

EKA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

**SCIENTIFIC AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY
2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

Riga 2021

Annual Report of the EKA University of Applied Sciences on Scientific Activity
2020/2021

“Annual Report of the EKA University of Applied Sciences on Scientific Activity 2020/2021”
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2020/2021

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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:

The Latvian National Development Plan 2021-2027 (NDP 2027). NDP 2027 is hierarchically the highest national-level medium-term 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 NDP 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) (under development) are related to STDIG 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 directions "Translation" and "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 studies. 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.

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 (ZRDAS2020) of the EKA University was developed in 2016. ZRDAS2020 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)".

ZRDAS2020 has been developed in line with the aims and objectives of national development planning documents – priority "Advanced Research and Innovation and Higher Education" included in the Latvian national development plan for the 2014 -2020 (NAP2020), "Guidelines for the development of education 2014-2020" and "Guidelines for science, technology development and innovations 2014-2020".

ZRDAS2020 defines EKA priorities in science and research:

1. EKA staff

Higher education institutions have the duty to perform scientific activity. In order to perform scientific activity, a higher education institution needs academic staff with scientific qualifications.

Objective of the priority: *To increase the number of the university's staff involved in science*

2. Scientific reputation of EKA

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.

Objective of the priority: *To ensure the recognition of the EKA University of Applied Sciences in Latvia and Europe*

3. Research and creative activities of the EKA study directions

One of the criteria for the evaluation of a higher education institution is student scientific research activity and/or creative activity as a part of the study process.

Objective of the priority: *To increase research capacity in each study direction of the EKA University of Applied Sciences; to ensure the involvement of the academic staff and students of each study Programme in research and creative activity.*

4. Infrastructure

Research and creative activity infrastructures are essential for enhancing research and innovation capacity and ensuring competitiveness.

Objective of the priority: *To develop research infrastructure and material and technical provision of the EKA University of Applied Sciences.*

Priorities for the next period (2021-2027) will be defined in the new Strategy for the Development of Scientific and Creative Activity (ZRDAS2027).

1. PRIORITY "EKA STAFF"

One of the objectives of EKA strategic priorities under the ZRDAS2020 was to *increase the number of the university's staff involved in science*. The academic staff of EKA in 2020/2021 consisted of more than 140 people, 55 of whom were elected to the academic posts of EKA (as of 20.06.2021, incl. 34 persons (62 %) 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>	<i>professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
2	Vita Zariņa	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
3	Jelena Titko	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>professor</i>	<i>Economics</i>
4	Anna Ābeltiņa	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>asoc.prof.</i>	<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>	<i>professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
12	Velga Vēvere	<i>Dr. phil.</i>	<i>professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
13	Ināra Kantāne	<i>Dr. sc. admin</i>	<i>asoc.prof.</i>	<i>Management science</i>
14	Oksana Lentjušenkova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>asoc.prof.</i>	<i>Management science</i>
15	Ksenija Ijevļeva	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
16	Tatjana Kulikova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
17	Anna Svirina	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
18	Viktorija Skvarciany	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
19	Sergejs Paramonovs	<i>Mg.sc.soc.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
20	Jekaterina Bierne	<i>Mg.psych.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
21	Tatjana Daudiša	<i>Mg oec.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Management science</i>
22	Jelena Jermolajeva	<i>Dr. paed.</i>	<i>asoc.prof.</i>	<i>Management science</i>
23	Ingus Barovskis	<i>Dr.phil.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>

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24	Imants Ļaviņš	<i>Dr.hist.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
25	Ieva Andžāne	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
26	Ance Gricmane	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Management science</i>
27	Jeļena Budanceva	<i>prof.Mg.sc.admin</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Management science</i>
28	Mārcis Pinnis	<i>Dr.sc.comp.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
29	Jūlija Lebedinska- Ļitvinova	<i>Dr.math.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
30	Aleksandras Targamadze	<i>Candidate of Techn.sc.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
31	Rinat Minyazev	<i>Candidate of Techn.sc.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
32	Dmitrijs Finaškins	<i>Mg.sc.ing</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
33	Patriks Morevs	<i>Mg.math.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
34	Andrejs Liepiņš	<i>Mg.sc.comp.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Information technologies</i>
35	Jeļena Alfejeva	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
36	Vita Ņemenova	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
37	Una Skrastiņa	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
38	Juris Juriss	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
39	Marina Kamenecka- Usova	<i>PhD</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
40	Karina Zalcmane	<i>PhD</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
41	Larisa Saukāne	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
42	Arta Snipe	<i>PhD</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
43	Atis Bičkovskis	<i>prof.Mg.iur.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Law</i>
44	Natalja Verina	<i>Mg.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
45	Ināra Brante	<i>Mg.iur.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
46	Inese Stankeviča	<i>Mg.iur</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Law</i>
47	Baiba Guste	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Arts</i>
48	Zoja Geraskina	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Arts</i>
49	Ksenija Milča	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>lecturer</i>	<i>Arts</i>
50	Kristiana Kazarjana	<i>Mg.art.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Arts</i>
51	Viktorija Prilenska	<i>PhD</i>	<i>researcher</i>	<i>Arts</i>
52	Larisa Turuševa	<i>Dr. paed.</i>	<i>asoc.prof.</i>	<i>Translation</i>
53	Gatis Dilāns	<i>PhD</i>	<i>asoc.prof.</i>	<i>Translation</i>
54	Aija Poikāne-Daumke	<i>Dr.phil.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Translation</i>

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55	Zane Veidenberga	<i>Mg.edu.mgmt.</i>	<i>assistant professor</i>	<i>Translation</i>
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Several EKA academic staff members elected to academic positions have received the rights of experts of the Latvian Council of Science (as of 20.06.2021. – 32%).

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

Name, Surname	Degree	Branch of science, sub-branch	Deadline
Vita Zariņa	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	18.11.2022.
Jelena Titko	<i>Dr. oec.</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	31.03.2024.
		Social sciences - education sciences	16.10.2022.
Inga Šīna	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	18.11.2022.
Oksana Lentjušenkova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	03.09.2023.
Aija Sannikova	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	03.09.2023.
Ilona Lejniece	<i>Dr.oec.</i>	Social sciences - economics and business	04.11.2023.
Una Skrastiņa	<i>Dr.iur.</i>	Social sciences - Law	03.09.2023.
Karina Zalcmane	<i>PhD</i>	Social sciences - Law	03.02.2024.
Jelena Jermolajeva	<i>Dr. paed.</i>	Social sciences - education sciences	16.05.2021.
Velga Vēvere	<i>Dr.phil.</i>	Humanities and arts: Philosophy, ethics and religion	03.09.2023.
		Social sciences - economics and business	18.12.2022.
Mārcis Pinnis	<i>Dr.sc.comp.</i>	Natural sciences – computer science and informatics	23.04.2023.

2. PRIORITY “SCIENTIFIC REPUTATION OF EKA”

2.1. Scientific, academic and creative events organized by EKA

International Scientific Conference

In April 2021, 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 - etECH2021* was organized. In view of the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, conference sections were organized in a virtual Moodle environment using the video conference system BigBlueButton (BBB) and ZOOM platform.

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*. A new logo of the conference was also presented in that year.

In 2021, more than 100 participants from 18 countries participated and made their presentations: the United States, Germany, Russia, Lithuania, Finland, Poland,

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Slovenia, Italy, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Belgium, Norway, Ireland, Ukraine, Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria and Latvia.

The ethECH2021 was organized in six virtual sections involving participants with 62 reports on the results of their studies.



Professor Jelena Titko, EKA Vice Rector for Science, Welcome speech, Virtual ECH2021 Plenary, 22.04.2021.



Professor Michael A. Radin, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA, Key note speech



ethECH2021 participants

International Academic Week

On 19 and 23 April 2021, the EKA University of Applied Sciences organized an annual International Academic Week (IAW2021) in cooperation with Alberta College. Within the constraints of COVID-19, the event took place virtually on Zoom and Moodle platforms.

This year, IAW2021 hosted colleagues from Dortmund University of Applied Sciences – Fachhochschule Dortmund (Germany), Vilnius Tech (Lithuania), Vilnius University (Lithuania), Brno University of Technology (Czech Republic), Sumy State University (Ukraine) and Kaunas University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania).

Table 3. IAW activities

Date	Representatives of foreign HEIs	Higher education institution (HEI)	Activity
19.04.2021.	Dr. DAVID SCHÜLLER, Assistant Professor	Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Business and Management, Department of Management (Czech Republic)	LECTURE: Digital marketing – customer funnel, pay-per-click metrics
20.04.2021.	Dr. DAIVA JUREVICIENE, Professor	Vilnius Tech (Lithuania)	LECTURE: Crediting opportunities for business
20.04.2021.	Dr. OLHA MIKHIEIEVA	Dortmund University of Applied Sciences – Fachhochschule Dortmund (Germany)	LECTURE: Intercultural competences and international communication
20.04.2021.	IVETA CIRULE, Dr.sc.administr	SIA BIORGANIK5	WORKSHOP “Global trend-watching for business idea development”
20.04.2021.	Dr. VIKTORIJA SKVARCIANY, Associate Professor	Vilnius Tech (Lithuania)	LECTURE: Application of research methods: SAW, TOPSIS, EDAS
20.04.2021.	MICHAEL A. RADIN, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Mathematics	Rochester Institute of Technology (U.S.A)	WORKSHOP “Developing International & Interdisciplinary Research Coalition”
21.04.2021.	Dr. VIKTORIJA SKVARCIANY, Associate Professor	Vilnius Tech (Lithuania)	WORKSHOP “Expert methods for research in social sciences”
21.04.2021.	Dr. ANNA SVIRINA, Professor	Kazan National Research Technical University named after A. N. Tupolev – KAI (Russia)	WORKSHOP “How to make your data speak out: implementing visual instruments for data analysis and presentation”
21.04.2021.	PhD GRETA KELIUOTYTĖ-STANIULĖNIENĖ, Associate Professor	Vilnius University, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Finance department (Lithuania)	LECTURE: Fundamentals of technical analysis of the financial markets
21.04.2021.	Ing., Ph.D. LENKA SMOLIKOVA	Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Business and Management, Department of	LECTURE: Project team, project leader

		Management (Czech Republic)	
23.04.2021.	Dr. DAVID SCHÜLLER, Assistant Professor	Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Business and Management, Department of Management (Czech Republic)	LECTURE: Sustainable consumption and production LECTURE: Business idea development – six thinking hats technique
23.04.2021.	Dr. KASPARS STEINBERGS, Assistant Professor	Alberta College (Latvia)	WORKSHOP “Digital tools for teaching Project Management”

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 view of the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, conference sections were organized in virtual Moodle environment using the video conference system BigBlueButton (BBB):

April 9 – Section "ECONOMY, FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING" and section "CULTURAL MANAGEMENT / MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY"

April 10 – section “MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT”, section “PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING” and section “BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION” (for students of the master’s programme “Business Administration”)

April 23 – section “FOREIGN STUDENT SESSION” (for students of the Master’s programme “Business Administration”) and section “FOREIGN STUDENT SESSION” (for students of the bachelor programme “Management”)

June 11 – 12 – section on “COMPUTER GAME DESIGN AND GRAPHICS”

Section “CREATIVE AND ART WORKS” was organized as an exhibition of student works at the EKA University of Applied Sciences.

In total, abstracts of 177 studies were submitted to the conference by the students of EKA and other HEIs: 24 in the field of economics, finance and accounting; 30 in the field of culture, art, creative and entertainment industries; 47 in the field of management, human resource management and business; 10 in the field of public relations and marketing; 5 in the field of information technology; 12 in the field of law. Foreign students submitted 49 abstracts.

In addition, students submitted 111 full text articles. Moreover, 23 descriptions of student creative work were submitted to section of EKA Arts study direction (descriptions of the pieces of work of the study programme "Interior design" and descriptions of the games developed by the study programme "Computer game design and graphics").

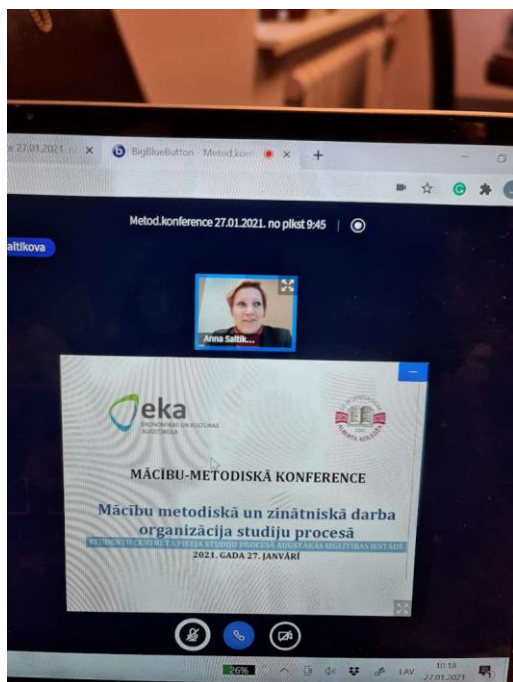
Training and methodical conference

On 29 January 2021, a training and methodological conference "Organization of academic and scientific work in the study process" was held. This year, the conference was devoted to quality assurance in higher education. The event was attended by representatives of the EKA University and Alberta College.

The conference was opened by **Anna Saltikova** (Member of the Board of the EKA University of Applied Sciences and Alberta College), who organized a creative workshop. Virtual workshop on the online cooperation platform MURAL. Academic staff worked in teams to gain a common understanding of the principles of a student centered approach to higher education. The aim of this activity was not only to discuss the approach, but also to explore the possibilities of MURAL, and how to use this platform in the study process by increasing student involvement and participation.

The conference was continued by:

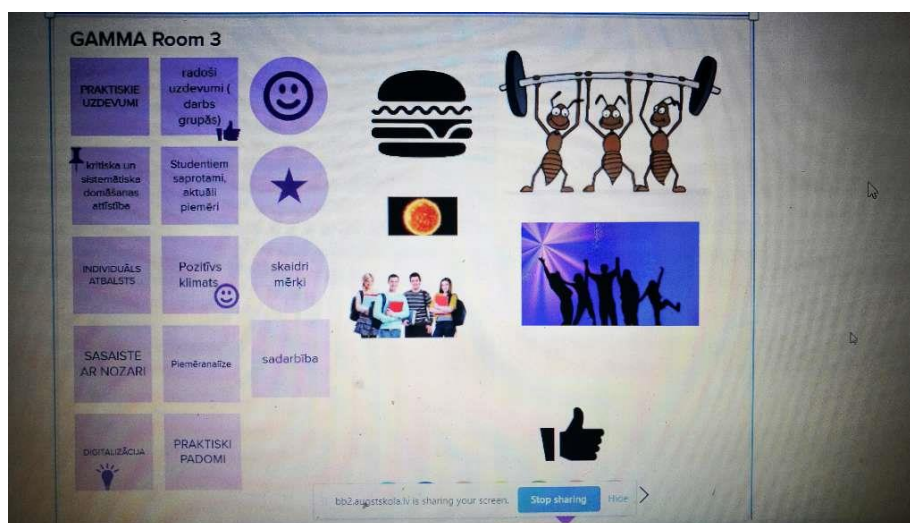
- **Oksana Lentjušenkova** (Rector of the EKA University of Applied Sciences) with a speech on "Principles of a student centered approach in the European Education Area"
- **Vita Stige-Škuškovnika** (director of Alberta College) with a report entitled "Principles of a student centered approach in Alberta College"



Anna Saltikova's creative workshop



Results of the work of Team 1 of EKA academic staff



Results of the work of Team 2 of EKA academic staff

2.2. EKA publishing activities

Each year, conference abstract proceedings are published as part of the etECH Conference. This year it includes 62 research abstracts (available at: https://www.augstskola.lv/upload/2021_etECH2021_Abstracts_proceedings.pdf)

The best articles are published in the scientific journal "Economics and Culture". The journal 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) and Alberta College (AK) submitted to the International Student Scientific and Practical Conference. The papers 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.



In addition, a collection of conference abstracts (conference proceedings) is published within the framework of a joint conference organized by EKA and Alberta College. The issue of 2021, contains 177 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 descriptions of work of art created by the students of the study programme "Interior design" and 13 computer game descriptions made by the students of the study programme "Computer game design and graphics".

The information on publications issued by EKA in 2020/2021 is summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. EKA publications issued in 2020/2021

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 (etECH2021)" Abstracts Proceedings ((ISBN 978-9984-24-242-2 (pdf)) – Student Research Activity: Theory and Practice '2021. Conference Abstracts Proceedings (ISBN 978-9984-24-243-9/ 978-9984-24-244-6 (pdf))
Collection of articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – International Scientific Conference "Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH2021)" proceedings (ISBN 978-9984-24-245-3 (pdf)) – Student Scientific Research Papers (ISSN 2500-9761)

	- Description of student creative projects and works of art (ISBN 978-9984-24-246-0 / 978-9984-24-247-7 (pdf))
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2.3. EKA participation in international projects

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).**

Since November 2019, the EKA University of Applied Sciences has been one of the partners in the international project UXiship. The project consortium includes EU universities as well as partner universities from Russia and Kazakhstan. 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 Russia: Kazan National Research University (named after Tupolev); Rostov State University of Economics; Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University

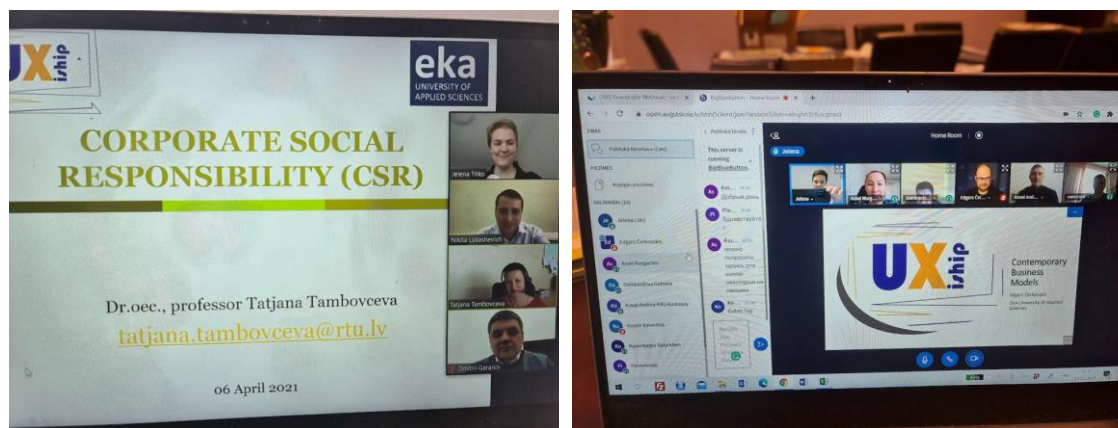
Partner universities in Kazakhstan: Kostanay State University; Almaty Management University; Caspian State University

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.

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).



Representatives of the EKA UXiship project team deliver online lectures to partners from Russia and Kazakhstan, March-April 2021

Erasmus+ KA2, Capacity Building in the field of higher education, **“Advancing circular economy in partner countries by development and implementation of Master’s 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 Russian Federation: The University of Management “TISBI”, Rostov State University, Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University.

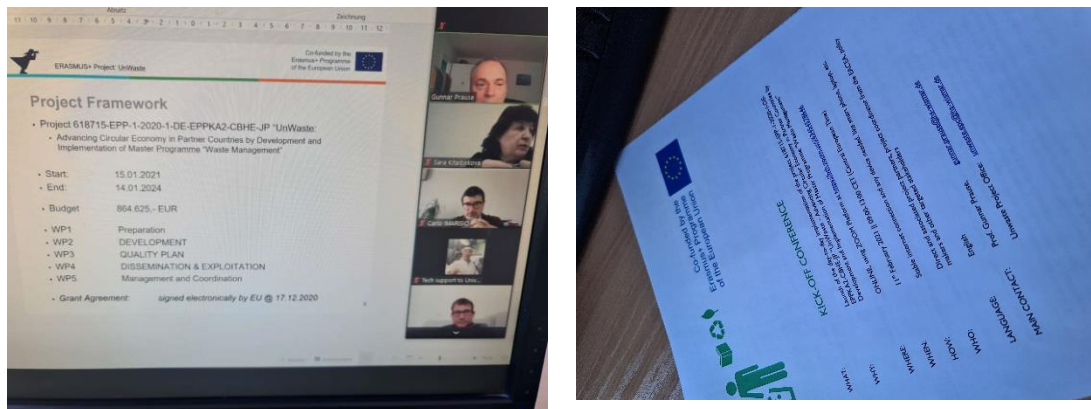
Partner universities from the Republic of Kazakhstan: Ahmet Baytursynov Kostanay State University, Sh. Ualikhanov Kokshetau State University, Saken Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University.

The consortium has set the following objectives:

- to develop joint interdisciplinary waste management master’s programme in partner universities;
- to enrol 50-70 waste management master’s 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).



Online UnWaste project commencement meeting, February 2021

3. PRIORITY “RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE EKA STUDY DIRECTIONS”

3.1. Research directions

Taking into account the study programmes provided by the EKA University of Applied Sciences and in line with the priority directions in science for the time period from 2018 to 2021 (Ministry of Education and Science, 2017), the priority research areas of the EKA University of Applied Sciences.

EKA priority in science is interdisciplinary research. This means that several research projects can be carried out within one research direction involving the academic staff and students from different study directions.

Research directions are approved by the Study Board of the relevant study direction. The list of research directions is approved by the EKA Vice Rector for Science.

A coordinator is appointed for each research direction, who leads the work of the research group and is responsible for research results in the direction. The 2021/2020 priority research areas are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. EKA priority research areas 2020 /2021

NAME OF THE RESEARCH AREA		STUDY DIRECTION
CIRCULAR ECONOMY	Circular economy	Economics
DIGITAL ECONOMY: TRENDS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES	Digital economy: trends, opportunities and challenges	Economics Management science
SOCIAL INNOVATION AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP	Social innovations and social entrepreneurship	Management science
ICT STUDIES	ICT studies	IT
CULTURAL STUDIES	Cultural studies	Management science
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND DESIGN	Creative Industries and Design	Arts
EMERGING TRENDS IN LAW	Emerging Trends in Law	Law

3.2. Activities and achievements in EKA study directions

The information on the activities of students and academic staff in the EKA study directions is summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. Activities and achievements of students and academic staff in EKA study directions

STUDY DIRECTION ECONOMICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vita Zarina has conducted a study course on Accounting at Kaunas University of Applied Science in the amount of 20 lectures;- During the entire academic year, Vita Zarina participated in the EU project Future Heroes as a mentor, where fifty of the most active girls of Latvian secondary schools made their business projects. The projects focused on environment protection and social responsibility. One of the project teams interviewed Edgars Čerkovskis as an expert;- Guest lecture "EU and my Business" 06.02.2021. Aiva Viksna, Head of Business Development and owner of publishing house "Lietišķās informācijas dienests", Managing Director and owner of AV Consulting, Vice President of Employers' Confederation of Latvia;- Guest lecture "How to work in the times of crisis" 27.03.2021. The Board Member and owner of "Stiklu serviss" Ltd. shared her experience of maintaining and developing business affected heavily by the pandemic, moreover, if the business is related to raw material import and export of finished products; members of the Business Incubator also participated;- EKA Professor Vita Zariņa participated in the work of the Riga City Council Grant allocation commission, assessing business ideas and attracting business projects to the

<p>EKA Business Incubator, as well as in the assessment of the Idea Cup (Ideju Kauss) projects;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inga Brasla conducted lectures on Customs Procedures for adults, organized within the framework of European Social Fund project No. 8.4.1.0/16/I/001 "Improving employees' professional competence" in 2020/21; - Vita Zarina conducted lectures on Management Accounting for adults, organized within the framework of European Social Fund project No. 8.4.1.0/16/I/001 "Improving employees' professional competence" in 2020/21; - Laila Kelmere conducted lectures on Accounting for Adults, within the framework of European Social Fund project No. 8.4.1.0/16/I/001 "Improving employees' professional competence" in 2020/21; - Vita Zarina conducted a seminar (60 academic hours) for professional accountants for enhancing their qualification in management accounting, within the framework of the project Balance Academy; - Velga Vēvere participated in the Science Night of the University of Latvia, April 30, 2021. DEGUNS/ NOSE – an interdisciplinary performance; - Velga Vēvere participated in the discussion cycle "Negotiations of St.Peter's Church". PART IV. 10 June 2021. Available at: https://lnb.lv/lv/diskusiju-cikls-peterbaznicas-sarunas-iv-dala.
DIRECTION "MANAGEMENT"
<p>Activities in study programmes "Business Administration", "Management" and "Marketing"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In August and September 2020, guest lectures were organized for students of the study programmes "Business Administration" and "Creative marketing and sales Management" with Liega Zusmane (EKA alumni, Costa Coffee Marketing and Product Development Manager); - On 12.09.2020, the study programme "Business Administration" students had a methodological seminar on writing master's thesis, conducted by Dr.oec., prof.J.Titko, - On 02.11.2020. EKA concluded a cooperation agreement with Latio Ltd. on cooperation in the training process; - On 16.03.2021, the head and teachers of the programme participated in a public lecture-seminar "The foundations of scientific research work in colleges", which took place online; - On 29 August 2020, part time Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in an inspiring guest lecture of Liega Zusmane, EKA alumni, Manager of Marketing Projects and New Product Development at Coffee Nation Ltd. (café Costa Coffee); - On 2 September 2020, a guest lecture by Vivita Leismane, Head of company Communication ART, was provided for Latvian full time students of the study programme "Management"; - On 23 and 25 October 2020, the programme students participated in the event SPEKA TRIP 2020 organized by the EKA Student Council; - On 17 November 2020, English full-time students of the study programme "Management" had a guest lecture "Negative Social Phenomena of the Economy". The lecture was conducted by Irena Klimavičienė from Kauno kolegija/University of Applied Sciences (Accounting and Finance Department); - On 2 February 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in an online lecture delivered by Andžejs Reiters, personal development trainer "Not Requiring Permission" organized by the School of Business Administration "Turība"; - On 2 February 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" listened to the discussion "Artificial intelligence opportunities in business environment" organized by the Business Incubator of the University of Latvia; - On 4 February 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in an online lecture "Creative conflict solutions in business" organized by Riga Stradins University and the Latvian National Library;

- On 4 February 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in an online lecture for young people: "Business conflict resolution" organized by the Latvian National Library;
- On 6 February 2021, Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in a guest lecture "Me and my Business" by Aiva Viksna, Business Development Manager and owner of "Lietišķās informācijas dienests", Vice-President of Employers' Confederation of Latvia;
- On 10 February 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" listened to an online panel discussion "Science against Covid19" organized by: Science for Latvia, National Library of Latvia;
- On 16 February 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in a guest lecture "Crisis theory" by Jānis Mednieks (doctor - neurologist) organized by the School of Business Administration "Turība";
- On 17 February 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated as listeners in the conference "Future work in Latvia" organized by ERDA, Tet.lv, Swedbank Latvia, State Employment Agency, EURES Latvia;
- On 17 February 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in a master class "Efficient communication of an enterprise in the digital environment" by Ieva Drāzniece, organized by RISEBA Creative Business Incubator and RISEBA;
- On 24 February 2021, 2021, Latvian student representatives of the study programme "Management" participated in a guest lecture "Motivation" organized by the EKA SC, delivered by Rihards Krūmiņš, Chairman of the Board of the Association "Youth Movement";
- On 11 March 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in an online discussion organized by ESK SC "Meaningful discussions – LET'S TALK?";
- On 11 March 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" listened to a discussion "What ignites new business export?" organized by the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia;
- On 23 March 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in a seminar "Financial technologies and their application" organized by EKA, delivered by EKA lecturer Edgars Čerkovskis;
- On 25 March, 15 April, 6 May 2021, Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in the three stages of the game "EKA evening of erudition" organized by EKA.
- On 30 April 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in the European Researchers' Night 2021 events;
- On 11 May 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in a guest lecture "What is investing and why it's needed?" organized by Rolands Zauls, expert of Swedbank Investment Department;
- On 19 May 2021, Rita Vidže, 1st year student of the study programme "Management", presented the results of her study "Possibilities for improving external communication channels in the State Revenue Service" at the international student conference "Future Creators" organized by the Lithuanian SMK University of Applied Social Sciences.
- On 25 May 2021, Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in the seminar on Erasmus Programme opportunities organized by EKA.
- On 9 June 2021, representatives of Latvian students of the study programme "Management" participated in a lecture "Business Development under the influence of COVID 19 pandemic" organized by the Distance Learning Professional Center of Latvia.

Activities in the study programmes "Cultural management" and "Event organisation"

- 02.09.2020, guest lecture by Vivita Leismane (founder and head of the Artcommunication agency, founder of the MāsasVeismanes brand, specialist of social media, blogger);
- 14.09.2020, Kristine Komarovska (Editor of LTV Programme KulturDeva) – Production backstage and practice, guest lecture;

- 15.09.2020, Eva Mareka Šaknere (Optio Human Resources Management specialist, EKA alumni) – Staff selection secrets;
- 17.09.2020, Guntis Nurža (sales specialist of the hotel chain Mogotel, band *Laika upe* frontman) – motivating guest lecture “Music or sales?”;
- Study tour with Baiba Guste – History of World Art (from the Brethren cemetery to Latvian Artists' Union premises in Brasa);
- 06.11.2021, study tour to design salon TRENTINI and introduction to event organization at company premises by Agnese Nemme;
- Lecturer and artist Ance Gricmane held a solo exhibition at the Getto Museum, from 18.08 to 18.12.2020;
- Visiting lecturer of EKK Marta Kontiņa produced a discussion cycle *Unequality in Culture* (13.04. – 15.04.2021.);
- Project EKA ECO of the 4th year students of Cultural Management (within the study course PRODUCTION, provided by assistant professor Jeļena Budanceva);
- 14.12.2020 – campaign EKA ECO trailer (moderator Rūta Sabīna Nīmanīte, cameraman Salvis Mass);
- January 2021 – 3 videos on the influence of COVID on the nature under the EKA ECO brand:

Episode 1 – on Christmas presents from recycled or second-hand materials (author: Rūta Sabīna Nīmanīte, assisted by EKA lecturer Karīna Kazarjana)

Episode 2 - on self-made facial masks (author: Daira Auce Vorkule, assisted by EKA lecturer Jeļena Budanceva)

Episode 3 – on living without disposable goods (author: Linda Amanda Kalnina, assisted by EKA lecturer Edgars Čerkovskis)

- Student projects of the 2nd year students of Cultural Management (within the framework of the study course Cultural Management, the course conducted by lecturer Ance Gricmane):
 - 17.04.2021 VITĀLIJS JAKOVĻEVS, student of the Cultural Management programme, organized a online seminar for cultural management students – entertainment during COVID - <https://www.flyingsquirrel.club/>;
 - Zane Leine, student of the Event Organisation Programme, carried out a charity project related to the animal shelter 'Ulubele'. The result is a professional video on volunteering, extensive publication on the portal jauns.lv and in the Journal "Kas jauns", as well as improvement work of the shelter carried out by volunteers;
 - 05.05.2021, Una Daniela Aizgale and Beāte Bole, students of Culture Management, organized a master class available on Zoom platform free of charge. During the master class, one could get acquainted with the foundations of music management and some vocal techniques.
- Student Daira Auce Vorkule has conducted a study on satisfaction of visitors to literary festivals ordered by poetry festival “Dzejas dienas”. The result is a bachelor paper (evaluation 9 – excellent), the the research section of which will also be published online;
- In cooperation with the Latvian Association of Writers, the Cultural Management academic staff created a series of classes and lectures “Maizi vai grāmatu? (*Bread or book?*)”, with the aim of promoting the skills of creative professions to plan and implement activities independently. The project was supported by the State Culture Capital Fund. The classes were held throughout the whole summer, but the events are being implemented in the autumn;
- In the autumn semester of 2020, 2 trainees from the Latvian Culture College were admitted to the programme of Cultural Management as interns, and they participated in the student project development in the course of 2 months;
- In the autumn of 2020, several meetings with industry representatives took place and close cooperation with the Association of Latvian Event Producers took place working on mapping the event industry and developing professional standards of producers;

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within the framework of the VNA project, Anda Sirsone, student of Cultural Management, worked as a coordinator of activities in the programme of Cultural management for 6 months; - EKA Cultural Management Group CULTURE POINT on social network FACEBOOK was founded with the aim of creating a platform for culture representatives; the present number of participants in the group is over 300 culture representatives from all over Latvia (since 01.09.2020. it has increased by 70 members); - A student survey of potential guest lecture was carried out.
LAW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In September 2020, a guest lecture by Viktors Prudņikovs, judge of the Riga City Vidzeme District Court, took place in EKA; - In September 2020, a guest lecture by PR expert Jūlija Belkina, Board Member of the LNK Charity Fund and FindaNote, Recruitment and Communications, took place; - In March 2021, EKA assistant professor, K.Zalcmane, under ERASMUS + mobility Programme, delivered a guest lecture "Different approaches to counter sports crimes: Criminalisation of Doping" in Italy, University of Teramo. In addition, until the end of April, EKA assistant professor, K.Zalcmane was a scientific advisor of master's thesis at the University of Teramo; - 25.03.2021, EKA assistant professor Karina Zalcmane participated with a report "Criminalisation of Dopping" at the RSU 2nd international inter-disciplinary conference PLACES; - From November 2020 to February 2021, assistant professor Karina Zalcmane organized and conducted preparatory courses "Introduction to Law Science" for pupils of Riga Jewish community (JCC Riga); - In November 2021, assistant professor Karina Zalcmane was elected as a Member of the Board of International Athletes Rights Association (IARA); - 25.03.2021, EKA assistant professor Marina Kameņeckā-Usova participated with a report on "Sport and Politics: sports role in formulating and consolidation of power relations" at the RSU 2nd international inter-disciplinary conference PLACES.; - In July 2021, article "Whether sports liability is an independent type of legal liability?" by assistant professors Karina Zalcmane and Marina Kameņeckā-Usova was adopted for publication in the Journal "Socrates" (ERIH +); - During the first six months of 2021, assistant professor Aija Leitāne has completed courses on the Protection of children's rights, Conflict resolution and Development of communication skills. - In the beginning of 2021, assistant professor Aija Leitāne has completed a course of 80 hours on the leadership of the orphans' courts and communication skills; - In 2021, guest assistant professor Ērika Krutova has completed the following courses: CEPOL module 'Moodle Workshop 2021'; at Baltic Data Academy - 'Development of effective and interactive e-courses with H5P modules.'; at the Psychological Support Department of the Health and Sport Center of the Ministry of Interior - 'Roadmap to raising a teenager'; at the Judicial training Center - 'New learning approaches in the (post)pandemic world'; at the Commercial Economy Center - 'Efficient time and process management'; - 18.03.2021, a guest lecture by sworn attorney Artā Snipe on Fulbright Scholarship opportunities was held at EKA;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 26.09. – 30.05.2021 assistant professor Arta Snipe presented her study “Rent control: a friend or foe” at international conference “2021 LSA Virtual Conference” organised by Law and Society Association (Chicago).
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On 31 August 2020, Latvian students of the study programme “Information technologies” had a guest lecture “A story about the everyday work of a programmer and what to expect from this profession”, led by Jānis Ekmanis, Head of the Division of Development of individual solutions at Proof IT Ltd.; – On 22 and 23 September 2020, assistant professor of the IT programme M. Pinnis participated in a conference “Human Language Technologies – the Baltic Perspective”. In the beginning, the conference was planned in Kaunas, Lithuania, but due unfavourable pandemic situation in Lithuania, it was decided to run the conference online. The organizer of the conference – the University of Vytautas Magnus; – On 19 November 2020, a meeting took place, attended by the IT programme director J.Radionovs and representatives of LATA: Lata Ambassador Ieva Vitoliņa and Chairam of LATA Board Jānis Tupulis. The meeting took place on the online Moodle platform. As a result, a protocol on the involvement of LATA in the development and upgrading of the IT programme was signed. The main aspects of cooperation: cooperation with employers, organization of events (Olympiad, hackatons, workshops), provision of guest lectures; – On 19 and 20 November 2020, assistant professor of the IT programme M. Pinnis participated in a conference “EMNLP 2020 Fifth Conference on Machine Translation” (WMT20). The conference was held online; – On 8-13 December 2020, assistant professor of the IT programme M. Pinnis participated in a conference COLING’ 2020 (28th International conference of Computer Linguistics); – On 10 December 2020, the Director of the IT programme J.Radionovs took part in a round table discussion of IT Directors "Challenges 2021". The organizer: Technology and Entertainment Company TET. Topic: Implementation of the digital transformation process; – On 19 January 2021, EKA became a Member of the Latvian Open Technology Association (LATA). The objective is to develop cooperation with IT companies. To develop and upgrade the IT study programme, to follow the latest trends in the IT sector; – On 29 January 2021, the Director of the IT programme J.Radionovs took part in the "Digital breakfast" event. Organizer: Ministry of Education and Science. The aim of the event is to exchange information, generate ideas and share experience. Themes of the event: IT security problems and solutions (Agris Krusts, IT centrs Ltd.); digitization of education documents – ideas for discussion (Arvis Mastiņš, MoES). The event took place online on the Zoom platform; – On 4 February, 2021, IT programme Director J. Radionovs and IT programme guest lecturer R.Glaudiņš visited the annual Latvian Open Technologies Association’s 14th Conference. "How to remain open in the new era". The conference was held online. The organizer - LATA; – On 6 February 2021, 3rd year students of the IT programme visited a guest lecture “Me and my Business” by Aiva Viksna, Head of Business Development and owner of publishing house “Lietišķās informācijas dienests”, Managing Director and owner of AV Consulting, Vice President of Employers’ Confederation of Latvia delivered the guest lecture. The lecture took place online on the Moodle platform; – In March 2021, the Director of the IT programme J.Radionovs together with IT students participated in a creative project Virtual EKA, which aims to create a visual story for

<p>potential interested persons about EKA study programmes by creating and collating information on the alternative EKA website. Support was provided through the creation of and simulating some advertisements that would apply to graduates of the IT study programme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On 9 March 2021, IT programme Director J.Radionovs and IT programme assistant professor A. Liepiņš visited the Cybersecurity Virtual Forum organized by "Crayon Baltics". Themes: Cyber security risks, cloud service boom, secure remote job support and data protection; - 22-26 March 2021, IT programme Director J.Radionovs visited "DIGITAL WEEK 2021". The Digital Week in Latvia was organized within the framework of the European campaign All Digital Week 2021. It was organized in cooperation with the main partners – Latvian IT cluster, Microsoft Latvia, Tet, Cultural Information Systems Center and the Latvian State Radio and television Center. Detailed information available here: https://eprasmes.lv/tiesraides/; - On 24 March 2021, IT programme Director J.Radionovs visited webinar "Digitally skilful company". The organizer: Technology and Entertainment Company TET. Webinar theme: "What digital tools and knowledge can help the company to remain competitive?" The webinar was organized within the LIKTA Digital Week. The webinar took place online on the Zoom platform; - On 28 March 2021, the Director of the IT programme J.Radionovs and assistant professor P.Morev visited an introductory lecture "Join a cloud". The organizer: Technology and Entertainment Company TET. The aim: Enhancement of digital skills will and promotion of cloud services in Latvia. The lecture took place online on the Zoom platform; - On 30 March 2021, intent agreements were signed within the project "Innovation grants for students in the fields of arts, culture, economics and IT interdisciplinary fields (MaKE IT) with the following companies: "JOSS" Ltd.,JSC "State Radio and Television Center of Latvia", SIA "Zhigunov Systems" Ltd. The aim of the project: To raise the research and innovative capacity of Latvian scientific institutions and the ability to attract external funding by investing in human resources and infrastructure. The rector of the EKA, O.Lentjušenkova and the Director of the IT programme J.Radionovs participated; - On 31 March 2021, IT programme guest lecturer A. Gabanovs participated in a remote IT security seminar "Be safe". The seminar was organized and conducted by CERT.LV (information Technology Security Incident Prevention Authority); - On 28 May 2021, IT programme guest lecturer A. Gabanovs participated in the 47 th session of the Latvian Computer Network School, during which topical issues and trends of the it sector were discussed, theoretical and practical knowledge provided that can be successfully applied in their work. The organizer – Latvian Computer Network School; - On 10 June 2021, IT programme guest lecturer A. Gabanovs participated in a remote Cybersecurity training session "ESET ON". Organizer – ESET Latvia. CYBERSECURITY EXPERTS ON YOUR SIDE; - On 16 June 2021, IT programme assistant professor P.Morev took part in a remote training course "Open COMSSOL Multiphysics training course". Its aim: Foundations for multiphysics modeling that are included in all analyzes: creation of geometry, setting of the model, sieve, handling and post-processing, conversion of simulation to the application. The organizer COMSOL OU, Finland. 	<p>ARTS</p>
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- On 5-7 March 2021, Student Game Jam with more than 30 participants took place at the EKA University;
- At the end of January 2021, students of the study programme "Computer game design and graphics" participated in Global Game Jam 2021 Online;
- On 8 September 2020, 2nd year students of the study programme "Interior design" created an installation/environment object workshop, led by the teachers of Vilniaus technologijų ir dizaino kolegija - VTDK. The object is interactive and reacts to movement, it is located in the lobby of the 2nd floor of EKA;
- On 28 September 2020, 2nd year students of the study programme "Interior design", within the the study course "Architecture and Design History", together with their lecturer Baiba Guste visited Rundale Palace, called a Baroque Art miracle;
- On 14 October 2020, 2nd year students of the study programme "Interior design", within their study course on materials, learned about the latest trends in interior design and furniture design, as well as in the bodies and materials of light, while visiting the interior design gallery Trentini with their teacher Evija Skriba;
- On 2 November 2020, during their "Projection design" workshop, 4th year students of the study programme "Interior design" together with their teacher Agris Tauriņš studied the foundation of accessory connections and how parts with PVC edge are glued;
- On 17 November 17 2020, 4th year students of the study programme "Interior design" together with their teacher Agris Tauriņš designed their own piece of furniture in the "Projection design" workshop;
- Within the course "Composition III", 2nd year students of the study programme "Interior design" made glass objects for EKA. This task was carried out in order to learn to work in practice with different materials, to test both the process of glass processing and the design and implementation of a concept, together with teacher Anna Varnase at Glass Point Studio;
- 3rd year "Interior design" students Signe Krumholce, Darja Konina and Elīna Dambīte have developed an interior design for training centre Lando at 35 Lāčplēša Street, as part of their design course;
- 3rd year students of the EKA University of Applied Sciences, future interior designers (or as they can be called after completing this project – current designers) Annija Norde, Karlīna Jansone, Kristīne Gaile, Inese Korpfa, Eva Ralle, Oskars Gruduls and Ieva Elizabete Ķīle have developed a design concept for the Center of Technology Culture "Gauja" within the framework of their design course;
- Interior design student Una Foigta took part in the international drawing competition organized by the University of Antwerp and Panathlon International (<https://pcucommittee.com/contest/>). Una Foigta took 3rd place. The work had to reflect a vision of ethics, fairness and friendship in the Olympic movement of universities;
- 4th year part time students make real furniture within their study course with their teacher Agris Tauriņš, the project takes place in cooperation with AM Furnitūra.
- In June, magazine *Interior* published student project for the Center of Technology Culture "Gauja".

3.3. Scientific achievements of EKA academic staff

In 2021/2020, the academic staff of the EKA University of Applied Sciences have published a number of publications in peer-reviewed scientific publications, including 36 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 made monographs and textbooks.

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

1. Gribanova, S., Rizhamadze, K., & **Ābeltiņa, A.** (2020). The Role of Motivation Among IT professionals To Foster Innovation: SMEs Focus. *European Journal of Business and Management Research*, 5(5). <https://www.ejbm.org/index.php/ejbm/article/view/524>
2. Rizhamadze, K., & **Ābeltiņa, A.** (2020). The factors that promote business growth opportunities for small and medium scale enterprises (smes) in Latvia in the sector of wholesale and retail trade. 33rd EBES Conference – Madrid, October 7-9, 2020.
3. Gribanova, S., & **Ābeltiņa, A.** (2020). Motivation to work and management of it professionals: case of Latvia. *Acta Prosperitatis*, (11), 57-186.
4. Rizhamadze, K., & **Ābeltiņa, A.** (2021). The Complexity of Relationships within Business and the Importance of Common Ground. *SHS Web of Conferences* 90, 01001 (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20219001001>
5. Gribanova, S., & **Ābeltiņa, A.** (2020). Management of creative class. The case of IT professionals in Latvia. In *SHS Web of Conferences* (Vol. 74, p. 02006). EDP Sciences. **WOS:000528040800043**
6. **Barovskis, I.** (2021). Uz svētdienu nu ap mani raudās un dziedās. Daži velna tēli aspekti "Velns zārkā" motīvā. (*On Sunday, there'll be crying and singing for me. Some aspects of the devil's image are the motif of "Devil's coffin"*) *Latvijas Zinātņu akadēmijas vēstis*, vol. 5. Nr.2. Pp. 89-98.
7. **Cerkovskis, E.** (2020). Globalization impact on the social and economic development of countries. *Proceedings of the international online conference "Innovation, social and economic challenges"*, 52-55.
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72. **Verina, N., Titko, J., Skvarciany, V.** (2020). Measurement of digital economy: check for data consistency on the example of Latvia and Lithuania. *Proceedings of the international online conference "Innovation, social and economic challenges"*, 21-24.

Monographs and textbooks:

1. **Inguš Barovskis.** Mytopoeia. Mūsdienu mītrade. (*Modern Myth Creation*). Riga: LU Akadēmiskais apgāds, 2021. ISBN 978-9934-18-678-3
2. Melnikas Borisas; Okunevičiūtė Neverauskienė Laima; Andriušaitienė Daiva; Jurevičienė Daiva; **Skvarciany Viktorija**; Gudelytė-Žilinskienė Laura; Kvedarienė Audronė. 2020. *Ekonomikos augimas: globalizacija, socialiniai iššūkiai, dinamiškoji vadyba: kolektyvinė monografija*. Vilnius: Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universitetas. ISBN 9786094762567

Each year, EKA is hosts International Scientific Conference "**Emerging trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities (etECH)**". The 2021 conference was organized in a number of virtual sections involving representatives of all EKA study directions (full time staff and and visiting academic staff).

Participants of the section "Emerging trends in Finance, Economics and Politics":

- *Viktorija Skvarciany. APPROACH TO THE PRIORITISATION OF DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN BRICS COUNTRIES*
- *Vita Zarina, Anna Abeltina. DEVELOPMENT OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN LATVIAN CATERING SECTOR*

Section: "Emerging trends in business administration, marketing and entrepreneurship" participants:

- *Ilona Lejniece. DIGITAL REALITY IN COMPANIES AS A PART OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DURING PANDEMIC: CASE OF LATVIA*
- *Inga Shina, Velga Vevere. IMPACT OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN LATVIA*
- *Tatjana Tambovceva. BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS ON THE ROLE OF MARKETING IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*
- *Iveta Cirule. LATVIAN NATIONAL INNOVATION POLICY – STATE OF ART AND OPEN INNOVATION PARADIGM*
- *Inese Abolina. REVIEW ARTICLE: STUDY OF TOUCHLESS AIRPORT FOCUSING ON AIRPORT PASSENGERS SATISFACTION*
- *Helmuts Lejnicks, Ilona Lejniece. DIGITAL REALITY IN COMPANIES AS A PART OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DURING PANDEMIC: CASE OF LATVIA*

- Ilze Blauberģa. *DESIGN THINKING AS COMPETITIVE BUSINESS TOOL*

Participants of the section "Emerging trends in culture, creative industries and humanities":

- Viktorija Priļenska. *GAMING AS A TOOL FOR ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE: EXPERIENCES FROM THE COASTAL VILLAGE OF CARNIKAVA*
- Dita Pfeifere, Jolanta Borite. *A ROLE OF CULTURAL CENTRES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN AND RURAL CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT: A CASE STUDY OF SIGULDA COUNTY*
- Ance Gricmane. *IN THE STUDIO OF DEMIURGE*
- Jelena Budanceva. *CONSUMPTION OF CULTURAL CONTENT IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT*
- Jelena Budanceva, Velga Vēvere. *CHANGES OF CULTURE AND LEISURE CONSUMPTION DURING A FIRST PANDEMIC WAVE*

Participants of the section "Emerging trends in international business relations and law":

- Karina Zalcmāne. *INTERNATIONAL INTERINSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION IN TACKLING CRIME AND CORRUPTION IN SPORTS*
- Atis Bickovskis. *ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE IN VALUE ADDED TAX DISPUTE CASES*
- Marina Kamenecka-Usova. *GOOD GOVERNANCE IN SPORT ORGANIZATIONS*

Participants of section "Emerging trends in ICT solutions for Business, Economy and Education":

- Tatjana Tambovceva. *AUTOMATED KEYWORD NETWORK MAPPING OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS*
- Tatjana Tambovceva. *CONSUMER DEMAND FOR LATVIAN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES*
- Patriks Morevs. *ON THE FUNCTIONAL NODAL METHOD FOR 2D ELLIPTIC EQUATIONS*

Participants of the section „Emerging trends in education and pedagogy”:

- Jelena Jermolajeva, Larissa Turusheva. *ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST-YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' LEARNING MOTIVATION (RIGA AND SMOLENSK SAMPLES)*

In 2020/2021, EKA's academic staff participated with their reports at several international scientific conferences:

1. Barovskis, I. Latvijas Universitātes Humanitāro zinātņu fakultātes (LU HZF) rīkotā konference "Jaunākā literatūra Latvijā I", (Conference "Latest literature in Latvia I" organized by the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Latvia (LU HZF)), October 22 and 23, 2020. *Padomju dzejas reminiscences mūsdienu dzejā. (Contemporary reciment of Soviet poetry.) An example of Ināra Kaija Eglīte.*
2. Čerkovskis, E. International scientific online conference on "Innovation, social and economic challenges", isec'2020 held in Sumy, Ukraine december 1-3, 2020. *Globalization impact on the social and economic development of countries*
3. Čerkovskis, E. Keynote speaker. College of Business Management. International scientific-practical conference "Integral approach to business sustainability", April 27, 2021
4. Čerkovskis, E. Keynote speaker. Riga Distance Learning Secondary School. Scientific-practical conference "Digital solutions in education", September 12, 2020
5. Jermolajeva, J. 15th international conference "SOCIETY. INTEGRATION. EDUCATION" SIE. May 28, 2021, Rezekne, Rezekne Academy of Technologies. *A course in Hermeneutics of Works of Art in higher professional education Programmes*
6. Jermolajeva, J. Main characteristics of the current state of higher private education in Russia and Latvia". 7th annual conference "Formation and development of entrepreneurship in

- Russia: history, modernity and prospects" Smolensk, 28.05.2021, Smolensk State University (Russia).
7. Ļaviņš, I. 3. Starptautiskais mākslas festivāls un konference „Divi Jūliji. Maderniekam 150”. (International Art Festival and Conference "Two Jūlijs. Madernieks -150). Gulbene, September 25, 2020. *Japānisma vilinājums Jūlija Straumes dailradē (The temptation of Japanese style in the work of the Jūlijs Straume).*
 8. Ļaviņš, I. XLI Международная годичная научная конференция УЧЁНЫЙ И ЭПОХА: К 170-ЛЕТИЮ СО ДНЯ РОЖДЕНИЯ Н.И. КАРЕЕВА И С.В. КОВАЛЕВСКОЙ. Санкт-Петербург 2020. gada 30. oktobris. *Изображение побережья Индийского океана на карте мира ал-Бируни.*
 9. Lejniece, I. participation in the International Scientific Conference on Economics and Entrepreneurship (SCEE'2020), which took place on-line in Riga (Latvia), October 16, 2020. *Good Governance - utopia or reality in a pandemic.*
 10. Lentjušenkova, O. 1) 15.10.2020. 18th BMDA annual conference "Multidisciplinary Approach in Business and Education to Assure High Competitiveness (Finding Fast and Right Solutions Now and Tomorrow" (online)
 11. 2) 20.05.2021. BMDA pre-conference "IS THE WORLD REALLY BURNING OUT? CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS OF COVID" (online)
 12. Lentjušenkova, O. 06.07.-08.07.2021. International Policy Forum "Flexible Learning Pathways in Higher Education" (UNESCO) (online)
 13. Šīna, I. participation in the International ICLEL Conference "6th International Conference of Lifelong Education and Leadership for All" held online on 16 July 2020. Report: Insert Module of Corporate Social responsibility and Ethics in Business Studies Curriculum.
 14. Šīna, I. participation in the XXI International Conference on Sustainable economy. The Latvian Story, kas notika Rīgā (Latvija), 2020.gada 21.aprīlī. Report: Social Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Latvian Municipalities.
 15. Skvariany, V. 2021. Measuring Relationship between Digital Economy and Sustainable Development. International Scientific Conference "Contemporary Issues in Business, Management and Economics Engineering", 2021 May 13-14 Vilnius (Lithuania).
 16. Skvariany, V. & Vidžiūnaitė, S. 2021. Approach to Prioritisation of Decent Work and Economic Growth in BRICS Countries. International Scientific Conference „Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities”, 2021 April 22-23, Riga (Latvia).
 17. Verina, N., Titko, J. & Skvariany, V. Measurement of Digital Economy: Check for Data Consistency on the Example of Latvia and Lithuania. International Scientific Conference „Innovation, Social and Economic Challenges”, 2020 Decempber 1-3, Sumy (Ukraine)
 18. Svirina, A. Academy of International Business Annual Meeting. X-culture panel. June 30th, 2021
 19. Svirina, A. SOItMc Annual meeting. The Chair of Rethinking Business in the times of COVID-2019 session. July 13th, 2021
 20. Jermolajeva, J., Turusheva, L. (2021). Peculiarities of the first year university students' motivation for learning in samples of Riga and Smolensk. 13th International Scientific Conference RURAL ENVIRONMENT. EDUCATION. PERSONALITY (REEP), 14, Jelgava: Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies. 07.-08.05.2021
 21. Jermolajeva, J., Silchenkova, S., Turusheva, L., (2021). Study of university students' academic 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", 10-11th June, 2021, WSB University, Brenna, Poland.
 22. Jermolajeva, J., Silchenkova, S., Turusheva, L., (2021). First-year university students' educational and cognitive motives for learning: Riga and Smolensk samples. 79th International Scientific Conference of the UL, Riga.
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37. Vēvere, V. 18th International conference on European processes (Kaunas, Lithuania), 23.04.2021, pap. "Social Entrepreneurship Intentions Among Business Students in Latvia"
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39. Vēvere, V. XXII International Scientific Conference of Turība University "ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GREEN THINKING" (Riga, Latvia), April 22, 2021, pap. "Using Behavioural Economics to Improve Workplace Collaboration Based on Predetermined Workers' and Business Values"
40. Vēvere, V. XXII International Scientific Conference of Turība University "ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GREEN THINKING" (Riga, Latvia), April 22, 2021, pap. "The influence of retail services and selling behaviors on customer's satisfaction, trust and loyalty intentions in retail industry of Pakistan"
41. Vēvere, V. 13th International Scientific Practical Conference "Environment. Technology. Resources" (Rēzekne, Latvia), June 17 – 18, 2021, pap. "CRITICAL THINKING AS GROUNDS OF SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICATION"
42. Vēvere, V. 13th International Scientific Practical Conference "Environment. Technology. Resources" (Rēzekne, Latvia), June 17 – 18, 2021, pap. "CLIENT RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT IN LATVIAN RETAIL ENTERPRISES UNDER COVID-19 CIRCUMSTANCES"

43. Zarina, V. 35th EBES conference in Italy (online) 7-9 April, 2021, presentation: "The Effectiveness of the Process of Introducing Automation on the Non-Banking Sector in Latvia"
44. Zarina, V. 37th IBIMA International Conference 1.-2.aprīlis 2021, The Development of the Onboarding Process of new Employees in Manufacturing Companies of Latvia
45. Zalcmane, K. 25.03.2021 participation with a report "Criminalisation of Doping" at RSU 2nd International inter-disciplinary conference PLACES.

3.4. Involvement of EKA students in research and creative activities

Every year, EKA hosts a Student Conference with students from all EKA study directions, students from Alberta College and other higher education institutions. This year, EKA students submitted 135 research abstracts, as well as 23 descriptions of creative and artistic work.

In addition, EKA students submitted 108 full text articles to the EKA/AK Student research paper collection:

- The Latvian and English flow students of the Master's degree study programme "Business Administration" submitted 44 articles;
- Students of the Bachelor's degree study programme "Accounting and audit" submitted 12 articles;
- Students of the Bachelor's degree study programme "Business Economics" submitted 8 articles;
- Students of the Bachelor's degree study programme "Cultural management" submitted 9 articles;
- The Latvian and English flow students of the bachelor's degree study programme "Management" submitted 32 articles;
- Students of the Bachelor's degree study programme "Programming Engineer" submitted 3 articles;

In 2020/2021, EKA students also participated in other scientific and creative activities:

- Rita Vidže, 1st year student of the study programme "Management", presented the results of her study "Possibilities for improving external communication channels in the State Revenue Service" at the international student conference "Future Creators" organized by the Lithuanian SMK University of Applied Social Sciences.
- The 4th year students of the study programme "Cultural Management" implemented project by EKA ECO.
- Vitālijs Jakovļevs, student of the study programme "Cultural Management", organized an online seminar for cultural management students - Entertainment during COVID.

- The student of the study programme “Event organisation” Zane Leine carried out a charity project related to the animal shelter “Ulubele”. The result is a professional video on volunteering, extensive publication on the portal jauns.lv and in the Journal "Kas jauns", as well as improvement work of the shelter carried out with volunteers.
- Una Daniela Aizgale and Beāte Bole, students of the study programme “Cultural Management”, organized a master class available on Zoom platform free of charge. During the master class, one could get acquainted with the foundations of music management and some vocal techniques.
- Student of the study programme “Cultural Management” Daira Auce Vorkule has conducted a study on satisfaction of visitors to literary festivals ordered by poetry festival “Dzejas dienas”.
- The Director of the IT programme J.Radionovs together with IT students, participated in a creative project *Virtual EKA*, which aims to create a visual story for potential interested persons about EKA study programmes by creating and collating information on the alternative EKA website.
- 2nd year students of the study programme “Interior design” created an installation/environment object workshop, led by the teachers of Vilniaus technologijų ir dizaino kolegija – VTDK.
- Within the course “Composition III”, 2nd year students of the study programme “Interior design” made glass objects for EKA, together with their teacher Anna Varnase at Glass Point studio.
- 3rd year “Interior design” students Signe Krumholce, Darja Konina and Elīna Dambīte have developed an interior design for training centre *Lando* at 35 Lāčplēša Street, as part of their design course.
- 3rd year students of the EKA University of Applied Sciences, future interior designers (or as they can be called after completing this project – current designers) Annija Norde, Karlīna Jansone, Kristīne Gaile, Inese Korpfa, Eva Ralle, Oskars Gruduls and Ieva Elizabete Ķīle have developed a design concept for the Center of Technology Culture “Gauja” within the framework of their design course.
- Interior design student Una Foigta took part in the international drawing competition organized by the University of Antwerp and Panathlon International.

4. PRIORITY “INFRASTRUCTURE”

The operational target is defined within this priority: *To provide an infrastructure facility (specialized room) for each study direction and improve the material - technical provision for performing research or creative activities.* For the academic

year 2020/2021, the list of new infrastructure facilities and material technical base provided at the EKA University of Applied Sciences and the facilities previously provided is set out in Table 7.

Table 7. EKA Infrastructure facilities and material-technical base elements

Study direction	Name of the facility	Description of the facility
Economics	Logistics room	<u>For use in the framework of the study Programme "International Trade and Logistics"</u> It is equipped with powerful computers and software, which allow to master fully the study course "Logistics information systems", visual aids for marking of dangerous goods, types of cargo containers, as well as geography maps. The audience also offers brochures and magazines on transport logistics in English, which can be used not only for logistics but also for learning a foreign professional language.
	Virtual room for economics	<u>For use in the framework of the study Programme "Business economics"</u> The virtual room for economics is an online learning tool created in virtual reality and provides the viewer with information about the essence of economics. The interior of the room is designed in a neo-classical style and mocks the Harvard training space. The room offers information on the main economic issues, systems, demand, supply, consumer behaviour in the market and the role of the state in economy. The information is divided into 6 different virtual objects. Mobility between objects is ensured by specially established platforms. The room is supported by an online video from the Bank of Latvia archive.
Management	The black room	<u>To be used in the framework of study programmes "Event organization" and "Cultural management"</u> In EKA, the Black room was established to open up opportunities to practice public performances, acting and perform various creative activities on an improvised stage. The room provides multimedia facilities (sound, light, projector), and can be transformed for different purposes.
Law	Court Hall	<u>For use within the framework of the study Programme "Law"</u> A training court room has been set up at EKA premises to enable prospective lawyers to train their skills in the profession and roleplay court proceedings in the role of a lawyer, a prosecutor or a judge. The layout and furniture of the court hall correspond fully to a real court hall, and it even had a barred space for the accused. The room is also used daily for classes for students-lawyers, as well as for conferences and meetings. At present, the Court Hall of the EKA is among the most modern court halls in higher education institutions in Latvia.
Translation	Simultaneous interpreting room	<u>For use within the framework of the study Programme "Translation and interpreting"</u>

		<p>One of the EKA's classrooms is used for the acquisition of translation technologies.</p> <p>In addition, EKA has a room with simultaneous interpreting equipment. It is possible to provide simultaneous interpretation for 12 people in 2 languages.</p>
Arts	digLAB	<p><u>For use within the framework of study programmes "Computer game design and graphics", "Information technologies" and "Interior design"</u></p> <p>A computer game development and testing laboratory (digLAB) has been established in EKA premises. It is equipped with Mac and Windows computers and software for the development and testing of games. iOS and Android tablets and smartphones for games testing on various mobile devices have been installed in the laboratory. Oculus Rift is also available for the development and testing of games and applications for virtual reality needs. The room is also equipped with a flat-screen TV, a sound system and a board. The laboratory is designed as a computer game development studio, providing work stations for 5 persons.</p>
	Design rooms	<p><u>For use within the framework of the study Programme "Interior design"</u></p> <p>There are 2 specialized rooms for designer training purposes at the premises of EKA. They are equipped with a projector, a board, and a work desks. In these rooms, interior designers are practically studying to make models, design, develop tasks in a composition. The premises have all the necessary materials for successful projects.</p> <p>There is also a room for drawing and painting at EKA, which is a spacious room with six places for settings and gypsum. The room has easels for drawing and painting, it is well lit, and the settings are additionally illuminated by searchlights. The drawing room can provide space for several courses working at the same time.</p>