



**Europos humanitarinis  
universitetas**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
CONCISE VERSION**

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## EUROPEAN HUMANITIES UNIVERSITY

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## **LIST OF KEY ABBREVIATIONS**

**AY** – academic year

**EHU, University** – European Humanities University

**LR** – part-time studies

**MA** – Master’s study cycle

**HR** – full-time studies

**GAPO** – General Assembly of Part Owners

**VLE** – Virtual Learning Environment

**GB** – Governing Board

## INTRODUCTION

The European Humanities University is a student-centred University for promoting civil society development through Humanities and Liberal Arts for students from Belarus and the region by bringing them together and offering international experience in study quality. This mission statement lies at the core of EHU operations, since the University was founded in Minsk, Belarus in 1992.

At EHU, we believe that Belarus is an inseparable part of the Western world. For this reason, our commitment to liberal education in the fields of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, free debate and critical thinking, fosters the promotion of European values and open societies vis-à-vis Belarus and the region.

Without the solidarity of the international community of donors, operations of EHU are impossible. The European Commission, Sweden and Lithuania, being the three major donors of EHU, make sure that EHU remains the only Belarusian University that is genuinely operating in an environment of academic autonomy and freedom.

After the EHU significant 2019 (EHU was granted a new licence to carry out studies and study related activities and, by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the status of the university in exile), 2020 was to become a breakthrough year in pursuit of the strategic goals of the EHU strategy for 2019-2024 – improving the quality of studies, research and arts, increasing the number of students, including those from outside of Belarus, and enhancing administrative capacity. However, the University's move in this direction was inevitably adjusted by 2 main events / processes that shook the whole world or the surrounding regions:

- The COVID 19 pandemic, which definitively changed the concept of the traditional study process and moved it to the virtual space for a long time. It can be said that EHU has adapted to these challenges quite successfully. The spring semester of 2020 was marked by an abundance of international webinars and lectures, and the regular study process in the virtual space, although not fast-paced, also went quite smoothly;
- The dawn of democratization processes and civil revolution in Belarus, affected by the rigged presidential elections of August 9, 2020 and the ensuing repressions of the authoritarian Belarusian regime against peaceful protesters. EHU leadership and the community immediately took an active role in the public sphere with regard to civil protests in Belarus and the actions of the authoritarian regime. By actively commenting on the events in Belarus, EHU has not only become an important shaper of the democratic position, but has also strengthened its role as a mobilizing institution in the region, especially by actively supporting protesting and repressed Belarusian students.

Another important event of 2020 to be mentioned is EHU joining the Open Society University Network (OSUN). This global partnership, that unites 15 universities and colleges around the world, has opened up new opportunities for the University to develop strategic international partnerships. Only during the spring semester 2019-2020, the EHU community took the opportunity to participate in more

than 30 webinars and trainings organized by OSUN. This action has arguably served to increase the internationality and visibility of the University.

To summarise, the difficult and challenging year of 2020 only strengthened EHU's resilience and ability to work in the context of changing international realities and strengthened the University's role in the Eastern Partnership in promoting civil society principles and Western democratic values in the region.

## **INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Changes in management**

During the reporting period the administrative changes that came into force previously, were consolidated in order to make the implemented reforms a foundation for a qualitative leap in the University management, the study organization process and the research potential.

In the end of 2019 the Research Publications Center was established under the Rector of the University.

On December 14, 2019 the term of office of the University Governing Board ended. On January 6, 2020 by the decision of the GAPO the following members of GB new term of office were elected: **Dr Jonathan Fanton (USA)**, Honorary President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; **Mindaugas Kačerauskis (Lithuania)**, Deputy Director of the Development Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania; **Andrius Kubilius (Lithuania)**, Member of the European Parliament, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania (1999-2000, 2008-2012); **Dr Megaklis Petmezias (Greece)**, Vice-Rector for Communication, Marketing and Student Attraction, City College of International Programs, University of Sheffield (Thessaloniki Main Campus); **Reinhard Stuth (Germany)**, General Manager and Partner, HanBao Energien, former Minister of Culture and Media of the Federal Land of Hamburg (2010-2011); **prof. Sergei Ignatov, ex officio (Bulgaria)**, Rector of the European Humanities University; **acad. Anatoli Mikhailov, ex officio (Belarus)**, President of the European Humanities University. A. Kubilius was elected the chairman of the GB.

On September 24, 2020 GAPO approved the amendments to the EHU Statute regarding the composition of the GB. GAPO approved Article 6.4 of the Statute thereafter defines that "the Board shall consist of up to 9 members".

On September 24, 2020 GAPO decided that European Humanities University shall become one of the founders of the Democracy Development Fund. EHU Chancellor - Head of the Rector's Office has been delegated to the Board of the Foundation and to sign the founding documents.

### **Senate of EHU**

The activities of the Senate were carried out in accordance with the approved annual plan. During the reporting period, 6 Senate meetings took place, 3 of which were held remotely: the quarantine announced in the territory of Lithuania in spring 2020 was the cause.



Issues discussed and approved by the Senate were formulated in advance and prepared by Senate committees. Some of the questions were prepared by Senate committees in collaboration with the EHU Academic Support Center.

Reports of EHU academic departments on the quality of study programmes in AY 2018-2019 were discussed and approved at the Senate meetings. In October 2019 ways to further improve the quality of studies were identified.

Senate discussed and / or approved the following new documents:

- January 2020 – student questionnaire on the quality of University work;
- April 2020 – the concept of Master’s study programme on Gender studies;

Throughout the reporting period, the issues of research and art activity of the University were regularly discussed at the meetings of the Senate: in November 2019 - effectiveness of methodological support for the teaching process, in April 2020 - upcoming student admission campaign, in May 2020 - organization of students' independent work and student studies according to the individual plan; in July 2020 - issues of monitoring the academic achievements of University students.

In January 2020 the following existing documents regulating the study process in the University were amended:

- EHU teacher performance evaluation procedure;
- Methodological recommendations for the form and content of students' written papers;
- EHU study programmes development and improvement procedure;
- EHU study course development and improvement procedure.

The report of the Ethics Commission was discussed in the Senate and the activities of the Ethics Commission in AY 2018 - 2019 were evaluated. In December 2019 – January 2020, the Senate approved amendments to the rules of procedure of the Ethics Commission.

In April 2020, the Senate organized a working meeting of EHU faculty, during which ways to improve the quality of student teaching in the general teaching process were discussed, as well as ways to improve distance learning methods.

In May-June 2020 the Senate has prepared and approved the procedure for awarding the pedagogical title of EHU Professor.

## **Staff**

Academic staff of the University works in two departments – Academic Department of Humanities and Arts and Academic Department of Social Sciences. In year 2019 was established the Research Publications Center Administration staff consists of Rector’s Office, Academic Support Center, Communications and Development, Finance and HR units, Students Service Unit. A new head of the Academic Support Center was elected through a competition.

During AY 2019-2020 the University had 77 employees, with the full-time equivalent of 70,4 positions. They included 42 teachers (33,75 full-time positions), of which 76 percent –with PhD. The University had 16 professors, 13 associate professors (docents), 11 lecturers and 2 assistants. The academic staff consists of 26 teachers from Belarus, 3 from Russia, 1 from Ukraine, 2 teachers are from European Union countries. This is a good example of the international nature of the European Humanities University.

In AY 2019-2020 the teachers continued their work with employment contracts for one (until 30.09.2020) or two years (until 30.09.2021).

During the implementation of important changes in the field of personnel management, foreseen in the Strategic Plan of the University for years 2019-2024, the implementation of the integrated human resources management model (IHRMM) was carried out. The remuneration procedure related to the performance evaluation and motivation of employees has been applied since the 2019-2020 academic year (the motivation system will be applied from the 2020-2021 academic year). This made it possible to set a transparent remuneration, set targets for the current period and link employees motivation measures to the results achieved. Continuing the implementation of IHRMM, a new tool was developed - the Employees satisfaction survey methodology. The processes of personnel administration have also been streamlined. It must be admitted that COVID-19 necessitated a change in the organization of work, which did not allow for the full implementation of the evaluation and motivation system, the elements of the employees satisfaction survey. For the same reason the updated procedure for evaluating the effectiveness of teachers in 2020 was not held in April-May as usual, but postponed and held in October, 2020. In 2019 the Senate has approved the procedure for awarding the pedagogical titles. According to it, 2 teachers were awarded the pedagogical title of Professor. In years 2019-2020 the EHU community has taken advantage of new opportunities to participate in webinars and trainings organized by OSUN.

## **STUDIES, RESEARCH AND ART ACTIVITIES**

### **STUDIES**

#### **Study programmes**

During AY 2019-2020 EHU carried out 8 accredited study programmes. Academic department of social sciences is responsible for bachelor study programmes “Media and communication”, “World politics and economy”, integrated study programme “International law and European Union law” and master study programme “Public policy”. Academic department of humanities and art is responsible for bachelor study programmes “Visual design”, “European Heritage”, master study programmes “Visual plastics” and “Cultural heritage development”, as well as PhD programme in Philosophy.

#### **Students**

Number of students in AY 2019-2020 was 643 students (data as of October 1, 2019), (AY 2018-2019 – 743 students, data as of October 1, 2018). Student numbers during the academic year fluctuate due to various reasons that cause student movement (academic leave, dismissal, re-admission, etc.).

Number of the students for AY 2019-2020 is presented in Table 1 separated by groups of study fields, study fields and study programmes. As in previous years, a decrease in the number of students is recorded.

**Table 1**

**Study fields and study programmes, carried out during reporting period, and student number in them**

AY 2019 – 2020				
Group of study fields	Study field	Study programme	Cycle	Number of students
Humanities	Heritage studies	European heritage	BA	71
		Cultural heritage development	MA	14
	Design	Visual design	BA	216
		Visual Plastics	MA	13
Social sciences	Communication	Media and communication	BA	179
	Political sciences	World politics and economy	BA	37
		Public policy	MA	20
Law	Law	International law and European Union law	Integrated	93
Total:				643

In 2020, 120 students graduated from EHU (which is 30% less than the number of graduates in 2019). 62 full-time students (56 graduates in 2019) and 40 part-time students (70 graduates in 2019) received bachelor's diplomas. Master's diplomas were awarded to 18 students.

During the reporting period 10 distance listeners were studying separate study subjects remotely at the University (more information on the system of open distance studies <https://ru.ehu.lt/ucheba/drugie-kursyi/>).

### Student admission

In 2020 a total of 176 prospective students (86 full-time and 52 part-time bachelors and 29 master's students) were invited to sign contracts. This is 5.38% less compared to 2019, when a total of 186 students were admitted (113 full-time and 89 part-time bachelors and 46 masters).

**Table 2**

**Comparison of student numbers, admitted in 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017**

Study programmes	Students admitted in 2020	Students admitted in 2019	Students admitted in 2018	Students admitted in 2017
<b>Bachelor study programmes (HR)</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>
Visual design	25	37	42	9

European heritage	18	11	12	19
Media and communication	28	28	21	35
World politics and economy	-	4	n/a	10
<b>Bachelor study programmes (LR)</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>91</b>
Visual design	33	32	32	26
European heritage	-	8	15	23
Media and communication	19	25	27	23
World politics and economy	15	8	n/a	19
<b>Integrated study programmes</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>62</b>
International law and European Union law (HR)	9	3	17	30
International law and European Union law (LR)	-	10	20	32
<b>Master study programmes</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>
Cultural heritage development	7	7	12	-
Culture studies	-	-	16	15
Public policy	16	6	11	10
Visual plastics from 2019	6	7	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>251</b>

In accordance with the 2019 - 2021 EHU Marketing Strategy, the admission campaign was aimed at attracting as many students as possible from the other countries in the region, not only from Belarus. To achieve this goal, a number of higher education fairs were attended during the autumn semester: October 2020 in Tbilisi (Georgia) and Baku (Azerbaijan); March 2020 in St. Petersburg (Russia). February 1-2, 2020 Winter open days were held at the University.

During the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine, the student admission campaign moved online. In March-July, 2020, as many as 39 webinars were held for this purpose that were published on a dedicated part of the EHU website. Due to the quarantine restrictions and in order to ensure that the entrance exams and motivational interviews meet the requirements of the virtual format as much as possible, the deadlines for admission of students have been adjusted. In August 2020, new deadlines were set for additional admission of students due to the Belarusian regime's decision to block Internet access in the country. The University administration has also decided to double funding for incoming students for additional admission. Due to the increased demand for EHU in connection with the need for students to transfer to University from Belarusian higher education institutions, a number of decisions have been made to facilitate the transition process for students.

## Management of studies

Reporting AY 2019-2020 was exceptional due to the quarantine that was announced in Lithuania during the spring semester and pandemic situation in the whole world.

During autumn semester, the modes and forms of study at the University remained unchanged, and the studies were conducted on a HR and LR basis, in a stationary (classroom contact work) and distance/blended (distance contact work, independent work at VLE Moodle and classrooms) modes. Full-time students are studying in stationary mode, part-time bachelor students and master students study in distance/blended mode, that combine classroom and distance contact work and independent studies.

In the spring semester, however, due to the pandemic situation and the quarantine announced in Lithuania, all study programmes were carried out only remotely. The most difficult thing was to transfer full-time studies to the distance learning method. The fact that the majority of University faculty had considerable distance learning experience in part-time and master's studies greatly facilitated the rapid transition to distance in full-time studies, however, for lecturers, moving classrooms to virtual space and using video conferencing for contact work was a significant challenge.

In order to ensure the continuity of contact work online under quarantine conditions and to respond promptly to any problems that may arise, the Academic Support Center monitored the contact work of lecturers through video conferencing and student activity in the "Moodle" virtual learning environment throughout the spring semester. Such special monitoring made it possible to timely identify the problems of students' activity studying in distance mode and the difficulties of lecturers in adapting to new working conditions and to respond to them.

University study process is managed by Academic Support Center. Study management activities in the University include management processes in the following three internal databases:

- 1) Study management system "Edina",
- 2) Virtual learning environment "Moodle",
- 3) Library cataloguing and patron service system "Koha".

These databases collect and administer all data on study programmes, their implementation, student learning outcomes, carry out the study process in a virtual learning environment and archives digital learning materials, carry out library cataloguing and patron service.

Study administration activities are also carried out in the following external databases, to which data related to studies and research / art activities are periodically provided and / or regularly updated:

- 1) Students' register,
- 2) Diploma register,
- 3) eLABa institutional repository for final thesis and publications,

4) Database for the results of research (art) activity of Lithuanian Research Council "Vieversys".

In addition to administrative work in these databases, the following study administration processes and procedures are performed in the Academic Support Center:

1) There is a one-stop student request service, i.e. one-stop-shop acceptance, review and, if necessary, referral of student requests and applications to other departments, within the framework of this service, orders are prepared on the basis of applications, various certificates and academic certificates are prepared for students upon request.

2) Centralized preparation of study schedules and timetables.

3) Coordination of quality assurance processes of the University.

4) Coordination of research and art activity, accumulation of data on these activities and are provided for external institutions.

5) Library supervision and development.

6) Communication with external institutions supervising studies and research activities.

7) Cooperation with external providers of IT services.

8) Preparation of documents regulating University activities related to studies (regulation of everyday activities, regulation of periodical and long term processes).

#### **Digitization of studies and development of distance/blended learning possibilities**

EHU has experience in distance/blended education since 2005 when University relocated to Lithuania. This model of organization of studies was very important for the existence and development of the University.

During AY 2019-2020 EHU activities in the field of digitization of studies, as previously, were attributed to the competence of the Academic Support Centre and were developed in the following areas:

1. Creating and development of support systems for faculty, students and administrative staff:

1.1. *Professional development of EHU faculty and staff.* During the reporting period introduction trainings for new lecturers "Moodle elementary" were organized in both the fall and spring semesters. But the spring semester unexpectedly started with trainings in the use of video conferencing tools for lecturers who do not have such experience ("Use of video conferencing tools in the study process"). A package of information and methodological materials was also prepared for lecturers, regular consultations on the transfer of the study process to the virtual space were carried out and assistance was provided to lecturers in preparing tasks and conducting exams remotely.

1.2. *Regular support and assistance for lecturers and students.* Administrative staff of Academic Support Center responsible for digitization of studies and the maintenance of VLE Moodle provide ongoing advice and assistance for lecturers and students starting from assistance for teachers in

technical, methodological and educational aspects of distance courses creation and ending with redirecting of very practical questions about forgotten passwords and etc. to the EHU IT service (outsourcing).

2. Quality monitoring of digitalization of studies and distance/blended learning at EHU. Quality monitoring actions not only serve for regular quality improvement but also allowed to collect data for the annual evaluation of the activity of lecturers and on their impact on the digitization of studies. As previously, there were the following fields of quality monitoring during AY 2019-2020:

2.1. *Certification of new distance/blended learning courses for undergraduate part-time and master studies.* Since on autumn of 2019 after the renewal of the University license, the academic year began with noticeably renewed study programmes, the scope of work in this quality assurance bar was considerable. 2019-2020 44 new courses were developed and certified in the fall semester and 28 courses in the spring semester.

2.2. *Monitoring of the tutoring in all Bachelors (part-times mode) and Master distance/blended courses.* Certification is conducted regularly each semester. Generalized and personal evaluation reports of lecturer's activities in VLE Moodle were prepared by the staff of Academic Support Centre for the purpose of monitoring the process of studies.

2.3. *Monitoring of online classes.* Starting from AY 2018-2019 University monitors lecturers' activities in scheduled online classes for part-time and master studies in the aspect of teachers' timeliness. It was a new, but a positive and useful experience for teachers and administrative staff that year, and it was continued in AY 2019-2020. But, as already mentioned, this experience of monitoring the implementation of part-time studies this year has also served to monitor the performance of remote contact work in full-time studies, when all the studies moved to the virtual space due to quarantine.

3. Technical, methodological and administrative support for digitization of studies and development of distance/blended learning.

3.1. *Administration of certain virtual platforms supporting distance/blended learning.* It is one of the most important aspects in digitization of studies and responsible staff from Academic Support Centre, as per usual practice, took care of the administration of VLE Moodle, an anti-plagiarism system Turnitin, videoconferencing system "BlueJeans".

3.2. *Methodical support for faculty and students.* An unforeseen need to rapidly prepare a package of methodical and informational materials for faculty related to the full transfer of studies to virtual space and conduct trainings, provide assistance when creating tasks for intermediate assessment and exams, etc. arose in spring semester of 2020.

### **Local and international activities, student exchange**

International mobility events in AY 2019-2020 were highlighted by:

- Cooperation with Bard College;
- Submission of Project proposal to Key action 1: Erasmus Charter for Higher Education of Erasmus+ programme;

- Joining the factual implementation of the Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (Strategic Partnership) project aimed to promote and develop the academic dimension of Erasmus+. Project №: 2018-1-PL01-KA203-051106 is set to be implemented over the course of 2018-2020, EHU serves as a partner institution, together with 6 more Universities from Spain, Lithuania, Poland and Slovenia
- Continuous increase of the list of Erasmus+ partner Universities;
- A grand total of 35 applications for student mobility for studies (SMS) was received;
- EHU received a total of 101,462 EUR funding for providing Erasmus+ scholarships for student and staff international KA103<sup>1</sup> mobility (59,642 EUR – European Commission; 42,000 EUR – European Union Structural Funds);
- In July 2020 European Humanities University received a total of 106.590 EUR funding for Erasmus+ KA107<sup>2</sup> mobility programme with Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, Near East countries, Russia and China for 2020-2022 (72.360 EUR – European Commission; 34.230 EUR – EU structural funds). Additional funding in the amount of 30.200 EUR for the implementation of KA107 mobility programme in 2019-2021 was received from EU structural funds;
- In July 2020 EHU became a full-fledged member of ESN Lithuania – Erasmus Student Network;
- Participation in the Lithuanian state scholarship program to cover the second cycle tuition fee and to provide scholarships to applicants has been extended. The target audience of this program is students from post-Soviet countries, including Belarus. Such scholarship was awarded to one EHU student for 2019-2021.

**Table 3**

**Comparison of EHU mobility funding in 2015-2020**

EHU funding results through Erasmus+ KA107				
Partner country	Application 2015	Application 2017	Application 2019	Application 2020
<b>Israel</b>	Not applied	Not applied	Approved	Not applied
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Approved	Approved	Approved	Not applied
<b>China</b>	Not applied	Not applied	Approved	Approved
<b>Kirgizia</b>	Not applied	Approved	Approved	Approved
<b>Moldova</b>	Not applied	Approved	Approved	Not applied
<b>Palestine</b>	Not applied	Not applied	Approved	Not applied
<b>Russia</b>	Not applied	Approved	Approved	Approved
<b>Serbia</b>	Not approved	Not approved	Country does not participate in KA107	Country does not participate in KA107
<b>Ukraine</b>	Not applied	Not approved	Approved	Approved
<b>Georgia</b>	Not applied	Not applied	Not applied	Approved
<b>Lebanon</b>	Not applied	Not applied	Not applied	Approved

<sup>1</sup> Key Action 103 stands for Erasmus+ mobility in EU/EEA countries, Switzerland, Turkey, Serbia

<sup>2</sup> Key action 107 stands for Erasmus+ mobility in partner countries, e.g. Eastern Partnership, Russia, Central Asia etc.



<b>India</b>	Not applied	Not applied	Not applied	Not approved
<b>Application for funding</b>	No data	€214 905	€319 125	€219 350
<b>Funds received</b>	<b>€11 900</b>	<b>€57 460 (26.7%)</b>	<b>€159 825 (50%)</b>	<b>€72 360 (33%)</b>

Table 4

## Factual student mobility in 2019-2020 via Erasmus+ KA 103

Factual student mobility in 2019-2020 via Erasmus+ KA 103				
Cycle	Study field	Outcoming		Incoming
		Studies	Internship	Studies
First	Communication	16	5	
	Political sciences			9
	Design	16		2
	Heritage studies	1		2
Integrated	Law	10		3
Second	Sociology	4		
<b>Total</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>

Table 5

## Factual student mobility in 2019-2020 via Erasmus+ KA 107

Factual student mobility in 2019-2020 via Erasmus+ KA 107				
Bilateral agreements				
Cycle	Study field	Outcoming		Incoming
		Studies	Internship	Studies
First	Communication	3	-	-
	Political sciences	-	-	-
	Design	1	-	-
	Heritage studies	-	1	-
Integrated	Law	-	-	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

### Quality assurance activities

In the context of EHU's mission as a student-centred university, the University will be pursuing its mission statement from EHU Strategy for 2019-2024. The strategic goals are directly related to the assurance of internal study quality and international level study process at the University. Qualitative and quantitative objectives are set for each strategic goal, covering the whole study process and the University's academic activities, ensuring internal quality enhancement, including preparation of new study programmes, involvement of the academic community in quality improvement processes. All quality assurance statements are set in "Quality Policy for Studies and Science at the European

Humanities University” (No. 123-20, 2017-05-16), “Quality Manual and Performance Indicators”, etc. These and other documents define the internal quality assurance system and allocate responsibility for its planning, implementation and development among the Rector, the University Senate, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, Academic Departments and the University Science Centers, Divisions and other units. During the reporting year, as in previous years, the aim was to collect data, analyse it and identify indicators that help to identify weaknesses and to find optimal solutions to problems.

In AY 2019-2020, as previously, the University collects various quantitative and qualitative data that allow assessing the study process and the quality of studies – student, lecturer and graduate surveys, statistical study information, and discussions with academic departments on individual study quality issues. The organization of the student feedback process is regulated by the “EHU Study Feedback Organization Procedure” (No. 123-20, 2017-05-16).

As each year particular attention was paid to the process of data collection - student feedback surveys on the quality of the study subjects were conducted in autumn and spring semesters. The results of the surveys were introduced to faculty, heads of department and broader discussions were held at inter-university meetings attended by University students, faculty and administration. This way students, as the most influenced part of the University's academic community, in cooperation with lecturers and the administration of academic units help to identify problems arising in the study process and contribute to the search for rational solutions to them.

During AY 2019-2020 academic year, as before, the reasons for the dropout of students were monitored, systematized and summarized. A questionnaire was developed on the reasons why students decide to drop out. Each student who dropped out of studies was asked to complete a questionnaire providing the necessary information to indicate the reasons associated with the University related to the dropout of students. Summarizing the data collected during the reporting year, it can be stated that there were usually two reasons for termination of studies: voluntary termination of studies and elimination due to non-progress or financial arrears. Students voluntarily dropped out of studies due to various personal reasons, health problems, and family circumstances. Others dropped out due to a difficult financial situation, which made it difficult to reconcile studies and work. As in previous years, a relatively large drop-out rate is recorded in the first year. In AY 2019-2020 special attention was paid to each student due to the feedback survey on the reasons for suspension / termination of studies.

Therefore, based on the analysis of the data of AY 2018-2019, the most appropriate dropout reduction measures for the AY 2019-2020 have been prepared – the “EHU drop-out reduction plan for the AY 2019-2020 academic year” was adopted.

As the University actively uses distance/blended study mode in LR studies, the management of virtual space in distance courses is regularly evaluated with an aim to ensure the quality of distance learning. Evaluation of new courses and tutoring in distance mode is provided regularly according the requirements of “Procedure of Digitization of Studies and Organization of Studies in Distance/Blended Mode” (No. 01-68, 17.07.2017).

## Student survey data

A routine bi-annual student survey was conducted in AY 2019-2020. The survey was organized electronically (in the spring semester) and by submitting paper questionnaires (in autumn semester). Anonymous questionnaires for the University students are usually submitted via the University study information system's (IS) survey module or in personal. Based on internal legal acts of the University, the survey data is considered representative and can be used in general reporting only when at least 55% of students of the course participate in the survey. If fewer participate in the survey the data are still used for lecturers' performance evaluation procedure, but with some reservation.

It should be noted that student participation in feedback surveys was significantly lower in the reporting year. Most likely, the fact that the University worked remotely in quarantine conditions during the spring semester had a negative impact on the number of student feedback questionnaires, as in the spring semester the survey was conducted only online. During AY 2019-2020 a total of 10.16 percent of all students participated in the survey (28.92 percent in AY 2018-2019; 25.13 percent in AY 2017-2018). Respectively, the part of students studying in specific study programmes and participating in the survey varies from 1 to 10.16 percent. Online surveys, i.e. the use of the survey module of the information study system still does not live up to expectations and the survey of students with the help of paper questionnaires still allows for the collection of more feedback data. It was hoped that with the entire University working only remotely during spring, online feedback surveys would pay off, but this did not happen. Therefore, for the next academic year, it is planned to look for ways to motivate students to use the online survey system much more actively. Student survey data of the AY 2019-2020 is presented in Table 6.

**Table 6**

**Results of student feedback survey AY 2019–2020**

Study programme	Full-time studies	Part-time studies	Full-time studies	Part-time studies
	<i>Autumn semester</i>		<i>Spring semester</i>	
European heritage	50%	27%	0.51%	0.65%
Visual design	33,66%	26,39%	2,02%	2.53%
World politics and economy	7%	24%	0.07%	0.09%
Media and communication	29,44%	31%	1.03%	0.72%
International law and European Union law	40,63%	0%	1.23%	0.72%
Cultural heritage development	0%	-	0,68%	-
Visual plastics	0%	-		-
Public policy	0%	-		-

**Table 7**

**Summarized evaluation results for lecturers' teaching in study programmes AY 2019-2020\***

Study programme	Full-time studies	Part-time studies	Full-time studies	Part-time studies
	Autumn semester		Spring semester	
European heritage	7,83	8,01	9	6,53
Visual design	7,96	8,95	9,46	6,98
World politics and economy	9,66	8,94	8,36	5,86
Media and communication	7,79	9,33	8,05	8,69
International law and European Union law	9,12	9,23	8,36	9,50
Cultural heritage development	8,93	-	9,79	-
Visual plastics	-	-	9,46	-
Public policy	-	-	9,4	-

\*Evaluation scale: 1 -10

According to separate criteria and specific student comments, systematized results of the survey on the quality of teaching of the study subjects are presented to the heads of academic departments.

Feedback data collected from participants of the study process is used by:

- University faculty for the improvement of the content of study subject,
- Study Programme (Field) Committee and Administration - for continuous quality assurance and improvement of the study programme, analysis of the study programmes to be undertaken,
- Programme (Field) Committee - for internal evaluation and improvement of the study programme,
- Teacher's Evaluation Commission - for annual evaluation of teachers' performance,
- Academic Support Center and University Administration - for the development of unit and University activities.

A student satisfaction survey was also conducted in the AY 2019-2020. The obtained data allowed assessing the extent to which the University meets students' expectations and how the quality of the study environment is assessed. Satisfaction with individual components of studies and their environment was assessed. The overall score by which students rated the quality of their studies and their environment was 7.43 points out of 10 possible points.

The Academic Support Center also prepared, presented and approved together with the University Senate and heads of academic departments the quality assurance plan for the current academic year. The opinion of students and graduates on the quality of studies is published on the University website in the manner prescribed by law of the Republic of Lithuania.

## RESEARCH AND ART ACTIVITIES

According to the order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania "Regarding the Evaluation of Research and Development and Evaluation of the Arts and Sciences of the Universities and Research Institutions in 2018" (December 4, 2017), every year European Humanities

University is participating in the process of evaluation of research and art activities. Taking into account the requirements of the assessment process and the fields of research and art activities and the faculty potential in the University, three assessment units were formed – the Unit of Humanities, the Unit of Social Sciences and the Unit of Arts. The function of these units is the representation of the University research (art) activities in particular fields. The Evaluation unit of Humanities represents main characteristic of research activity in the fields of History and Philosophy. The Evaluation unit of Social sciences represents main characteristic of research activity in the fields of Law, Politics and Communication. The Evaluation unit of Arts represents main characteristic of artistic activity in the art field of Design.

The evaluation procedure of the research (art) activities is performed by the Research Council of Lithuania and is usually performed in the first half of the following year of the year which had been evaluated. Because of this principle research (art) activity results of calendar year 2019 were delivered for the evaluation at the end of June 2020. As a systemised University research (art) activity output results enable to indicate, in 2019 overall 37 research publications (one more than in 2018) (13 in Humanities and 24 in Social sciences) and 16 works of art (3 more than in 2018) had been created. Also primary research (art) activity evaluation results presented by the Research Council of Lithuania is showing that overall evaluation results by evaluation points had increased significantly in comparison with the situation of the year 2017 and 2018 (2017 – 74 points; 2018 – 212,9 points; 2019 – 370.644 points). In comparison to 2017 EHU research (art) performance indicators for 2019 increased by 5, and compared to 2018 – 1.74 times. In comparison to 2018 the results of the evaluation of publications in the fields of social sciences increased significantly (46.28 points in 2018; 138.177 points in 2019). The positive change of evaluation results in the field of arts - design should also be emphasized. Due to the changes in the field of art design among the teachers when recognized Lithuanian artists joined the team, the results of the evaluation of art activity, compared to 2018 increased 2.3 times (22.28 points in 2018; 51.067 points in 2019).

Significant change in productivity and quality in science (art) activities was achieved through further purposeful development of EHU Research (Art) Strategy 2019–2024 ([https://en.ehu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/20190701\\_EHU\\_RA\\_Strategy.pdf](https://en.ehu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/20190701_EHU_RA_Strategy.pdf)) identified and distinguished key areas of activity related to process management, researcher mobility, internationalization, the quality of research publications and works of art, and greater involvement in research projects. In connection with that in 2019 the centralization of the administration of research (art) activities of EHU faculty was developed and increasingly strengthened. The full implementation of the eLABa publication registration system ensured that all University lecturers were personally responsible and obliged to register their research publications and works of art. In the practical implementation of this principle, the administrative structures of the University related to process management were enabled to operate with high-quality and complete data of research (art) activities, to submit these data to the evaluation of external institutions.

In accordance with the legal requirements related to the principles of organization of the study process and the priorities of activities provided for in the EHU Research (Art) Strategy, research (art)

activities are strongly connected with the study programmes operating at the University. From the end of the AY 2018–2019, EHU conducts research in five fields of science (history, philosophy, law, political science, communication and information) and design art. EHU pedagogical-research staff is encouraged to strive for higher results of research and pedagogical activities in each of the study fields.

Noticeable part of the research activity in the reporting period was conducted by the following research Centers and Laboratories: Center for Gender Studies; Center for Philosophical Anthropology “Topos”; Laboratory of Visual Culture Research; Laboratory of Critical Urbanism; The Contemporary Art Study Center; Center for Constitutionalism and Human Rights; German Study Center.

It is worth mentioning that EHU’s research centers are led by distinguished faculty, each of whom has developed significant expertise in their field. The goal of each center is not only to promote and carry out research, but also to serve as a focal point for networking among scholars of relevant fields of science. EHU’s research centers focus on a diversity of subjects in the humanities and social sciences, ranging from critical urbanism and contemporary art to legal and historical research.

The research centers together with the academic departments in academic year 2020 had more than 30 scientific-artistic events planned. Despite the unfavourable situation associated with the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, by March 2020 part of these activities was implemented. The most significant activities are: the international seminar “Vilne Readings on Jewish Studies”; the international conference “Games against Players”; the international conference “The Legacy of Simone de Beauvoir and the Post / Feminist Condition in the 21st century”; international conference “European Education on values and humanity”.

Due to targeted additional funding, the University's artists organized various art activities at the University, in Lithuania and abroad. The most significant ones were the participation of Sergei Selezky, Associate Professor of Arts, at the International Biennale in China (*Participation as one of the selected artists of the Special Exhibitions. 8th Beijing International Art Biennale*); participation of Professor Ilja Bereznickas in international animation competitions in Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria (*Demonstration of selected works of I. Bereznickas. The 4th International Cartoon Exhibition Cakovec | Croatia 2019; Demonstration of selected works of I. Bereznickas. The HumoDEVA Int'l Cartoon Contest, the 14th Edition 2019, Romania; Animated TV series "Morsi. Little Red Riding Hood". World festival of animated film - Varna 2019*).

In the reporting period EHU continued publishing of 3 peer-reviewed journals: “Topos”, “Tsaytshrift” and “Perekrestki” (in English - “Crossroads”). In these journals the articles published and issues analysed are mostly directly focused on aspects of Belarusian and post-Soviet European countries’ historical memory and socio-cultural transformations.

## **PROJECTS ACTIVITY**

One of the most effective ways to grow the University's academic and research potential (by inviting foreign researchers and participating in international research events), promote EHU's internationality and create added value is the active involvement of the University community (lecturers,

researchers and administration) in project activities for the preparation and implementation of funded projects.

During 2019 – 2020 AY the implementation of the following projects was continued or finalized:

- 1) Support to Research and development (R&D) activities – funds of the Ministry of the Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania allocated for University’s research activities.
- 2) Financial support to the scholarships of teachers and students – funds of Education Exchanges Support Foundation of the Republic of Lithuania allocated for the financing of the scholarships.
- 3) ‘Teaching the European Transnational Constitutionalism inside and outside the EU’ – a project financed by ERASMUS + Jean Monnet Chairs programme.
- 4) ‘Establishment of the network of successful social projects involving EHU’s students’ – a project financed by the Eurasian Program and FOSI.
- 5) Micro-grants for the projects of the students – a programme financed by BARD College (United States).
- 6) ‘Preservation and Actualisation of Former Synagogues in Belarus’ – a project financed by the Cooperation Development Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania.
- 7) ERASMUS + international mobility programmes continued to be implemented (see part ‘Local and international activities, student exchange’)

2020 was characterized by the abundance of project ideas and submitted applications to various national (Lithuania) and international financial instruments. The table below lists the most significant University projects that have been submitted for external funding:

**Table 8**

<b>Submitted project proposals of EHU in 2020</b>				
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Project partners</b>	<b>Project budget, EUR</b>	<b>Decision on funding</b>
<b>Shaping European Values in Europe and Beyond (SEVEB)</b>	ERASMUS + Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence	-	51.749,65	Not funded
<b>Enhancing the Quality Culture in Liberal Arts Education</b>	ERASMUS + KA2 Strategic Partnerships	1. ECOLAS - občianske združenie European 2. Consortium of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Bratislava, Slovakia) Maastricht University (Maastricht, the Netherlands) 3. New Bulgarian University (Sofia, Bulgaria), 4. Bard Berlin (Berlin, Germany), 5. BISLA - Bratislavská medzinárodná škola liberálnych štúdií, n.o (Bratislava, Slovakia),	198.373,00	Not funded



<b>Preservation and Actualization of Former Synagogues in Belarus for the Benefits of Local Communities</b>	Emerging Donor Challenge Program (EDCP)	-	21.250,00	Funded
<b>University Without Borders: Promoting Democratic Values and Dealing with Disinformation through Online Education</b>	Emerging Donor Challenge Program (EDCP)	-	127.000,00	Funded
<b>Challenges of building the rule of law and civil society in Belarus and Lithuania: comparative study</b>	Research Council of Lithuania Projects for researcher groups	-	135.914,00	Awaiting decision on the funding
<b>Justice and Memory in Central and Eastern Europe: Legal Responses to Communist atrocities 30 years later</b>	Research Council of Lithuania Joint Lithuania-Poland projects (DAINA)	Warszawski uniwersytet (Poland)	82.428,00	Awaiting decision on the funding
<b>Central and Eastern European cities under the influence of cognitive-cultural capitalism. Comparative study of Vilnius (Lithuania) and Wroclaw (Poland)</b>	Research Council of Lithuania Joint Lithuania-Poland projects (DAINA)	University of Wroclaw (Poland)	108.118	Awaiting decision on the funding

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS CENTER

At the end of 2019 Research Publications Center under the Rector of the University was established.

During the reporting period, 7 meetings of the EHU Publishing Council took place, during which the issues of publishing organization at the University were discussed and decisions were made on recommendations for publishing publications prepared by the University's academic departments.

During AY 2019-2020 Research Publications Center published the following publications:

- A. Vashkevich, I. Stolper. Institutional law of the European Union (e-book).

- T. Shchytsova (head of the team of authors) and others. Without the future: depression and authoritarian society (book series “Conditio Humana”).
- T. Artsimovich. Experimental theatre in Belarus during the “Thaw”: “between” modernism and avant-garde (book series “Opus Primum: works of young EHU researchers”).

Additionally Research Publications Center published two regular issues of the journal “Topos” and one issue of the journal “Perekrestki”. This issue closed the publication of “Perekrestki”.

The following publications were prepared for publication:

- O. Bresky. Introduction to European legal tradition.
- O. Bresky, M. Breskaya, O. Ipatova. European Union law of association.
- S. Selezky. Life without meaning: album.
- P. Aleksandravičius and J. D. Mininger (editors). The Language of Humanities: between the word and the image.

Some of the planned publications were not prepared for publication in time; therefore their publishing was postponed to AY 2020-2021.

## **SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES**

In AY 2019-2020 EHU Student Services unit has consistently continued the activities planned for AY 2019-2020 in the implementation plan, as well as carried out regular activities assigned to the unit. In 2020 the unit’s activities have been adjusted to take account of the challenges of the global pandemic.

The Student Services unit consists of 6 persons: a student accommodation coordinator, 2 visa coordinators working in Belarus, a student registration specialist, a coordinator and the head of the Student Services unit.

In addition to regular functions, such as assistance to University students staying in Vilnius (dormitories, visa issues, legalization of students in Lithuania, work with personal student data, etc.), the Student Services unit periodically implements social, cultural, career and civic engagement initiatives for students’ self-awareness development, promotion and support of academic and creative activities and improvement of young people’s readiness for the labour market, creative industries, community activities.

### **Projects and civic engagement**

During the reporting year EHU Student Services unit coordinated the processes of providing financial support for student activities and projects totalling 4.000 euros. Due to this support, all 8 student clubs, including the Debate Club, the Cinema club, Students retrospective, eco and volunteering clubs have continued their activity. They have gradually switched to remote activities during pandemic and quarantine conditions. Students actively participate in various international conferences, meetings or seminars with financial and infrastructural assistance of the Student Services unit:

- In AY 2019-2020 under the coordination of the Student Services unit, as many as 21 students' cultural, research or civil oriented projects were implemented. Projects in Lithuania and Belarus were implemented by EHU students. 23 student leaders worked as project coordinators on these projects ;
- These projects connected 15 non-governmental and other partner organizations from Lithuania and Belarus;
- The target audience of these projects consisted of more than 900 beneficiaries.

In 2020 given the global pandemic and the fact that it inevitably replaced traditional University activities, the EHU Student Services unit was forced to optimize activities and concentrate them in a virtual space. In order to make the study process as psychologically attractive as possible in view of its global digitization, the EHU Student Services unit has developed thematic guidelines for distance learning "EHU Online". The unit also periodically provides remote psychological counselling, conducts remote yoga classes for students, and implements other remote activities designed to reduce student psychological stress caused by the remote regime of the global quarantine.

#### **Students career center**

In AY 2019-2020 the EHU Student Career Center continued its activities. During the reporting period, the Student Career Center organized:

- 10 seminars;
- 12 trainings (one each month);
- Online career seminars during the pandemic;
- Online platform EHU JOB for institutional partners of EHU, NGOs and international organizations.

#### **Students' participation in international activities and institutional cooperation**

By actively cooperating with the Bard Network, EHU students continued to participate in various activities. The most important civic engagement conference, which brought together young leaders of the network - Get Engaged-2020 -, was conducted online. Together with 50 students from other countries, EHU's team of 4 students presented their civic projects (topics - gender inequality, orphans and youth organizations). For the implementation of three projects (out of 4) in AY 2020-2021 micro-grants from the Bard Network Foundation were awarded. It is important to mention that in 2020 EHU has become part of the Open Societies University Network (OSUN). Participation in this network opens up new opportunities for student and University staff exchanges in the areas of teaching experience and socially oriented initiatives.

Implementation of the institutional project "Fostering Civil Society in Belarus 2.0" in 2018-2020 was supported by the Eurasian Program and FOSI. The project was aimed at promoting cooperation between EHU and non-governmental organizations and developing civic engagement in Belarus. During the first phase of this project, some very important results were achieved: the activities of four major projects that form the basis of the Fostering Civil Society in Belarus 2.0 project (Belarusian Young

Leaders, EHU Talks, Education vs Borders and OpShop) led to the creation of a sustainable partnership that consists of the project's target audience, institutional and social partners and various communities in Belarus. In the future, the EHU Student Services unit plans to develop cooperation with the Eurasian Program and FOSI.

### **Scholarships**

EHU has traditionally provided financial support to students to ensure equal opportunities for studies and education for Belarusian youth. University students are / may be awarded several categories of scholarships related to their academic and creative achievements, as well as support for socially sensitive groups of students. In AY 2019-2020 EHU has allocated more than € 72 397 support such students.

### **COMMUNICATION AND ALUMNI**

AY 2019-2020 were essential for strengthening EHU 's internal capacity and resilience to operate and to continue the study process in the face of intense external constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as additional constraints (order of the Belarusian Ministry of Antitrust and Trade: [https://mart.gov.by/sites/mart/home/faq/answrekl/reklama\\_obucheniya\\_za\\_rubezom.html](https://mart.gov.by/sites/mart/home/faq/answrekl/reklama_obucheniya_za_rubezom.html)), created by the current authoritarian government in Belarus and aimed at curbing EHU advertising, internet access and peaceful protests by the Belarusian society that started since August 9, 2020 presidential election.

### **Community**

For the second year in a row, the University community was involved in a university-wide seminar. During the autumn semester of AY 2019-2020, the topic of the monthly seminar was "The Limits of Liberal Democracy". The seminar was attended by guest lecturers, among who were prof. T. Birmontienė, former judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania and Dr L. Tauginienė, lecturer at the Hanken School of Economics.

On January 14, 2020 the EHU Senate submitted a proposal for the activist of the Belarusian diaspora in the USA, Dr Vitaut Kipel, to be awarded Doctor Honoris Causa "For Dedication and Contribution to Belarusian Education and Culture Abroad". The proposal was voted unanimously, and the message was welcomed both in the world of the Belarusian diaspora and in Belarus itself.

On November 11, 2019 an exhibition dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall was opened; on November 12, 2019 the photo album "Belarus: Shrine and Landscape" by the famous Belarusian photographer Dzianis Ramaniuk was presented (<https://be.ehu.lt/navinyi/albom-belarus-chram-i-kryjavid>); on December 13, 2019 a round table discussion with the famous Lithuanian intellectual Yale University Professor Emeritus Tomas Venclova took place at EHU (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwRKYFC6Z6I>).

In order to raise awareness among EHU students about the challenges of studying abroad in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of articles on Erasmus + mobility of EHU students abroad were published on the University's website during the reporting period, where students who studied in Europe shared relevant ideas. Based on the experience of University students studying in Germany (2

universities), Spain (2 universities), Cyprus and Russia during the COVID-19 pandemic, the EHU community has become more resilient to the challenges of the pandemic.

### **Alumni**

In 2020 bachelor and master's degrees were awarded to 120 EHU graduates. A total of 2,577 graduates have been awarded diplomas since the beginning of EHU's establishment in Vilnius. Due to quarantine restrictions, no diploma award ceremony was held in Vilnius this year. Nevertheless, a solemn diploma award event for EHU students living in Minsk took place in Minsk, in the premises of the Lithuanian Embassy in Belarus. In this way, after a 16-year break, graduation diplomas were awarded in Minsk. A total of 44 diplomas were awarded. Lithuanian Ambassador to Belarus Andrius Pulokas and European Union Ambassador to Belarus Dirk Schuebel welcomed EHU Alumni of 2020.

In accordance with the work plan for the involvement of alumni in University activities approved by EHU, in October 11, 2019 debates and a series of TEDx lectures for EHU graduates took place in Minsk, followed by several additional lectures (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIs2k59GvKNBYCzT0J4KBXUfdIJhXKf5N>). During AY 2019-2020 interviews with 6 University alumni (Yuliya Vauchok - <https://ru.ehu.lt/novosti/alumna-volchok-interview>, Yauheniya Savina - <https://ru.ehu.lt/novosti/alumna-savina-interview/>, Alesia Rudnik - <https://be.ehu.lt/navinyi/alumna-rudnik>, Irina Ponedelnik - <https://ru.ehu.lt/novosti/alumna-ponedelnik-interview> and others) were published on the EHU website.

Also, during the spring semester, 9 webinars were held with the participation of University alumni living in Vilnius and Minsk. The aim of the webinars was to encourage collaboration between current and previous generations of EHU students. The topics of the webinars were formulated on the basis of the professional orientation and education of the EHU alumni who participated in the webinars (from human resources and psychology to law and media production).

### **Part-owners and partners**

During AY 2019-2020 m. several high level University guests attended or lectured at EHU public events:

- Public lecture "Eastern Partnership celebrates 10 years. Quo Vadis?", Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, October 31, 2019 (<https://youtu.be/wl1EZzeiYaA>),
- University lecture, European Union Ambassador for Belarus Dirk Schuebel (<https://en.ehu.lt/events/lecture-ambassador-schuebel>).

At the same time, the EHU management continued the information campaign about the University: in October 10-11, 2019 EHU rector visited Minsk, and the network of contacts in Lithuania is also being expanded – in October 17, 2019 the rector met with members of the Vilnius club. The EHU management provided a number of insights and shared know-how on the situation in Belarus in a series of public debates hosted by the Center for Eastern European Studies in February, August and September of 2020. In order to expand regional cooperation and interest representation, in 2020 EHU became a member of the Vilnius Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts. It should also be mentioned that in

January 15, 2020 during a strategic seminar in Minsk with members of the EU delegation, EHU stakeholders took part in a strategic discussion on the future development of EHU.

In order to strengthen the University's information network and contacts in the Belarusian education sector and with the support of the EU Delegation in Belarus, September 25, 2020 EHU organized an online seminar for teachers of Belarusian higher education institutions and universities.

In addition to the rapid growth of the partnership between Erasmus + member countries and partner countries, joining the Open Society University Network (OSUN) has become another important step in updating EHU's strategic goal of intensifying the University's internationalization (<https://en.ehu.lt/news/ehu-osun-soros/>). Due to this global partnership of 15 universities and colleges, EHU has the opportunity to develop a meaningful and strategic partnership with Princeton University and its Global History Lab (<https://en.ehu.lt/news/global-history-princeton>). Only during the spring semester of AY 2019-2020, the EHU community took the opportunity to participate in more than 30 webinars and trainings organized by OSUN. In this way, EHU students have the opportunity to choose free courses from Bard College (USA), Central European University and other OSUN members, thus improving their academic skills, professional career base and civic activism.

### **Protests in Belarus and publicity**

In response to the violence that began after the presidential elections in Belarus on August 9, 2020, and is aimed against peaceful protesters, EHU issued an official appeal, which was immediately circulated to international partners (<https://en.ehu.lt/news/ehu-statement-on-events-in-belarus/>). These actions and the ongoing peaceful protests in Belarus have catalysed the attention of the international media to the European Humanities University. University faculty and administration have been actively involved in public commenting on events in Belarus through global media leaders such as the BBC, Al Jazeera, The Independent, Times Higher Education, as well as in Germany (FAZ, Die Zeit, Süddeutsche Zeitung, DW, Frankfurter Rundschau), France (Le Figaro), Swedish (Svenska Dagbladet), Belarusian (TUT.BY), Lithuanian (LRT, Delfi, 15min, Lietuvos rytas, Info TV), Latvian (LTV), Finnish (YLE) and Italian (Euractiv / Corriere della Sera) media.

Faced with threats to the regime in autumn 2020 a 24/7 live helpline for EHU students and alumni living in Belarus was set up. The Belarusian regime detained 22 EHU graduates and 6 students, 2 students were recognized by international organizations as political prisoners - Akihiro Gaevski-Hanada and Maria Rabkova (students of International Law and European Union Law programme) - remained in detention for a longer period.

## **BUDGET AND FINANCES**

### **1. EHU Financing in the AY 2019-2020**

During the reporting period, the University's activities continued to be financed under financing agreements with Sida (Swedish International Development Agency, Sida). Within the reporting period,

major donors of the activities carried on by the University were the EU and governments of Sweden and Lithuania. On 28 November 2017, a financing agreement was concluded with Sida on the Swedish Government delegated funds in the amount of SEK 18 000 000 for the period 2017-2019. On 19 December 2018 an arrangement on supplementing the agreement on the Swedish Government delegated funds in the amount of SEK 18 000 000 was concluded extending the agreement term until 2023, and the amount of financing was increased up to SEK 43 000 000, i. e. increased by SEK 25 000 000. Under this agreement, the balance at the beginning of the reporting period amounted to EUR 975 609. The amount obtained within the reporting period was EUR 377 550, the drawn down amount – EUR 783 258, the balance at the end of the period was EUR 569 901. Also, on 23 September 2020, a new funding agreement was signed with Sida on the EU delegated funds in the amount of EUR 2 243 000 for the period 2019-2021. The amount actually obtained under this agreement during the reporting period was EUR 934 583 and the drawn down amount – EUR 934 583. Also in May, 2020 the grant agreement with SIDA for the Lithuanian government delegated funds was extended up to 31 December, 2021 (at the provisional stage this agreement was valid until 31 December, 2017 then extended until 31 December, 2020). Under this agreement in 31 October, 2019 additional amount of EUR 200 000 was transferred to the University, in 4 June, 2020 – another amount of EUR 200 000. During the reporting year the sum drawn down by the University amounted to EUR 200 000. The balance of this financing agreement as at 30 September, 2020 was EUR 200 000. According to the EHU budget for the 2020/2021 academic year, approved by the General Meeting of Part-Owners on 24 September, 2020, the need of external funding for the next fiscal year is 2,6 million EUR

Forecasted sources of EHU external funding for the 2020/2021 academic year:

**Table 9**

Source of funds	Amount, EUR
1. The balance of Swedish government delegated funds as at 30-09-2020	571 357
2. EU funds under the new financing agreement for period 2020/2021	1 308 417
3. Swedish government delegated funds for period 2020-2021	~585 155
4. The funds of Lithuanian government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) for year 2021	200 000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>~2 664 929</b>

The judgement of the top-level management of the University is that there are no doubts about the Institution's solvency and ability to continue its activities. Should it happen that in the next academic year donor support would delay accessing EHU accounts in banks and the University would not have enough working capital (in fact this could happen in the end of 2021 when "new contract" EU funding is not yet transferred to the EHU account as EU funds are still awaiting completion of the approval process of annual report), EHU could use short-term overdraft credit with SEB or request Sida to transfer earlier the part of Swedish government funds for period 2021/2022 and thus cover the temporary shortfall in EHU's working capital.

The issues of long-term financing of EHU will be solved in I quarter of year 2021 by the resolution of the representatives of main donors.

## 2. Budget implementation results for AY 2019-2020

**Table 10**

Until 2020 September 30 actual operating income was 78.3 percent and expenditures were 78.3 percent of the budget for the 2019/2020 academic year. Compared to the previous academic year, the budget implementation decreased by 10 percent mainly due to decreased donor funding in revenues as the University's operating expenses were actually significantly reduced due to the limited normal business activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

No.	Income	AY 2019/2020			AY 2018/2019			2019/2020 versus 2018/2019	Notes
		Approved in EUR	Used in EUR	Implementation percentage	Approved in EUR	Used in EUR	Implementation percentage		
<b>Income used</b>									
1	EU delegated funds	1116000	934583	83.7%	1062614	1364150	128.4%	68.5%	1
2	Other donors delegated funds (including funds delegated by Swedish and Lithuanian)	1673070	1052004	62.9%	1677386	959585	57.2%	109.6%	2
3	Tuition-related income in that number included:	987754	986976.44	99.9%	858120	904977	105.5%	109.1%	3
3.1	Tuition-related income	987754	986825.44	99.9%	858120	902730	105.2%	109.3%	
3.2	Other income		151			2247		6.7%	
4	Projects carried out from through the University	170794	118957.63	69.6%	170794	260306	152.4%	45.7%	4
<b>Total income in cash</b>		<b>3947618</b>	<b>3092521.07</b>	<b>78.3%</b>	<b>3768914</b>	<b>3489018</b>	<b>92.6%</b>	<b>88.6%</b>	
5	Donation of Facilities (Lithuania)	1870000	1870000	100.0%	1870000	1870000	100.0%	100.0%	5
<b>Total support</b>		<b>5817618</b>	<b>4962521.07</b>	<b>85.3%</b>	<b>5638914</b>	<b>5359018</b>	<b>95.0%</b>	<b>92.6%</b>	
No.	Expenditures	AY 2019/2020			AY 2018/2019			2019/2020 versus 2018/2019	Notes
		Approved in EUR	Used in EUR	Implementation percentage	Approved in EUR	Used in EUR	Implementation percentage		
<b>Expenditures</b>									
6	Staff cost	2657051	2276181.85	85.7%	2589023	2385357	92.1%	95.4%	6
7	Operations	603019	391986.8	65.0%	541977	476439	87.9%	82.3%	7
8	Financial support for students	277754	211010.4	76.0%	268120	240728	89.8%	87.7%	8
9	University Development expenses	169000	51367.71	30.4%	149000	107873	72.4%	47.6%	9
10	Expenses for Belarusian Infrastructure	70000	69968	100.0%	50000	65922	131.8%	106.1%	10
11	Other small-scale projects carried out from through the University	170794	92006.19	53.9%	170794	212699	124.5%	43.3%	11
<b>Total expenditures in cash</b>		<b>3947618</b>	<b>3092520.95</b>	<b>78.3%</b>	<b>3768914</b>	<b>3489018</b>	<b>92.6%</b>	<b>88.6%</b>	
12	Donation of Facilities (Lithuania)	1870000	1870000	100.0%	1870000	1870000	100.0%	100.0%	12
<b>Total expenditures</b>		<b>5817618</b>	<b>4962520.95</b>	<b>85.3%</b>	<b>5638914</b>	<b>5359018</b>	<b>95.0%</b>	<b>92.6%</b>	

## 3. Explanatory Notes. Implementation of the Budget within the period 1 October, 2019 - 30 September, 2020



## Income

The financial plan forecasted subtotal operating income from the following sources:

70,7 percent EHU external funds (from donors); 25 percent tuition Fees and tuition-related income; 4,3 percent income from other small-scale projects implemented by the University.

As of 30 September 2020, the actual operating income structure in the implemented budget was as follows:

64,2 percent EHU external funds (from donors); 31,9 percent tuition Fees and tuition-related income; 3,8 percent income from other small-scale projects implemented by the University.

The notes that should be pointed out are as follows:

- Note 1 (EU delegated funds). The line includes funding received from the EU. The implementation rate was 83.7 percent. The amount obtained during the reporting period was EUR 934 583. The amount drawn down during reporting period was EUR 934 583. The balance of these funds at the end of the reporting period was EUR 0.

- Note 2 (Funds delegated by other donors). The line includes funding received from the other donors. Within the reporting period, the funds received from the Government of Sweden made EUR 377 550. Within the reporting period, the funds delegated by the Government of Lithuania made EUR 485 000. The amount drawn down of the funds received from the Government of Sweden during reporting period was EUR 783 258, the balance at the end of the period was EUR 569 901. These funds will be fully used to fund the operational needs of the 2020-2021 academic year. The amount of Lithuanian government delegated funds drawn down over the reporting period was EUR 268 746. The balance of these funds at the end of the reporting period was EUR 223 622. The balance of these funds amounting to EUR 23 622 will be used till December 31, 2020 to fund the budget of the 2020-2021 academic year and the amount of EUR 200 000 will be fully used to fund the operational needs of the 2020-2021 academic year

The main balances of the donor financing amounts drawn down within the AY 2019/2020 as at 30 September 2019

**Table 11**

<b>CHANGES IN TARGETED FINANCING AMOUNTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD</b>						
(in euro)						
<b>No.</b>	<b>The source of targeted funding amounts</b>	<b>Balance at the beginning of the reporting period</b>	<b>Obtained over the reporting period</b>	<b>Drawn down over the reporting period</b>	<b>Change in the amounts receivable</b>	<b>Balance at the close of the reporting period</b>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>1.</b>	<b>State Budget</b>	<b>7 368</b>	<b>485 000</b>	<b>268 746</b>	<b>216 254</b>	<b>223 622</b>
1.1	Lithuanian government delegated funds via Sida for funding of the University's activities	0	400 000	200 000	200 000	200 000
1.2	Funds allocated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania for funding of the University's research activities	7 368	85 000	68 746	16 254	23 622
<b>3.</b>	<b>Other sources</b>	<b>975 609</b>	<b>1 312 133</b>	<b>1 717 841</b>	<b>-405 708</b>	<b>569 901</b>
3.1	Swedish government delegated funds via Sida (aid for EHU in 2017-2022) for developing of the University's activities	975 609	377 550	783 258	-405 708	569 901
3.2	EU delegated funds via Sida (aid for the EHU in 2019-2021) for developing of the University's activities	0	934 583	934 583	0	0
<b>4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>982 977</b>	<b>1 797 133</b>	<b>1 986 587</b>	<b>-189 454</b>	<b>793 523</b>

- Note 3 (Tuition related and other income): In the AY 2019/2020, the amount collected in tuition fees and tuition-related income increased by 9,3 percent from EUR 902 730 to EUR 986 825 year-on-year. The reason of this growth was not the growth of the number of students but increased tuition fees for 2019/2020 academic year, which essentially offset the loss of University income due to declining numbers of students.

- Note 4 (Income from other ongoing small-scale projects implemented by the University). The line includes grants that were drawn down for the implementation of small-scale special-purpose projects in the University.



The main balances of the amounts drawn down for financing small-scale special-purpose projects in the AY 2019–2020:

**Table 12**

CHANGE IN THE AMOUNTS OF TARGETED FUNDING DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD						
						(in euro)
No.	The source of targeted funding	Balance as at the beginning of the financial year	Obtained over the financial year	Drawn down over the financial year	Change in the amounts receivable	Balance as at the close of financial year
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>3.</b>	<b>Other sources</b>	<b>213 118</b>	<b>186 784</b>	<b>118 958</b>	<b>67 826</b>	<b>280 943</b>
3,3	<i>Educational exchange and assistance fund, ERASMUS mobility program, in that number under the agreements:</i>	121 416	134 676	59 358	75 318	196 733
3.3.1	2018-1-LT01-K103-046749/01	-	16 200	16 200	-	-
3.3.2	2017-09.09.3.1-ESFA-V-709-01-0003-SU-27/04	-	2 146	2 146	-	-
3.3.3	2019-1-LT01-KA107-060248	93 967	-	4 010	(4 010)	89 956
3.3.4	2019-1-LT01-KA103-060210/01	21 061	1 172	21 037	(19 865)	1 196
3.3.5	2019-09.09.3.1-ESFA-V-709-01-0003-SU-27/04	6 388	6 918	13 306	(6 388)	-
3.3.6	2020-1-LT01-KA103-077470	-	57 588	-	57 588	57 588
3.3.7	2020-1-LT01-KA107-077738	-	50 652	2 659	47 993	47 993
3,4	<i>Educational exchange and assistance fund, funding of scholarships for teachers and students, in that number under the agreements:</i>	9 063	13 605	18 370	(4 765)	4 298
3.4.1	MS-2018-LT-1628-1028-01	-	4 680	4 680	-	-
3.4.2	MS -2019LT-1722-1003-01	9 063	8 925	13 690	(4 765)	4 298
3,5	European Commission, European global constitutionalism teaching within and outside the EU	12 825	-	2 372	(2 372)	10 453
3,6	Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), development of successful social projects network with EHU students	13 240	-	13 240	(13 240)	-
3,7	UNIWERSYTET LODZKI, funds of Erasmus	-	8 572	-	8 572	8 572
3,8	Bard College, microgrants for student projects	-	17 131	14 903	2 228	2 228
3.9.1	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, project No. P2020-VB-BA-07	-	12 800	2 800	10 000	10 000
3.9.2	The residual value of assets acquired from Support funds/ The compensation of fixed assets depreciation of current year/deduction of acquisition costs of FA	56 574	-	7 915	(7 915)	48 659
<b>4.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>213 118</b>	<b>186 784</b>	<b>118 958</b>	<b>67 826</b>	<b>280 943</b>

In 2019-2020, the drawn down amount of received grants for financing small-scale projects was EUR 118 958. The major share of the operating income, EUR 59 358, was for students and staff mobility under “Erasmus” programmes.

- Note 5 (Value of premises provided on a right of use basis). The new premises at Savičiaus str. 17, Vilnius, that the University currently uses for tuition and administrative purposes have been assigned to the University at the Government decision for a four-years period on a right of use basis. In the University's off-balance sheet accounting it is considered that according to the average market value set by the Centre of Registers, the support obtained/used in the form of premises is worth EUR 1 870 000. Agreement on lending the premises on a right of use basis was concluded on December 31, 2019

## Costs

The financial plan included the following distribution of costs: 67,3 percent staff costs; 15,3 percent operating costs; 4,3 percent University development costs; 7 percent financial support for students; 1,8 percent for Belarusian academic infrastructure and networks; 4,3 percent for small-scale projects run by the University.

As of 30 September 2020, the structure of the actually incurred budget costs is as follows: 73,6 percent staff costs; 12,7 percent operating costs; 1,7 percent University development costs; 6,8 percent financial support for students; 2,3 percent for Belarusian academic infrastructure and networks; 3 percent for other projects

During the reporting period, EHU's incurred operating costs made 78,3 percent of projected. The decrease of expenses of core activities was achieved mainly due to limited normal activities of the University during the pandemic and due to virtue of timely decisions on the optimisation of costs and cost saving decisions taken by the University's management.

The notes that should be pointed out are as follows:

- Note 6 (Staff costs). 14,3 percent less than forecast. As in AY 2019-2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic the University mainly operated remotely, the University's costs related to teachers mobility – reimbursement of hotel and apartment costs for arriving teachers-were significantly reduced. Also it was continued to optimize the University's management and academic structure seeking to reduce costs and thus achieve a balanced budget.
- Note 7 (Operating costs) 35 percent less than forecast. The most significant savings were achieved also because of pandemic situation - decrease in maintenance costs of the premises used by the University and other operating costs.
- Note 8 (Financial support for students). 24 percent less than in the financial plan for the AY 2019-2020. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the decrease in needs of dormitories rooms for the students who continued the studies remotely.
- Note 9 (University development costs). These costs made only 30,4 percent of budgeted for AY 2019-2020. Less funds were used than expected also due to the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Note 10 (Belarusian academic infrastructure and networks). 100 percent of budgeted funds were used. In the 2019-2020 academic year, the University actually incurred EUR 69 968 of these costs, while the budget for the 2019-2020 academic year was 70.000.
- Note 11 (Income from the University's other ongoing small-scale projects). The line includes costs related to project grants. These costs in the reporting period are significantly lower than budgeted because in fact the other Project activities carried out by the University were smaller than expected. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced the scope of possibilities for student mobility under the Erasmus programs.
- Note 12 (Value of premises provided on a right of use basis). The new premises at Savičiaus str. 17, Vilnius that the University currently uses for tuition and administrative purposes have been assigned to the University at the Government decision for a four years period on a right of use basis. In the University's off-balance sheet accounting it is considered that according to the average market value set by the Centre of Registers, the support obtained/used in the form of premises is worth EUR 1 870 000. Agreement on lending the premises on a right of use basis was concluded on December 31, 2019.

#### **4. Fixed assets**

As at the close of the University's reporting year, the residual value of its intangible assets is EUR 1 240 (as at the close of 2018/2019, the residual value of intangible assets was EUR 0). Over 2019/2020, intangible assets were acquired for EUR 1 526, amortization was EUR 286. The acquisition cost of the fully depreciated but suitable for use in the University's activity long-term intangible assets was EUR 4.068 (2018/2019- EUR 4.068)

The University has fixed tangible assets worth EUR 180 667 at acquisition cost (in 2018/2019 it was EUR 161 943), accumulated depreciation amounts to EUR 133 248 (in 2018/2019 it was EUR 105 369). There were no disposals of fixed tangible assets within the period 2019/2020. As at the close of financial year 2019/2020, residual value of fixed tangible assets was EUR 47 419 (in 2018/2019 it was EUR 56 574). The acquisition cost of the fully depreciated but suitable for use in the University's activity long-term tangible assets was EUR 80 186 (2018/2019 - EUR 65 792).

Over the period 2019/2020, acquisition of fixed tangible assets at acquisition cost was EUR 18 724 (in 2018/2019 it was EUR 4 696).

Full stocktaking of all asset classes was carried out at the University as at the close of August.

No tangible assets were written off during the stocktaking

## **5. The University management costs**

During the reporting year management of the University related costs - wages, social security contributions of the University's top management (President, Rector, Chancellor and Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs) amounted to EUR 330 594 (in 2018/2019 it was EUR 338 215).

## **6. Data on the head of the public institution, the University's costs for the wages of its head as well as for other benefits**

Over the reporting period, the amount calculated in wage to the Rector of the University was EUR 117 397 (in 2018/2019 it was EUR 127 928).

Over the reporting period, the amount calculated in wage to the President of the University was EUR 89 319 (in 2018/2019 it was EUR 109 799).

## **7. Transactions with the University part owners, with persons related to the part owners and members of the collegial management bodies**

Over the reporting period, there were no transactions executed with the University part owners, with persons related to such part owners or with members of the collegial management bodies, except for payments to University leaders who are members of the Governing Board of the university.

Rector

Sergei Ignatov