

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME 2021-2025 OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Strategic Partnership Programme 2021-2025 of Vilnius University of Applied Sciences (hereinafter – the Programme) lays down the purpose, directions, implementation and coordination of the strategic partnership in order to improve the quality of services and impact on the region.

2. The definitions used in the programme include:

2.1. Strategic partnership – a mutually beneficial collaboration that contributes to the implementation of an organisation's vision and strategic objectives, or otherwise contributes (intellectually, financially or with other resources) to the formulation and implementation of the organisation's objectives and to the resolution of problems arising from various threats;

2.2 Strategic partner – a company, organisation, higher education institution, association, individual who is ESSENTIALLY contributing to the implementation of the organisation's vision and strategic objectives, and with whom strategic partnership activities are developed;

2.3. Other definitions used in the programme correspond to the terms used in the Law on Research and Higher Education of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts.

3. The programme implementation period is 2021-2025.

4. The programme has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of the Bologna Process, best practice in higher education partnerships in European countries, and national recommendations from experts in the European Higher Education Area.

5. The pursuit of the Programme's objective and implementation of the Strategic Partnership 2021-2025 Action Plan (Annex 1) (hereafter – the Action Plan) will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy of the Vilnius University of Applied Sciences for 2021-2025.

CHAPTER II

ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

6. In the 2019-2020 academic year, the College or the College's units concluded 53 bilateral cooperation agreements with business enterprises, public institutions, educational institutions operating in Lithuania, committing to host representatives of the institutions to give lectures, participate in events, carry out R & D activities, consult, inform members of the academic community about job, professional and final internship or traineeship opportunities, etc.

7. In the 2019-2020 academic year, the College had concluded bilateral cooperation agreements with 293 foreign higher education institutions from 42 countries (279 agreements with foreign higher education institutions from 42 countries in the 2018-2019 academic year). In recent years, the focus has shifted from increasing the number of agreements (the College already has a sufficient number of them) to the effectiveness of partnerships.

8. In 2019, Recommendations for Strategic Partnerships (Annex 2) were prepared, outlining the principles of strategic partnerships, discussing the specifics and importance of strategic partnerships in higher education, presenting examples of good practice from abroad, and providing practical advice for strategic collaboration at institutional, faculty and departmental levels.

9. Based on the Guidelines for Strategic Partnerships and the strategic partnerships identified by the departments, the faculties identify national and international strategic partners annually. Annex 3 presents the strategic partners of the Faculties until 2025.

10. Based on the Guidelines for Strategic Partnerships, the Vilnius University of Applied Sciences identifies national and international strategic partners on an annual basis. Annex 4 presents the College's strategic partners until 2025.

CHAPTER III PURPOSE, PRINCIPLES AND FIELDS

11. The aim of the programme is to engage in applied research, experimental development, artistic activities, international academic mobility, through strategic partnerships, in the implementation of the region's strategic plans and programmes, thus having an impact on the regions and the country, and ensuring the preparation of graduates who meet the needs of the labour market.

12. Principles of strategic partnerships:

12.1. trust. Open relationships between organisations that provide the basis for effective collaboration, partnership sustainability and performance;

12.2. purposefulness of. activities Purposeful activities aimed at achieving the objectives and targets set;

12.3. sustainable cooperation. Organisations working together in a mutually beneficial way in a coordinated way, through pre-planned activities, using shared resources and achieving benefits for the society and the environment;

12.4. intercultural sustainability. A set of intercultural practices that contribute to the well-being of future generations through responsible use and management of economic, social and environmental resources.

13. Strategic partnership areas include:

13.1. management;

13.2. quality assurance;

13.3. higher education (arts) and research;

13.4. impact on the region.

CHAPTER IV EVALUATION CRITERIA

14. The achievement of the Programme's objective and the activities in the Strategic Partnership fields will be assessed against the following evaluation criteria:

14.1. Number of strategic partnerships and volume of joint activities;

14.2. Number of subjects/modules and/or public lectures taught by representatives of strategic partners;

14.3. Number and growth dynamics of students who have completed traineeships in strategic partner companies;

14.4. Number and change dynamics of final theses commissioned by strategic partners;

14.5. Number of outgoing and incoming students from/to strategic partner companies/organisations;

14.6. Number of staff and academic staff leaving and arriving from/to strategic partner companies/ organisations;

14.7. Number of projects/programmes implemented with strategic partners;

14.8. Monitoring the dynamics of the results of joint R&D activities with strategic partners;

14.9. Number and overview of volunteering actions organised with and for strategic partners;

14.10. Volume of programmes developed and training delivered on behalf of strategic partners;

14.11. Monitoring the dynamics of results of activities with strategic partners with regional and national impact;

14.12. Funds received by the College from strategic partnership activities;

14.13. Scope of material support (tools, equipment, finance, etc.) received from strategic partners;

14.14. Analysis of feedback from strategic partners.

CHAPTER V IMPLEMENTATION

15. The Programme shall be implemented in accordance with the Action Plan (Annex 1).

16. Financing the Action Plan:

16.1. state budget funds;

16.2. operating revenue funds;

16.3. European Union funds;

16.4. funds from other sources.

18. The programme is implemented at the level of the Vilnius University of Applied Sciences, individual faculties and departments.

19. Deputy Director for Research and Partnerships of Vilnius University of Applied Sciences coordinates the implementation of the programme.

20. At least once a year, the results of the Action Plan are discussed at the level of the College, faculty and department.

CHAPTER VI FINAL PROVISIONS

21. The Programme will consistently pursue and develop strategic partnership activities that will strengthen the College's impact on the regions and the country and respond to labour market needs.
