Moodle: work assessment; tests; homework. Presentation
- **Edgars Čerkovskis**, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Application of virtual reality tools in the study process
- **Anna Saltikova**, Alberta College. **Oksana Lentjušenkova**, EKA University of Applied Sciences. Examples of good practice in the distance study process



Presentation of Agnis Škuškovniks



Academic staff of EKA and AK

5.2. EKA publishing activities

Each year, conference abstract proceedings are published as part of the etECH Conference. This year it includes 55 research abstracts (available at: [https://www.augstskola.lv/upload/\[1\]2022_etECH2022_Abstracts_proceedings.pdf](https://www.augstskola.lv/upload/[1]2022_etECH2022_Abstracts_proceedings.pdf))

The best articles are published in the scientific journal "Economics and Culture". The magazine is issued twice a year (in June and December) by the International Publishing House SCIENDO. The magazine has OPEN ACCESS status, all articles have a DOI number. The scientific journal "Economics and Culture" is currently indexed by the EBSCO Discovery Service, Google Scholar, Research Papers in Economics (RePEc), Sherpa/RoMEO, Summon (Serials solutions/ProQuest) and other databases (the full list is available at: <https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/jec/jec-overview.xml>)



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. The articles reflect the results of the research carried out in the fields of economics, finance, accounting, management, linguistics, public relations, marketing, information and communication technologies, law, etc. fields. The 2022 issue was published in four volumes, which contain 79 articles.



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 2022 contains 127 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 9 descriptions of



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works of art created by the students of the study programme “Interior design” and 6 computer game descriptions made by the students of the study programme “Computer game design and graphics”.

The information on publications issued by EKA in 2021/2022 is summarized in Table 7.

Table 7 EKA publications issued in 2021/2022

Publication Type	Name of the publication
Scientific Journal	Economics and Culture (ISSN 2255-7563) https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/jec/jec-overview.xml
Conference Abstracts Proceedings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH2022)" Abstracts proceedings (ISBN 978-9984-24-251-4 (pdf)– Student Research Activity: Theory and Practice '2022. Conference Abstracts Proceedings (ISBN 978-9984-24-252-1 (pdf))
Collection of articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Student Scientific Research Papers (ISSN 2500- 9761)– Description of student creative projects and works of art ISBN 978-9984-24-253-8/ 978-9984-24-254-5 (pdf)

5.3. Changes in the research structure

The EKA Science Council was established by the decision of the Board of Governors of the EKA University of Applied Sciences on 23 January 2021. The Regulation of the Science Council was approved at the meeting of EKA Senate on 26 August 2021. On 16 September 2021, the first meeting of the Science Council was held, during which the Chair of the SC – EKA professor Velga Vevere – was elected.

On May 20 2022, the Board of the EKA decided to register “EKA University of Applied Sciences” Ltd. with the Register of Scientific Institutions. On July 5 2022, the State Education Quality Service decided “to register the limited liability company “EKONOMIKAS UN KULTŪRAS AUGSTSKOLA” (the EKA University of Applied Sciences) in the Register of Scientific Institutions – commercial companies as a scientific institution”.