



Europos humanitarinis  
universitetas

# ANNUAL REPORT

1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024

EUROPEAN HUMANITIES UNIVERSITY		
Governing Board	Management	General Assembly of Part-Owners (GAPO)
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## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	5
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT .....	7
Changes in management .....	7
EHU Senate.....	7
Personnel.....	9
Implementation of the EHU Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan .....	10
STUDIES.....	12
Study programmes .....	12
Student admission .....	14
Management of studies.....	16
Digitization of studies and development of distance/blended learning possibilities .....	17
Local and international activities, student exchange .....	19
Quality assurance activities .....	20
Student survey data .....	22
RESEARCH AND ART ACTIVITIES .....	24
PROJECTS ACTIVITIES.....	31
Projects.....	31
International governmental financial support for EHU .....	35
EHU activities within Open Society University Network (OSUN) .....	36
SUPPORT FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES .....	39
Student projects and civic engagement .....	39
Student Career Center.....	40
Student participation in international activities and institutional cooperation.....	40
Scholarships .....	41
COMMUNICATION.....	42
BUDGET AND FINANCES .....	43
EHU financing AY 2022-2023 .....	43
Budget implementation results for AY 2023-2024.....	44
Explanatory Notes. Implementation of the budget within the period from 1 October 2023 until 30 September 2024.....	46
Costs .....	46
Income.....	48
Fixed assets .....	54
University management costs .....	55
Data on the head of the Public Institution, the University costs for the wages of its head as well as other benefits.....	55
Transactions with the University part-owners, with persons related to the part-owners and members of the collegial management bodies .....	55

## LIST OF KEY ABBREVIATIONS:

**AY** – academic year

**EHU, university** – European Humanities University

**LR** – low-residence (distance learning) studies form

**MA** – Master’s studies

**HR** – high-residence (on-campus) studies form

**GAPO** – General Assembly of Part-Owners

**VLE** – Virtual learning environment

**GB** – Governing Board

## INTRODUCTION

The European Humanities University (EHU) is a student-oriented higher education institution that promotes the principles and values of civil society to students in Belarus and neighbouring regions through the Humanities and Liberal Arts, offering an international quality learning experience.

AY 2023-2024 was characterised by a wealth of events, both in the academic sphere and in the internal life of the University, as well as in the international arena, where EHU continued its mission, contributing to the formation of Belarusian civil society through its active civic stance and actions, and reinforced its consolidating role in the area of cooperation between Western European and Eastern European countries, by attracting more and more young Belarusian citizens committed to the progressive ideas of Western democracy, and to the lasting transformation of the country's society.

438 first-year students were admitted for the studies in AY 2023-2024 to the main study programmes and 201 to the EHU branch study programme Informatics. This trend confirmed the assumption that many families are opting for a long-term investment in European higher education, which guarantees security and a promising future for young people in Belarus and the neighbouring countries.

In AY 2023-2024, the number of enrolled students has remained at a similar level as in the preceding academic year. Moreover, the geography of EHU applicants has expanded: the University community has expanded to include citizens from Ukraine, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Israel, Latvia, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, other countries. Thus, the composition of the students' body changed accordingly: the share of Belarusian students has slightly decreased, while the number of citizens of other countries has increased. However, the majority of EHU students are citizens of Belarus. In AY 2023-2024, 1162 students started their studies in the main programs of EHU. Almost 80 percent of them were citizens of Belarus, and about 20 percent were citizens of other countries. The number of students of Ukrainian citizens increased (they made up almost 4 percent of the total number of students), Russian citizens were almost 12 percent, other citizenships - about 4 percent.

Interest of the applicants in the programmes offered by EHU has traditionally remained high and in line with today's education market trends - the Bachelor programmes "Media and Communication" and "Visual Design" attracted 240 first-year students to their communities.

On 28th February 2023, Professor Krzysztof Rybinski resigned as the Rector of EHU due to personal reasons. Chancellor Dr. Vilius Šadauskas was selected as Acting Rector while Finance Director Jurgita Milušauskienė took over as Acting Chancellor. A Search committee was formed in order to prepare a new contest for the position of Rector. The competition was announced publicly on April 25, 2024.

AY 2023/24 was a very significant institutional assessment year for EHU. An external institutional evaluation experts' visit took place at the EHU on 19-21 September 2023. Over 3 days, the international experts took stock of the results of the EHU self-assessment and met with academics, students and alumni, social partners and the University management. The university successfully passed the external institutional assessment and its accreditation was extended for a maximum period of 7 years.

On 28 September 2024, the EHU Donor Assembly approved the University's "Annual Work Plan 2024-2025", which sets out the strategic guidelines for the development of the EHU for the next academic year, according to which:

- The necessary reforms will be initiated and further implemented to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the University;
- The implementation of these reforms will lead to a significant reduction in the financial loss per student in the AY 2024-2025 and beyond;
- A refresh and conceptual integration of all EHU strategies is planned for March-May 2024, focusing on the following priority areas: (1) strategic curriculum review; (2) institutional effectiveness; (3) competitive and project-based organisational culture; and (4) proactive external fundraising for research and Third mission projects.

During AY 2023-24, together with 11 partner institutions in Europe, the European Humanities University became a member of the Q-Helix consortium under the European Universities initiative. The proposal foresees a cross-border alliance of 11 partners that share a long-term strategy aiming to bring together universities, businesses, governments, NGOs, and other actors in promoting the identity and values of Europe, positive transformation, and excellence for the benefit of students, staff, and society overall. Following the participation of the consortium in Erasmus+ programme, Q-Helix alliance received the Seal of Excellence from the European Commission.

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

### CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT

Main events related to the management of EHU and changes in this area during AY 2023/24:

1. In October 2023, Rector prof. Dr. Krzysztof Rybinski embarked on a 9-day advancement visit to the United States;
2. The Rector of the EHU, Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Rybinski, resigned on 29 February 2023; Dr. Vilius Šadauskas was appointed Acting Rector, Jurgita Milušauskienė as Acting Chancellor on 1 March 2024;
3. A new competition for the position of Rector was launched on April 25, 2024;
4. In December 2023, EHU, following expert field visit, was granted a 7- year accreditation by the Study Quality Assessment Center of Lithuania (SKVC);
5. Victoria Kanstantiuk was appointed as acting Rector's representative for Academic Affairs from 30 November 2023, ceased in function on 31 July 2024;
6. EHU Trust Fund Donor's Assembly took place on 22 April 2024 and a strategic discussion with representatives of the European Commission took place at EHU on June 4, 2024.

Following the decision of GAPO on 6 June 2024, the administrative structure was changed taking effect on 10 July 2024 (more information provided on page 9).

### EHU SENATE

Ten Senate meetings were held during the AY 2023-2024. They were held in virtual or hybrid format. The Senate members worked in accordance with the approved annual Senate Action Plan, in cooperation with the EHU Academic Support Centre, the EHU academic departments, and other EHU units.

During AY 2023-2024 the Senate approved amendments to the following documents:

- "Rules of Procedure of the Academic Ethics Committee of the European Humanities University" (October 2023);
- Regulations on the organization of the educational process (February 2024);
- Regulations on the procedure for preparing, defending and storing final (bachelor's and master's) theses and on the composition of the graduation committee at EHU (April 2024);
- Feedback organization procedure at EHU (April 2024);
- EHU Code of Ethics (March 2024).

During AY 2023-2024, the Senate debated and approved the following documents:

- Regulations of the EHU Development Fund (October 2023);
- Employee Compass (October 2023);
- New format of the annual report of departments on the quality of study programs (January 2024);
- EHU Civic Engagement Plan (2024 - 2025) (May 2025);
- The procedure for assessing learning achievements obtained as a result of formal, informal and independent learning and recognizing them as results of higher education at EHU July 2024);
- Reports of academic departments on the quality of study programs and curricula for the 2022-2023 academic year (heads of academic departments);
- Report on the activities of the Research and Creative Activities Committee for AY 2023-2024 (K. Gaitanži);
- Report on the activities of the Methodological Committee for Studies for AY 2023-2024 (V. Kanstantsiuk);
- Report on the activities of the EHU Academic Ethics Committee for AY 2023-2024 (E. Melnikau).

The following working groups were set up:

- Working group to prepare the Regulations on the EHU (Individual Faculty and Institutional) Participation in the OSUN Activities and Projects (M. Laktionkina);
- Working group on the preparation of EHU Policy on the Role and Place of the Belarusian Language in EHU (I. Ramanava);
- Working group on the Award of Doctor Honoris Causa to Prof. Dan E. Davidson (A. Makhnach);
- Working group on the creation and implementation of Distance Learning Hub (G. Baranets).

On 29 February 2024 the Senate also conferred the titles of Associated Professor to S. Stureika, J. Titowa and U. Dowgialo. On 11 July 2024 the Senate awarded Doctor Honoris Causa title to Prof. Dan E. Davidson.

The Senate formed the Advisory Board to help the rector with questions related to the activities of the Third Mission of the University.

The strategic session of the Senate took place on 10 June 2024. During the session Senate members discussed the Third Mission at the EHU.

The Senate was also involved in the assessment of the situation with the disinformation campaign against the university, prepared the memorandum on the assessment of key performance indicators/KPIs of the former EHU rector K. Rybinski, and took active part in the admission campaign.



As of 30 September 2024, the University employed 107 staff members, representing 130.75 FTE. The increase is due to the introduction of new study programmes and the redistribution of teaching staff workload. This includes 68 lecturers (70,5 FTE), 70% of whom hold a PhD. The University had 19 professors, 28 associate professors, 32 lecturers and 4 assistants. 64% of the faculty members are Belarusian and 24% Lithuanian. The rest are from other European Union or Eastern European countries. This is an excellent demonstration of the internationality of EHU. The university maintains a gender balance, with almost half of the staff - 54% of one gender - represented. Women account for 41% of lecturers and 77% of administrators. In the AY 2023-2024 the majority of lecturers continued their employment with one-year contracts, which expired on 30 September 2024.

The evaluation of the performance of teachers for the AY 2023-2024 took place in August-September 2024. The performance of 67 teachers with 0.5 or more FTE was evaluated. The performance of 48 lecturers and researchers was assessed as 'very good' and 'good'. In contrast, 3 lecturers were rated 'low'. In accordance with the case-by-case approach and the principle that if a faculty members' performance is repeatedly assessed as 'low', the contract may not be renewed.

Following the change in the procedure for recruitment to the posts of teachers and research staff in science and higher education institutions, the composition of teachers and research staff was made through a public competition. In June 2024, a competition was launched for 13 teaching and research staff positions, including 1 research staff member, 3,5 associate professors and 2.75 lecturers. 7 lecturers and 2 researchers have signed 5-year contracts; this has enabled them to plan their pedagogical, scientific/artistic and organizational activities for a 5-year perspective. The plans became an integral part of the employment contract.

An integrated HRM model links activities to results and motivation. At the beginning of the year, strategic and operational objectives were set for departments and staff, and performance indicators (KPIs) were established. Achievement of more than 70% of the objectives set allows for the rewarding of team members for their performance. Taking into account labour market trends and the annual inflation rate, it has been decided to increase the remuneration of teaching staff by an average of 5 % for the AY 2024-2025.

A staff satisfaction survey was carried out in May with 64% (70% in 2023) of the staff participating. The overall job satisfaction score is 7.2 (7.6 in 2023). The open and participative suggestions of the academic community for improving the performance, working environment and cooperation will be on the calendar of the next academic year for the top management and the administrative units.

Academic staff (faculty) works in the Academic Departments of Humanities and Arts and Social Sciences. University staff is divided into academic administrative staff and general administrative staff, according to the nature and functions of their work. The administration staff is grouped in the Academic Support Centre, the Student Affairs Office and the Communication and Marketing Unit. The staff of the General Administration consists of the Rector's Office, the Project Management Unit (on 30 September 2023 replacing the former Strategic Development and Planning Centre), Infrastructure, Finance and Personnel units.

Following the decision of GAPO on 6 June 2024, the administrative structure was changed taking effect on 10 July 2024.

- Rector's Office renamed to Office (Chancellory/Kanceliarija);
- Student Service unit renamed to Student Service and International Mobility unit;
- Project Management Office renamed to Research and Project Management Center;
- Academic Support Center and Distance Learning Hub amalgamated into Academic Support Center;
- Finance and HR units amalgamated into a single Finance and HR unit.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EHU GENDER EQUALITY POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

As part of the Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-2024, work continued in the areas of communication, outreach, seminars, lectures, events, and student and partner activities were organised to create a gender-responsive environment for all members of the EHU community. The correct use of gender-sensitive language in the EHU working languages has been established. One can find out more about the writing style of the published material at [www.ehu.lt](http://www.ehu.lt) and on the University's social media.

Monitoring of the gender equality situation and a community survey on gender equality continues. The "Employee Job Satisfaction at EHU" survey in May/June 2024 asked about discrimination. Employees assessed whether they are not being discriminated against based on their beliefs, age, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or other differences. 73.08% of respondents are confident that employees are not discriminated against based on their beliefs, age, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or other differences. 69.23% stated that all employees are evaluated based on the same criteria, regardless of their age, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. 68.08% of respondents believe that all employees in this organization are treated with equal respect, regardless of their position, age, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. 64.62% of respondents believe that different opinions and ideas are valued in the organization.

In 2023 – 2024, the Center for Gender Studies has implemented two large educational and research projects: Women in Tech - I (2023 – 2024, funded by EU) and Gender Studies and War Challenges in Resilience of Universities in Ukraine: digitalization, internationalization, and networking for excellence in teaching and research (funded by Swedish Institute, 2023 - 2024)]. In the framework of these projects several academic events have been organized: Women in Tech - international conference The Promise of (Un)Happiness? Gender, Labour, and Migration (EHU, September 17 – 18th, 2024), an international conference Gender Equality and Gender Studies at Universities: War, Peace and Development (May 16-17th, 2024, Lund University).

In AY 2023-2024 the researchers of the EHU Centre for Gender Studies at the Academic Department of Social Sciences and the department's lecturers, participants of the Women in Tech project (Prof. Almira Ousmanova, Assoc. Prof. Uladzislau Ivanou, Prof. Elena Gapova, Andrei Vazyana, Antonina Stebur, Hanna Samarskaya) prepared expert texts, hosted events and conferences, and carried out activities on the topic of gender equality and inclusiveness with EHU students and partners. Specific texts and events can be found on the website of the EHU Centre for Gender Studies<sup>1</sup>. The Centre for Gender Studies collaborators also disseminate and promote

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.ehu.lt/events/gender-studies-and-war-challenges-in-resilience-of-universities-in-ukraine/>

knowledge and opinions on gender equality in the Belarusian press and social media (comments, interviews, virtual public lectures, etc.).<sup>2</sup> Within the framework of “Women in Tech project”, the second issue of Scopus-listed academic journal “Topos” in 2023 themed “Gender and Im/material Labour” was dedicated to gender issues.

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[https://karazin.ua/storage/static-content/source/documents/tsili-staloho-rozvytku/gender/Course\\_Program\\_RethinkingGender.pdf](https://karazin.ua/storage/static-content/source/documents/tsili-staloho-rozvytku/gender/Course_Program_RethinkingGender.pdf)

<sup>2</sup><https://en.ehu.lt/research/centers-laboratories-and-institutes/center-for-gender-studies/>.

<https://nashaniva.com/314986>

<https://belsat.eu/programs/07-03-2023-feminityvy-i-feminizatsyya-belaruskaj-movy>.

### STUDY PROGRAMMES

EHU was implementing 13 accredited three-level study programmes in AY 2023-2024.

The Academic Department of Social Sciences runs bachelor's degree programmes "Media and Communication", "World Politics and Economics", "Law", an integrated degree programme "International Law and European Union Law", and master's degree programmes "Public Policy" and "Gender Studies". The Academic Department of Humanities and Arts runs bachelor's degree programmes "European Heritage", "Visual Design", "Theater Art and Acting", master's degree programmes "Visual Plastic Art" and "Cultural Heritage Development", as well as a doctoral degree programme "Philosophy". In cooperation with the information technology company EPAM Systems Lietuva, the University has implemented a bachelor's degree programme "Informatics".

A new study programme in the study field of Political Sciences "Integrated Urban studies (MA)" has been developed, submitted and successfully accredited following the external evaluation procedure. The first admission to the study program is planned in AY 2024/25. 2 new BA study programmes after the external evaluation were successfully accredited - History and Business Economics (the latter has been prepared in cooperation with the Public Research Centre "BEROC" and will be carried from AY 2024/2025 by EHU/BEROC IPM School of Business and Economics). In AY 2023-2024, an external evaluation of the field of Communication studies took place (study program Media and Communication). The assessment was very successful and the study programme was accredited for the next 7 years.

A self-analysis report of the field of study in Political Science was also prepared for accreditation (study programs World Politics and Economics (BA) and Public Policy (MA). The self-analysis report was submitted for external evaluation; the expert visit took place on December 9, 2024.

On 1 October 2023, EHU started the academic year 2023/24 with a total of 1480 students. At the end of the academic year on 30 September 2024, the total number of students (excluding recent graduates) was 1039 - 771 students in the core programmes and 268 students at the Informatics program. The AY 2024/2025 on October 1, 2024 started with 1506 students at EHU: 1091 students started in the main programs, 361 students in the in the University's branch " School of Digital Competences" and 54 in the University's branch EHU/BEROC IPM School of Business and Economics.

The total number of students at the beginning of the academic year has been increasing due to widening offer of study programmes, including the emergence of new branches. The number of students by study groups, fields of study and study programmes on October 1, 2023 is presented in Table 1. The total number of 1480 students at the beginning of the AY 2023-2024 has been increasing, considering previous totals of 1056 students in the AY 2022-2023, 811 in the AY 2021-2022, 684 in the AY 2020-2021. It should be noted that these are fixed student numbers for the specific start date of the academic year after the end of the enrolment period, however, the number of students is not constant during the academic year and varies due to the movement of students for various reasons (academic leave, withdrawals, returns to studies, etc.).

**Table 1. Study fields and study programmes, carried out in AY 2023-2024, and student number in them, October 1, 2023.**

Group of study fields	Study field	Study programme	Cycle	Number of students
Humanities	Heritage Studies	European Heritage (HR and LR)	BA	52
		Cultural Heritage Development (HR)	MA	38
Art	Design	Visual Design (HR and LR)	BA	336
		Visual Plastic Art (HR)	MA	23
	Theater	Theater Art and Acting (HR)	BA	38
Social Sciences	Communication	Media and Communication (HR and LR)	BA	366
	Political Science	World Politics and Economy (HR and LR)	BA	140
		Public Policy (HR)	MA	32
	Sociology	Gender Studies (HR)	MA	19
Law	Law	International Law and European Union Law	Integrated studies	48
		Law	BA	62
Philosophy	Philosophy	Philosophy	PhD	6
<b>Main study programs</b>				<b>1160</b>
Computer Science	Informatics	Informatics*	BA	320
<b>Total:</b>				<b>1480</b>

\* EHU School of Digital Competences study programme

167 students graduated from the University in AY 2023-2024 (9.6% more than the number of graduates in 2023). Bachelor's degrees were awarded to 57 high-residence students (54 students in 2023) and 51 low-residence students (41 students in 2023). 16 students of the integrated study programme were awarded diplomas. Master's diplomas were awarded to 43 students. In addition, 6 distance learners (2 in the autumn semester and 4 in the spring semester) studied individual subjects at the University during the reporting year<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> More information on Open Distance Learning System <https://ru.ehu.lt/ucheba/drugie-kursyi/>

## STUDENT ADMISSION

In 2023, applicants could choose from a list of 15 Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programmes (high-residence and low-residence) (see Table 2).

In 2023, 439 applicants to the University's main programmes and 201 applicants to the branch programme in Informatics have signed study contracts, totalling 640 new admissions. The number of admissions to the main study programmes is slightly lower than in 2022 (473), while the number of admissions to the branch programme is higher than in 2022 (141).

**Table 2. Comparison of student numbers, admitted in 2019-2024\***

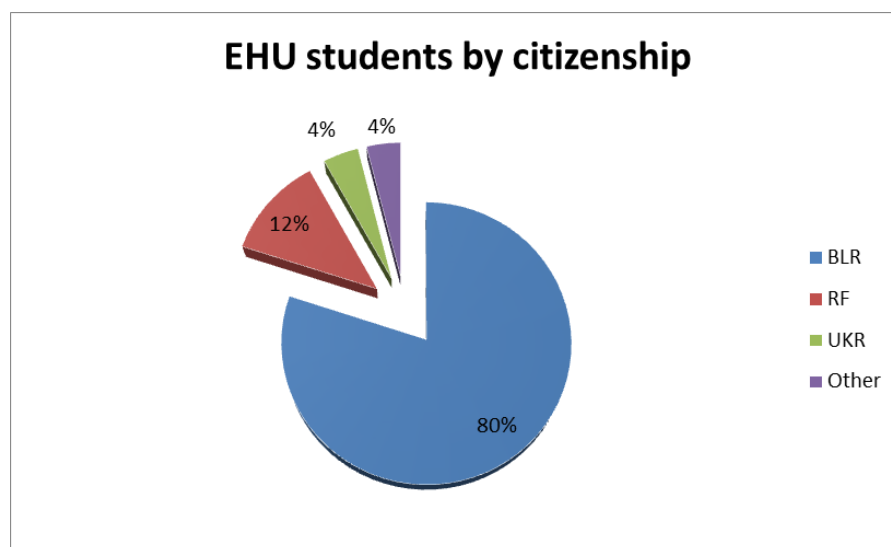
Study programme	Students admitted in	Students admitted in	Students admitted in	Students admitted in	Students admitted in	Students admitted in
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Bachelor study programmes (HR)</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>80</b>
Visual design	43	71	90	48	25	37
European heritage	-	16	18	17	18	11
Media and communication	71	107	79	47	28	28
World politics and economy	13	53	57	21	-	4
Theater Art and Acting	11	10	12	19	-	-
Law	16	24	31	-	-	-
History	9	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Bachelor study programmes (LR)</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>73</b>
Visual design	14	24	31	21	33	32
European heritage	-	9	0	-	-	8
Media and communication	42	38	40	24	19	25
World politics and economy	9	16	13	11	15	8
Law	9	11	12	-	-	-
<b>Integrated study programmes</b>	<b>..**</b>	<b>..**</b>	<b>..**</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>
International law and European Union law (HR)	-	..**	..**	23	9	3
International law and European Union law (LR)	-	..**	..**	-	-	10

<b>Master study programmes</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>
Cultural heritage development	13	21	24	17	7	7
Public policy	8	20	20	23	16	6
Visual plastic art	18	10	13	10	6	7
Int. Business and Trade Law	13	-	-	-	-	-
International Law and Security Studies	6	-	-	-	-	-
Gender studies (new programme from 2022)	12	9	18/15***	-	-	-
<b>Total (main study programmes)</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>186</b>
<i>Informatics (new programme in branch from 2022)</i>	99	201	141	-	-	-
<i>Business economics (new programme in branch from 2024)</i>	54	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total (in university)</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>186</b>

\* Data as of October 1, 2023

\*\* Since 2022 there were no admissions to the integrated study programme International Law and European Union Law (HR, LR).

\*\*\*Admission to Gender studies was opened twice during 2022.



The total number of students joining the EHU community in October 2023 was 640 new members, slightly higher than in 2022. The upward trend in new enrolments from 2021 onwards confirms the assumption that an increasing number of young people from the region are choosing to make a long-term investment in a European-style higher education, which guarantees security and a promising future for the youth of Belarus and the region. This year, as every year, the largest number of first-year students came to EHU from Belarus. In all study programmes, except for the "Gender Studies" (MA) programme, the vast majority of students are Belarusian citizens (about

80%). The second largest groups of students are Russian citizens (about 12 %), Ukrainian (about 4 %) and other citizenships (about 4 %).

The EHU admissions campaign for the upcoming academic year 2024/2025 was launched in April 2024, inviting applications for 7 Bachelor's, 6 Master's and one Doctoral programme, in the social sciences, humanities, arts and information technology.

The interest of applicants in the programmes offered by the University remains traditional and in line with today's trends in the education market - the Bachelor's programmes "Media and Communication" and "Visual Design" are again the most popular programmes this year, attracting 240 first-year students both. Among the Master's programmes, Public Policy and Cultural Heritage Development are the most popular in admission for AY 2023/24.

## MANAGEMENT OF STUDIES

The reporting academic year was as challenging as the previous academic year in terms of the delivery of studies due to the ongoing full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent tightening of Western sanctions against Belarusian banks and Russian citizens, changes in the visa regime and the further deterioration of the economic and political situation in Belarus.

In the autumn semester, high-residence studies were mostly conducted in the traditional way (classroom contact work and independent work on VLE Moodle), while part of the low-residence and part of the master's studies were conducted in a blended (primarily distance-learning based) format. But also the high-residence form of study was partly carried out in distant-learning mode, due to inability of some faculty members to be present in Vilnius in addition to some groups of students who were also not able to come due to difficulties with obtaining visas for Belarusian and Russian citizens.

The Academic Support Centre manages the study process at the University. The University's study administration activities include administrative work in three internal databases:

- 1) Study management system "Edina";
- 2) Virtual learning environment "Moodle";
- 3) Library information system "Koha".

These databases collect and manage all the data on study programmes, their implementation, students' study results, the study process in the virtual learning environment and the collection of digital learning materials is carried out, library cataloguing and reader services are organised.

Study administration activities are also carried out in external databases to which data are periodically provided and/or where data related to studies and scientific/artistic activities are regularly updated:

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



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

- 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 divisions, 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) Centralised preparation of study schedules and timetables;
- 3) Coordination of quality assurance processes of the University;
- 4) Library supervision and development;
- 5) Communication with external institutions supervising study and research activities;
- 6) Cooperation with external providers of IT services;
- 7) 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

The distance / blended model of study organisation and the long-term experience of the University in this field allowed to continue using hybrid studies, when classes were broadcasted from the classrooms according to needs (as already mentioned, in cases where visa problems or faculty/students' inability to come to the university prevented the traditional activities) during AY 2023/24.

The digitisation activities of the Academic Support Centre for the period of AY 2023/24 were carried out in the following areas:

1. Development of support system for faculty, students and administrative staff:
  - 1.1. Professional development of EHU faculty and staff. As usual during the reporting period introductory training for new teachers “Moodle elementary” were organised in both the fall and spring semesters. Training in the use of video conferencing tools for new teachers were also organised (“Use of video conferencing tools in the study process”). A package of information and methodological materials for teachers prepared earlier was updated, regular consultations on the transfer of the study process to the virtual space were carried out and assistance was provided to teachers in preparing tasks and conducting exams remotely and in hybrid mode;
  - 1.2. Regular support and assistance for teachers and students. Administrative staff of Academic Support Centre responsible for digitization of studies and the maintenance of VLE Moodle provide ongoing advice and assistance for teachers and students starting from assistance for teachers in technical, methodological and educational aspects of creation of distance courses and ending with solving very practical problems and redirecting of questions outside of the competence of the Centre to the other EHU units or EHU IT service (outsourcing).
2. Quality monitoring of digitalization of studies and distance/blended learning. Quality monitoring actions not only serve for regular quality improvement but also allow to collect data

for the annual evaluation of the activity of teachers and on their impact on the digitization of studies. As previously, there were the following fields of quality monitoring during AY 2022-2023:

- 2.1. *Certification of new distance/blended learning courses for undergraduate low-residence and master studies.* During AY 2023/24 3 new courses were developed and certified in the fall semester and 2 courses in the spring semester, mainly the update of already prepared courses, which do not require certification, was carried out;
  - 2.2. *Monitoring of the tutoring in all Bachelor's (low-residence mode) and Master distance/blended courses.* Certification is conducted regularly each semester. Generalised analytical and personal evaluation reports of teachers' activities in VLE Moodle were prepared by the staff of Academic Support Centre for the purpose of monitoring the process of studies.
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 Oxsico, study information system "EDINA", also in cooperation with academic departments administered videoconferencing system "Zoom";
  - 3.2. *Methodical support for faculty and students.* In AY 2022-2023 the package of methodical and informational materials for teachers related to the transfer of studies to virtual space was amended, assistance when creating tasks for intermediate assessment and exams was provided.

It should also be mentioned that in AY 2022/24 University teachers had a wide range of opportunities to participate in in-service training events for teachers of the Open Society University Network (OSUN), of which the University is a member.

In addition to the above-mentioned digitisation development activities, the University continued and concluded the "University without borders" project (<https://uwb.education/>) in AY 2023/24, which provided training for all University lecturers on digitisation of studies, distance working methodologies, digital educational innovations, and the development of new courses for distance learners.

The participation of EHU as an institutional partner in an application for a project "Creation of the EHU Distance Learning Hub and development of the Belarusian network of independent distance learning service providers", in preparation since AY 2022/23, was rescinded at the end of AY 2023/24 due to various administrative reasons and changes in the EHU administrative team, yet a recommendation to the university teachers to participate in the transforming project as individual participants was shared. Faculty involvement in such EC-sponsored distance courses development support initiatives is nevertheless expected to benefit the university.

In the academic year 2023-2024, EHU academic units, centers, and departments made notable strides in fostering international cooperation, expanding mobility, and participating in Erasmus+ projects. Key achievements include:

1. Ongoing management of Erasmus+ student documentation, encompassing the preparation of learning agreements and inter-institutional agreements;
2. During the reporting period, the regulations for university students and staff participation in international exchanges were revised and split into two separate documents;
3. Receipt of Erasmus+ funding amounting to €147,860 for staff and student grants under Action KA131, and €11,766 under Action KA171. These contracts extend through the academic years 2024-2026;
4. 38 students received Erasmus grants for long-term study mobility for AY 2023-2024, funded by the EU. Table 3 provides an overview of participation outcomes for AY 2023-2024;
5. Participation of 31 students in Blended Intensive Programs (BIP) organized by partner institutions in Latvia and Poland;
6. Allocation of Erasmus scholarships to 12 students and 2 recent graduates for internships under the Student Traineeship Mobility Program;
7. Hosting of 21 international students at EHU through Erasmus and other exchange programs;
8. Assignment of mentors to all incoming students through the Buddy Program;
9. Active participation of EHU staff and faculty in mobility exchange programs:
  - 8 outgoing teaching assignments (STA)<sup>4</sup>;
  - 14 incoming teaching assignments (STA);
  - 15 outgoing training assignments (STT)<sup>5</sup>;
  - 5 incoming training assignments (STT);
10. Engagement in the Lithuanian State Scholarship Program to cover Master's study costs, benefiting three students from Belarus for AY 2024-2026;
11. Since 2022, EHU has been hosting Vilnius Summer Academy organised by German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutsches Volkes); this international summer school for Studienstiftung scholarship holders provides opportunities for EHU students to participate in the activities.

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<sup>4</sup> STA- Staff Mobility for Teaching Assignment

<sup>5</sup> STT - Staff Mobility for Training Assignment

**Table 3. Factual outgoing long term student mobility in AY 2023-2024 via Erasmus**

Study cycle	Study programme	Student mobility for studies	Student mobility for internships
Bachelor studies	Law	2	-
	Media and communication	11	3*
	World politics and economics	3	1
	Visual design	12	3
Integrated studies	International law and European Union law	2	-
Master studies	Public policy	1	1
	Visual Plastic Art	-	3*
	Visual Plastic Art	1	1

\*- including a recent graduate

During the reporting period, EHU students were actively involved in ESN<sup>6</sup> activities. They participated in several National Conferences (National Platforms), traditionally hosted by a Lithuanian university, where ESN Lithuania presented budget allocations, event updates, and other key matters. ESN chapters voted on major agenda items, with options to support, abstain, or oppose. Additionally, several ESN EHU members represented the university at the international event "Time Travels ESN Education Baltic Sea Trip," which aimed to connect and unify different ESN Lithuania chapters, conduct workshops, and foster networking opportunities.

#### QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES

In line with EHU mission as a student-oriented university, the "EHU Strategy 2019-2024" and the updated "EHU Strategy 2021-2026" strategic objectives directly related to ensuring the quality of the University's internal studies and the quality of the internationalisation of the study process were set out. For each strategic objective, qualitative and quantitative targets have been set, covering the entire study process and the academic activities of the University, ensuring internal quality enhancement, including the development of new study programmes and the involvement of the academic community in quality improvement processes. In 2023, the quality assurance regulation was updated, with a new set of documents developed and approved to regulate the quality assurance of studies at the University and to define the distribution of responsibilities for quality among the units and the members of the University community. The two most important documents related to quality assurance and adopted in 2023 are the "Quality Assurance Policy of the European Humanities University" and the "Description of Internal Quality Assurance of Studies at the European Humanities University"<sup>7</sup>. An "Employee's Compass"<sup>8</sup> has also been developed as a support tool for all University staff, allowing them to efficiently access the management of all the University's processes (from recruitment, to quality assurance of studies, to academic and non-academic support of staff) in one place.

<sup>6</sup>ESN - Erasmus Student Network

<sup>7</sup> [https://en.ehu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/EN\\_EHU\\_Quality-assurance-policy\\_System-description\\_2023.pdf](https://en.ehu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/EN_EHU_Quality-assurance-policy_System-description_2023.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [https://en.ehu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/01-128\\_EN\\_EMPLOYEE-COMPASS\\_07\\_09\\_2023.pdf](https://en.ehu.lt/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/01-128_EN_EMPLOYEE-COMPASS_07_09_2023.pdf)

The aim of setting up and implementing a study feedback system is to effectively and systematically monitor the quality of the study process. During AY 2023/24 the University collected quantitative and qualitative data to assess the study process and the quality of studies - surveys of students, teachers and graduates, statistical information on studies, and discussions with academic departments on individual issues of study quality. The organisation of the student feedback process has been regulated by "Procedure for the organisation of the EHU study feedback" (No. 123-20, 16-05-2017, updated in 2024).

The data collection process has been given particular attention, with student feedback surveys on the quality of the taught courses being conducted at the end of the fall and spring semesters. The results of the surveys were shared with teachers and heads of departments, and wider discussions took place in general meetings of the University attended by EHU students, teachers and administration. In this way, students, as the most influential part of the University's academic community in terms of the quality of the study process, in cooperation with the teachers and the administration of academic departments, help to identify the problems that arise in the study process, and contribute to the search for rational solutions to them.

In addition, the monitoring of the causes of student dropout, systematisation and aggregation of data was carried out in the AY 2023/24. Summarising the data collected during the reporting year, the 2 most common reasons for dropping out are:

- Voluntary discontinuation of studies. Students voluntarily withdraw from their studies for a variety of personal reasons, health problems, family circumstances, financial difficulties and difficulties in reconciling studies and work;
- Dismissal from studies due to underachievement or financial indebtedness.

Students' ability to learn and their overall satisfaction with their studies are strongly influenced by their psychological well-being. As in previous years, a professional psychologist working at EHU has been providing psychological support to students since 2020:

- Individual counselling;
- Motivational interviews with students who intend to withdraw from their studies;
- Psychoeducational counselling;
- Seminars on relevant topics such as time management, improving effective study skills, and reducing tensions in order to study smoothly.

During the period prior to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2020 (in the aftermath of the Belarusian revolution 2020 in Belarus), the rate of students requesting psychological advice reached around 20 students a week. Since the outbreak of the war, the number of students seeking psychological help has increased considerably.

During AY 2023/24, an external evaluation was carried out in a field of Communication with positive results and accreditation for a period of 7 years. In AY 2023/24, the external evaluation and accreditation process of BA study program "History" took place. The program has been successfully accredited until 2028. External evaluation and accreditation of the MA study program Integrated Urban Studies was also held and the program has been accredited. This program is unique to EHU, as it is an international joint program, which is organized and implemented by 3 universities - EHU, University of Wroclaw and Technical University of Brno. The program is expected to start in the spring semester of AY 2024/25 or the fall semester of 2025/26, as serious administrative preparation is required for the implementation of the programme.

In accordance with the plans for external evaluation of study fields of Lithuanian higher schools, a self-analysis report of EHU Political Science field of study was prepared in AY 2023/24 and submitted for external evaluation. The experts' visit is expected in the fall of 2025.

As is the case every year, the University held induction sessions for first-year students of all study programmes and formats in early October 2023. The aim of the induction sessions is to help students to integrate into the University community, to understand and facilitate communication with teachers and administration, to consolidate the choice of first-year students and to increase their motivation to study.

#### STUDENT SURVEY DATA

During the reporting year, student surveys were carried out on the quality of subjects and teaching. The aggregated data from these surveys are made publicly available on the University's website, discussed in the Senate and in departments, and individual evaluation data for each teacher are made available to teachers and their department heads. All data from the surveys serve as a kind of primary source for the analysis of the quality of studies and as an indicator of the quality of studies. The results of such surveys, in which a relatively small percentage of students participate, make it possible to diagnose problematic aspects of the teaching of one or another subject and encourage the use of qualitative research methods and other ways of collecting information.

In AY 2023/24, about 23,85 % of students participated in the surveys for the evaluation of the quality of the study subject, but not all of them were fully completed (30% in AY 2022/23, 26.20% in AY 2021/22, 15.65% in AY 2020/21, 10.16% in AY 2019/20 and 28.92% in AY 2018/19. There is a slight upward trend in student participation in surveys. The participation of students in surveys varies considerably from one study programme to another, with more active and very passive programmes and courses.

The results of the assessment of study subjects by programme are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4. Summarised results of student feedback survey on teacher evaluation for AY 2023/24 by programmes (points)\***

Study programme	High-residence	Low-residence	High-residence	Low-residence
	Fall semester		Spring semester	
European Heritage	4,59	4,69	4,31	4,58
Visual Design	4,34	4,33	4,09	4,54
World Politics and Economics	4,25	4,24	4,51	4,49
Media and Communication	4,13	4,36	4,10	4,18
Theater Art and Acting	4,44	–	4,36	–
Law	4,51	4,69	4,07	4,42
Informatics	4,14	4,23	N/A	N/A
International Law and European Union Law	4,31	N/A	4,52	N/A
Cultural Heritage Development	4,39	–	4,26	–
Visual Plastic Art	4,53	–	4,92	–
Public Policy	4,00	–	4,84	–
Gender Studies	4,10	–	4,15	–

\*Evaluation scale: 1 -5

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

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

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

It should be noted that the teachers of the study programme participate in decision-making not only as members of the relevant programme committees and departments, but also at various other levels (some of the teachers are members of the Senate, Senate committees, etc.). On the other hand, the main responsibility of teachers in this context is to create and improve the content of their subjects, organise the subject study process, and provide feedback to students.

A student satisfaction survey was also conducted in the AY 2023-2024. The obtained data allowed the university to assess 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 7,71 points out of 10 possible points (7.6 points in AY 2022-2023, 7.9 points out of possible 10 in AY 2021-2022; 7.99 points out of 10 possible points in AY 2020-2021; 7.43 points out of 10 possible points in AY 2019-2020). Unfortunately, the participation rate in this survey is low every year, reaching only about 10% in AY 2023/24.

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), European Humanities University takes part in an annual participation of research and art activity evaluation process performed by the Research Council of Lithuania (LMT). Considering the requirements of the LMT evaluation, research work at the University as well as research capacity of faculty members, five assessment units were formed at EHU in 2022: Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts, Theater Art and Natural Sciences (the latter field was formed due to establishment of EHU-EPAM "School of Digital Competences").

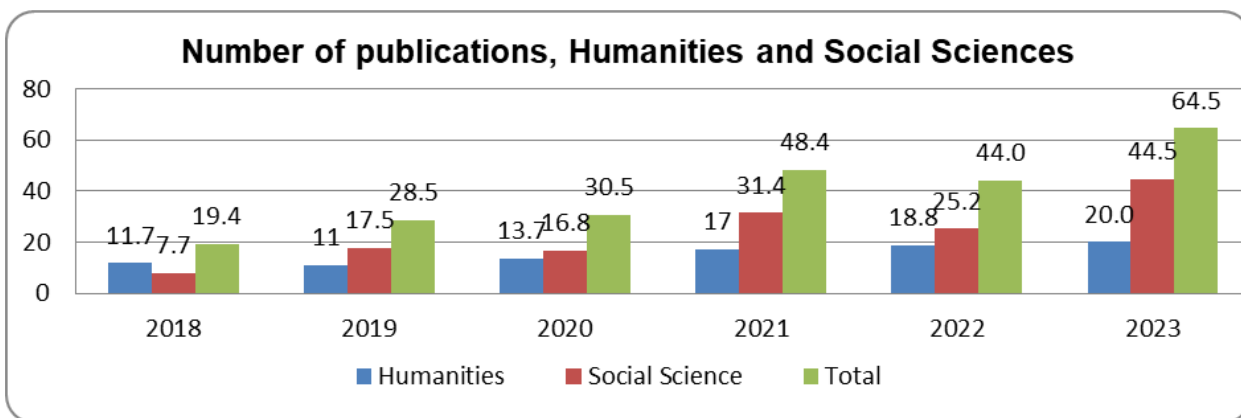
The main objective of these evaluation units is to accurately gather and present essential data on the scientific and artistic activities carried out at the University, serving as a basis for thorough evaluation. The aforementioned evaluation units represent the following fields of study: Humanities – Philosophy and History; Social Sciences – Law, Politics, and Communication Sciences; Art - Visual Arts and Design; Theater Art unit presents works of Theater and Cinema. With the establishment of the School of Digital Competences at EHU and the emergence of publications in Natural Sciences, it was decided to create an additional assessment unit in 2022.

The evaluation of research (art) activities is conducted by the Research Council of Lithuania in the first half of the year following the one being evaluated. Therefore, research (art) activity results of calendar year 2023 were delivered for the evaluation at the end of September 2024. Evaluated University research (art) activity output in 2023 is composed of 64.5 research publications (and their parts) - 20 in Humanities and 44.5 in Social Sciences, in addition to 33 works of art. 23 works were evaluated in the Visual Arts field (21 in Fine Arts and 2 in Design) and 10 works were evaluated by the activities in Scene and screen arts - Theatre (9) and Music (1).

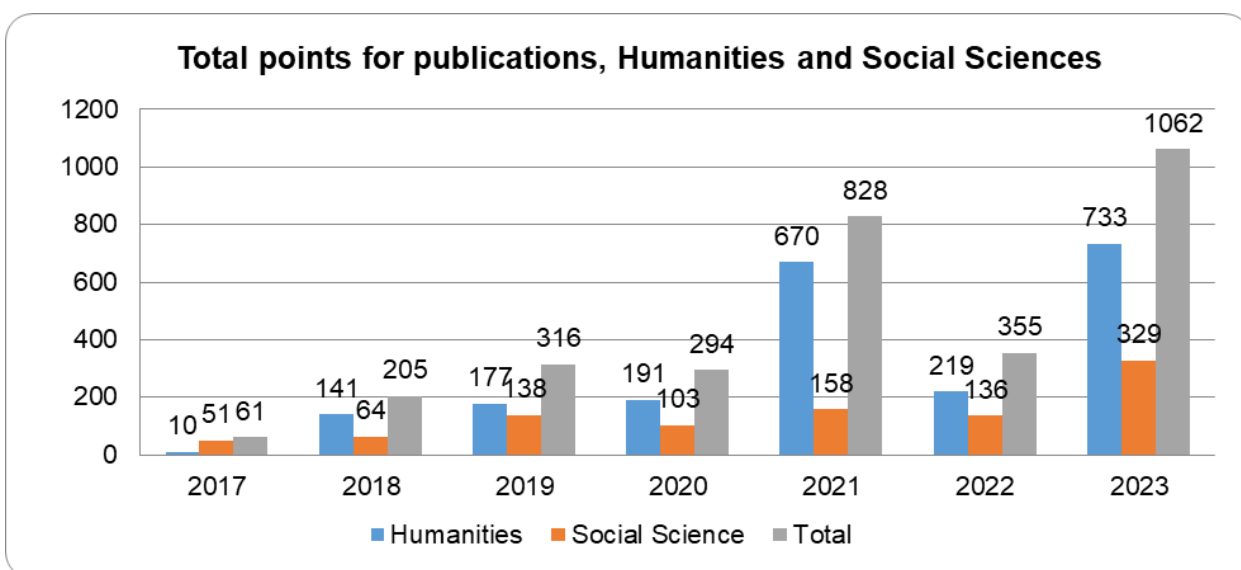
The results of the LMT evaluation of science (art) activities demonstrate a continuous growth of points received in comparison with the period of 2017-2022.

- Humanities: 2017 – 10 points; 2018 – 141 points; 2019 – 177.4 points; 2020 – 190.96 points; 2021 – 670.37 points; 2022 – 219.32 points; 2023 - 732.65 points;
- Social Sciences: 2017 – 51.52 points; 2018 – 46.28 points; 2019 – 138.18 points; 2020 – 103.08 points; 2021 – 158.08 points; 2022 – 135.52 points; 2023 - 329.24 points.





Total number of scientific publications, 2018-2023



Total points for scientific publications, 2017-2023

The results of the formal assessment of the university's art works are also growing every year: in 2017 – 14.50 points; in 2018 – 22.80 points; in 2019 – 44.07 points; in 2021 – 79.57 points; in 2022 – 77.90 points. EHU has hit the score of 100 points for the first time in 2023 with an evaluation of 104.5 points.

A significant change in productivity and quality in science (art) activities was achieved through a continuous purposeful development of the main areas of activity: mobility and internationalisation of faculty, increased number of scientific publications in international peer-reviewed journals and publishers, presentation of art exhibitions in more esteemed contexts as well as greater involvement in international science projects. In parallel with a broadening scope of study programmes, EHU has broadened its field of research. Taking into account the existing needs and challenges, EHU faculty staff is being motivated to achieve higher results of scientific and pedagogical activities in each of the study fields. Due to expansion of study programmes, tangible improvement in research and art quality, the university has been aiming to build upon the achievements and keep the upward trajectory in preparation for a new EHU Research (art) Strategy which will be adopted in the AY 2024-2025.

The comprehensively revised and modified system for promoting scientific (artistic) activities consists of the following individual and collective methods of financial support:

1. Individual scientific (artistic) activity packages, intended for teachers' scientific (artistic) activities (publishing publications, conferences, trips, social projects, etc.);
2. EHU Development Fund;
3. Science (art) publications publishing fund (for publishing scientific monographs, studies, collections of articles and works of art);
4. Scientific Travel Fund
5. Support from the Lithuanian Research Council to publish scientific articles and release books

As part of recommendations of institutional evaluation by SKVC, EHU has committed to strengthen its research potential by developing strategic fields of research, capacity of both faculty and administrative staff to participate and provide assistance in preparation of proposals for national and international research grant programmes, aiming for higher level of participation in international research networks.

During the reporting period, a noticeable part of the results of scientific activity was further developed in the following scientific centres and laboratories: Gender Studies Centre, Intersubjectivity and Interpersonal Communication Research Centre (until 2020 - Topos Philosophical Anthropology Centre), Critical Urbanism Laboratory, Constitutionalism and Human Rights Centre, Laboratory of Visual Culture and Contemporary Art Studies (until 2020 - Visual Culture Research Laboratory), Belarus and Regional Research Centre (until 2020 - Belarusian Historical Research Institute).

It is worth noting that EHU research centres are led by distinguished professors, each of whom has accumulated significant experience in scientific activity in their field. The purpose of each centre's activity is not only to initiate and carry out scientific activities, but also to be foci of cooperation between scientists of different scientific fields. The research centres of EHU conduct their activities in a wide field of humanities and social research interests, starting with studies of critical urbanism and contemporary art and ending with studies of law and history.

During AY 2023-2024 **Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights** organised continuous projects "Advocates for the Rule of Law", EHU Law Clinic and other scientific and practical conferences and webinars on the topics of human rights, threats to the profession of lawyer, methodological help for law researchers. In summer 2024, the centre organised the Summer University Humanity Technical Law - Civil Society and Democracy. In AY 2023/2024 CCHR members participated in project of School of Civic Education (Школа гражданского просвещения) "Civic Education for a Society of Citizens: 30 years of Civic Education for Peace and Society". CCHR continued its project "Advocates for the Rule of Law" with experts from International Law in Advocacy (ILIA), Belarusian Association of Human Rights Lawyers (BAHRL), organisation Lawyers for Lawyers. On November 20. 2023, Conference on Workers' Rights, Harassment Protection, and Freedom of Association was held with support of Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions, Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions and OSUN Science Shop. In 2023 the members of the centre together with their colleagues from other European universities released a multilingual dictionary of Latin legal terms to Belarusian, with translation into six European languages. Support was provided by OSUN.

In AY 2022-2023 the **EHU law clinic** continued to operate at the university. The project "EHU Law Clinic" was launched in December 2020 on student initiative. The reason for the creation of the clinic was the need to improve the practical skills of the students of the Integrated study

programme "International Law and European Union Law", as well as to carry out educational and informational work for the Belarusian civil society related to the political crisis and massive violations of human rights in the Republic of Belarus after the presidential elections of the Republic of Belarus, which took place in 2020 August. The Clinic had initiated internship opportunities for five students.

On February 28 – March 1, 2024 **Laboratory of Critical Urbanism** in cooperation with Nordic Summer University, CityIndustries Research Network and Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network organised the international symposium "City / Energy Relations in Transformation". In cooperation with American University of Beirut, an OSUN Network Collaborative Course "The Laboratory and the City: Critical Approaches in Urban Studies" was taught together in Spring Semester 2024.

On January 15, the LCU held a webinar on politics of sustainable urban transport "Localised online misinformation: Unpacking the objects and mediums of polarised sustainable urban transport issues in London and the UK" with Scott Rodgers (Birkbeck, University of London). A third edition of DAAD Summer School "Platformization, Digital Disinformation and Non-Democratic Politics: Belarus in Comparative Perspective" was held on July 16-27, 2024.

In 2023 researchers, affiliated with the **Laboratory for Studies of Visual Culture and Contemporary Art** prepared the thematic issue of the "Digital Icons: Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media" journal, published by the University of Leeds (UK), with a focus on the role of media and visual culture in Belarusian protest of 2020 ( in total - 14 texts, Including 4 EHU faculty members). In December of 2023 an international conference "Media Strategies in the Age of Information Wars" was held in EHU. In September of 2024 an international conference, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of a prominent Belarusian writer Vasil Bykaŭ, was organized - *Vasil Bykaŭ's front line: between literature and cinema* (EHU, September 24-25th, 2024). Laboratory scholars participated in as many as 13 international conferences and congresses held in Hungary, Sweden, Kazakhstan, Poland, Latvia, and Ukraine. In addition, several public lectures were delivered at the Freiburg University Centre, the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, the University of the Arts in Berlin; the National Art Gallery in Vilnius; Ruhr University of Bochum; Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen; Hagen University; Central European University; Södertörn University. In 2023 Laboratory researchers also realized several creative projects. The 11th edition of student film festival "Retrospective, Untitled", curated by the Laboratory-affiliated students took place in May 2024 in Vilnius.

In AY 2023-2024 **Centre for Research of Intersubjectivity and Interpersonal Communication** (CRIIC) participated in realization of the interdisciplinary research project 'Authoritarian patterns in school education: pedagogical attitudes, communicative practices, and emotional regimes' supported by EU (within the program Octopus: Education for Belarusian children today and tomorrow, <https://vasminoh.school/about-us/> ). In this connection the international scientific and practical conference "Overcoming Authoritarian Patterns in School Education: pedagogical attitudes, communicative practices, emotional regimes" was organized by CRIIC 25-26 September, 2024. The conference was devoted to overcoming authoritarian patterns in secondary school education in post-communist countries and brought together scholars and practitioners from Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Lithuania and Ukraine.

An academic monograph “Solidarity of the Shaken: An Essay on the Belarusian Revolution” by Tatiana Shchyttsova was published in the book series *Conditio humana* (in Rus.). Two issues of the journal *Topos* 2/2023 and 1/2024 were released.

In AY 2023-2024 **Center for Belarus and Regional studies** has implemented two projects: Program Scholars-at-risk - OSUN Subaward Grant 2023/24 - support for scientists at risk from Belarus, Ukraine, Russia (scholarships, support for their research and mobility) and a project “The Belarus Research Network on the Neighbourhood Policy” - Latvian Institute of International Affairs (<https://belarusnetwork.org/>). A new BA program “History”, curated by the Center, had been successfully accredited in AY 2023-24, with admissions opened for the following academic year.

EHU has continued its involvement in programmes supporting threatened scholars. The Center has been participating in the project “Scholars-at-risk - OSUN Subaward Grant 2023/24” which provides support for scientists at risk from Belarus, Ukraine, Russia (scholarships, support for their research and mobility). One of the implicit priorities of the program is to maintain intellectual dialogue between scientists from the region who are committed to common political and intellectual values. As part of this project, 12 scientists at risk (5 from Belarus, 5 from Ukraine, and 4 from Russia) were supported with scholarships for their scientific activity and integration into the EHU. The format of public lectures was used as a basic form of activity for fellows (18 public lectures with a presentation of the research results of fellows). In addition to the series of public lectures, program activities were divided into two tracks: collective (meetings with the leadership of the Departments of Humanities and Social Sciences at EHU with a discussion of possible forms of cooperation: international seminars; social forms of activity) and individual (work on individual dissertations and research projects; participation in conferences, including those held at EHU, financial support for participation in conferences in other countries by request; publication activity (some fellows made publications with EHU affiliation).

Cooperation with threatened scholars resulted in 2 books (textbook, collective monograph); 13 articles (including those with affiliation with EHU); participation in about 40 conferences, round tables, scientific and practical seminars. Monographs written by A. Matsuk and D. Liseichykau rank as the best evaluated work by researchers of EHU and have had a major contribution to the overall EHU institutional and EHU Humanities unit score in the Research Council of Lithuania annual evaluation for calendar year 2023.

As part of the project three international scientific conferences were organized and held: Decolonizing (the knowledge about) Eastern Europe? Vilnius, EHU, November, 27/ 2023, <https://en.ehu.lt/events/panel-discussion-on-decolonizing-the-knowledge-about-eastern-europe-will-be-held-at-ehu/>; “Connections, transfers and composite identities: National Movements of Central and Eastern Europe in the Early 20th Century”; “The Former Lands of Rzeczpospolita as a Part of the Russian Empire: Rethinking Structures of Dependence, Mechanisms of Integration, and Options of Resistance.”

Project “The Belarus Research Network on the Neighbourhood Policy” - Latvian Institute of International Affairs, The Danish Foreign Policy Society (DFPS) <https://belarusnetwork.org/>). The Belarus Research Network on Neighborhood Policy aims to: Produce facts-based debate on relevant topics for the development and understanding of Belarus; Inform local and regional policymakers on key policy issues of importance to Belarus; Inform a wider audience about the developments in Belarus and ensure that a democratic Belarus remains one of the priorities on the regional agenda; Establish a network of experts on Belarus across the Nordic and Baltic countries.

This project has been set up for researchers from Belarus to be brought into the regional context, and to ensure equal partnership between Belarusian, Nordic and Baltic research communities.

The center's staff participated in the following international projects: «Bazylianie prowincji litewskiej w latach 1617–1839», Uniwersytet w Siedlcach (Siedlce, Poland) (Narodowy Centrum Nauki 2020/39/B/HS3/01232); «History of Christian Belarus in Materials of the Vatican Apostolic Archive», Běloruský institut v Praze. Praha, Czech Republic (Renovabis. Project Number: WR025063); «Edycja ksiąg grodzkich oszmiańskich z lat 1660–1780», Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu, Torun, Poland (Narodowy Program Rozwoju Humanistyki, NPRH/DN/SP/0164/2023/12); „Monumenta Poloniae Cartographica – Pomniki kartografii ziem polskich”. Szczecin University, Narodowy Program Rozwoju Humanistyki.

In 2024, the Center's staff prepared and published a collection of articles based on the results of the conference "The Great Lithuanian Duchy: Belarusian Research", which took place at EHU in 2022) - The Great Lithuanian Duchy: Contemporary Belarusian Research / ed. by A. I. Grushy. Vilnius, 2024. Also published were 11 articles, 2 reviews, and took part in 20 conferences. The 2023 Prize of the Congress of Belarusian Researchers was awarded to three works by the Center (out of six positions, the Center's works took three).

In AY 2023 - 2024, **Center for Gender Studies** has implemented two large educational and research projects: Women in Tech - I (2023 - 2024, funded by EU) and Gender Studies and War Challenges in Resilience of Universities in Ukraine: digitalization, internationalization, and networking for excellence in teaching and research (funded by Swedish Institute, 2023 - 2024)]. In the framework of these projects several academic events have been organized: Women in Tech - international conference [The Promise of \(Un\)Happiness? Gender, Labour, and Migration](#) (EHU, September 17 - 18th, 2024), an international conference [Gender Equality and Gender Studies at Universities: War, Peace and Development](#) (May 16-17th, 2024, Lund University).

The project "Women in Tech", taking place from AY 2022-2023, provides a framework for multiple activities on gender-related issues. This is an educational and research project aimed at supporting Belarusian women in IT and promoting gender equality in high-tech. The project is implemented by the EHU Centre for Gender Studies, funded by the European Union (300 000 EUR) within the EU4Digital programme<sup>9</sup>. The project includes the following activities: Login to Tech - a course of video lectures and practical exercises for women planning to start a career in IT; a conference on ways to address gender discrimination in IT - for IT business representatives, NGOs and all those interested in this topic; multidisciplinary IT courses to learn specific hard skills for working in IT; a mentoring programme to support women with professionals from IT, HR and business participating; Women in Tech Academic - a research programme on gender inequality in the IT sector in Belarus. EHU and Women in Tech have launched a research scholarship competition for students of the Master's Degree programme "Gender Studies".

Within the framework of "Women in Tech project", the second issue of Scopus-listed academic journal "Topos" in 2023 themed "Gender and Im/material Labour" was dedicated to gender issues and included contributions from Antonina Stebur, Almira Ousmanova, Yana Sanko, Maryia Zharylouskaya, Marina Mentusova, Olena Pavlova, Mariya Rohozha, Iryna Maslikova, Vera Syrakvash, Natallia Sarakavik, Volha Davydzik, Tania Arcimovich, Kseniya Shtalenkova, Elena Gapova.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://eufordigital.eu/countries/Baltarusija/>

In AY 2023-2024 the researchers of the EHU Centre for Gender Studies at the Academic Department of Social Sciences and the department's lecturers, participants of the Women in Tech project (Prof. Almira Ousmanova, Assoc. Prof. Uladzislau Ivanou, Prof. Elena Gapova, Andrei Vazyanau, Antonina Stebur, Hanna Samarskaya) prepared expert texts, hosted events and conferences, and carried out activities on the topic of gender equality and inclusiveness with EHU students and partners. Specific texts and events can be found on the website of the EHU Centre for Gender Studies<sup>10</sup>. The Centre for Gender Studies collaborators also disseminate and promote knowledge and opinions on gender equality in the Belarusian press and social media (comments, interviews, virtual public lectures, etc.).<sup>11</sup>

The results of the activities of University artists in the international space should also be remarked upon and are significant. EHU artists, including Valentinas Klimašauskas, Artūras Raila, Hanna Melnikava, Wladimir Dowgiallo, participate in the annual art fair "ArtVilnius" as curators or artists. Among the noteworthy contributions are exhibitions by Hanna Melnikava ("The Corridor of Eclipses" and "Memories of Lost Love" and others) presented and achieving recognition in festivals in Spain (Barcelona, EXP.2024) Italy ('Il Mondo in Tasca' in Lodi, Pozzuoli Photo Fest in Naples), Japan (International Photographic Salon in Japan), Scotland (Glasgow Photography Gallery) and the USA (issues at artistic magazines in Florida, California, Colorado); Julia Titowas animation "Once a Nice Little Lamb" shown in Warsaw (Poland) and Pilsen (Czech Republic); screening of Irina Kodiukova's animation "Dante. Beatrice" at the Lumiere International Film Festival&Awards in Los Angeles (USA); illustration and animation works of Ilja Bereznickas presented at The ISCF24 International Cartoon Festival in Portugal and International Animation Film Festival from Baltic and Nordic Countries in New York; demonstration of Victor Martinovich's play "Revolution" in Munich and Berlin (Germany) and others.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://en.ehu.lt/events/gender-studies-and-war-challenges-in-resilience-of-universities-in-ukraine/>  
[https://karazin.ua/storage/static-content/source/documents/tsili-staloho-rozvytku/gender/Course\\_Program\\_RethinkingGender.pdf](https://karazin.ua/storage/static-content/source/documents/tsili-staloho-rozvytku/gender/Course_Program_RethinkingGender.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://en.ehu.lt/research/centers-laboratories-and-institutes/center-for-gender-studies/>  
<https://nashaniva.com/314986>  
<https://belsat.eu/programs/07-03-2023-feminityvy-i-feminizatsyya-belaruskaj-movy>.

## PROJECTS ACTIVITIES

### PROJECTS

During AY 2023-2024 the academic community of the university continued its active activities by initiating and implementing new project initiatives both at the national and regional (Lithuania - Belarus) and international levels. During this period, a number of regional and international projects were implemented, the results of which significantly contributed to the realisation of the University's long-term goals, had a significant positive social impact on the target groups participating in the projects, or directly and effectively solved the problems of individuals (students, teachers, researchers of Belarusian universities) experiencing repression by the Belarusian regime and persecution, that especially intensified after the presidential elections of this country in August 2020 . The most important EHU projects activities are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5. Projects implemented by EHU in AY 2023–2024**

Place of implementation	Total value of the project, EUR	EHU part in the project	Donor	Implementation period
<b>1. Women In Tech, NEAR-TS/2021/428-403</b>				
Minsk, Belarus, Vilnius, Lithuania	300 000	Coordinator	European Commission	2022-01-10 – 2023-11-30
Project aims and results	The project is aimed at attracting women to the IT sector, creating more attractive conditions for women working in the field of high technology, creating a mutual support community and a common learning space. This is a project aimed at promoting research on gender discrimination in the IT sector, increasing the visibility and awareness of the problem.			
<b>2. Women In Tech II, NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/448-098</b>				
Vilnius, Lithuania, Minsk, Belarus	600 000	Coordinator	European Commission	14-12-2023– 14-12-2025
Project aims and results	Project objective is to foster women's employment in the IT sector by creating opportunities for women to start and develop a career in the IT sector in Belarus (Login to Tech, Mentoring Program, Women in Tech Conference) and creating a supportive and more gender-equal environment for women in IT in Belarus (Women in Tech Academic part including webinars, academic conference, research projects, and Interviews with Women in Tech Belarus). This project complements the first by expanding the scope, deepening the impact, strengthening the community.			
<b>3. Lawyers for the Rule of Law, 72011321LA00001</b>				
Belarus	17 142,35 (18 000 USD)	Coordinator	USAID	10-05-2023 - 06-04-2024
Project aims and results	The project is aimed at the promotion of the independent legal profession based on the principle of the rule of law and human rights based approach. The educational project is oriented at practising lawyers, legal advisors, law students who are eager			

Place of implementation	Total value of the project, EUR	EHU part in the project	Donor	Implementation period
	and able to defend human rights in the countries of the Eastern European partnership. The project consists of four courses related to international human rights law and the international standards of the legal profession. The education is mostly held on the online educational platform, and also includes the practical part of working on the universal documents for the representatives of the legal profession of the Eastern Europe partnership countries.			
<b>4. Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network (OSUN)</b>				
Vilnius, Lithuania	20 476,55 (21 500 USD)	Coordinator	Bard College	10-23-2023 08-31-2024
Project aims and results	The project aims to support the EHU by providing funding for a faculty member to serve on the EHCN Steering Committee, enabling student-led initiatives, facilitating community-facing events curated, and providing equipment micro-grants to address campus needs.			
<b>5. Erasmus + KA131 mobility programme, 2023-1-LT01-KA131-HED-000127479</b>				
Vilnius, Lithuania	224 590	Coordinator	Erasmus + KA1 European mobility programme	AY 2023 – 2025
Project aims and results	<p>The Erasmus+ KA131 project aims to enhance the quality of education and foster international collaboration by providing mobility opportunities for students and staff within Erasmus+ program countries. It supports personal and professional growth, promotes inclusivity and equal opportunities, and integrates sustainable practices into mobility activities.</p> <p>The project results in increased mobility of students and staff, strengthened institutional partnerships, and the development of key academic, professional, and intercultural skills. By fostering internationalization and mutual learning, KA131 contributes to creating a globally competent workforce and enriching the educational experience for all participants.</p>			
<b>6. Erasmus + KA171, International Credit Mobility , 2023-1-LT01-KA171-HED-000141580</b>				
Vilnius, Lithuania	31 730	Coordinator	Erasmus + KA1 European mobility programme	AY 2023 – 2025
Project aims and results	<p>The Erasmus+ KA171 project aims to enhance international collaboration by strengthening academic, cultural, and professional ties between Erasmus+ program and partner countries. It promotes quality education through cross-border knowledge exchange, supporting personal and professional growth by offering opportunities to develop academic, linguistic, and professional skills. The project emphasizes inclusion and equity, ensuring diverse participation and equal opportunities, while fostering intercultural understanding to build mutual respect and cooperation among participants.</p> <p>As a result, the project expects to achieve increased mobility of students, staff, and faculty, strengthened institutional partnerships, and the development of long-term collaborations and joint initiatives. Participants will gain valuable academic, professional, and intercultural skills, while universities expand their global reach and integrate international perspectives into their curricula. Ultimately, the project contributes to creating a globally skilled workforce, fostering cross-cultural collaboration, and driving societal innovation.</p>			



Place of implementation	Total value of the project, EUR	EHU part in the project	Donor	Implementation period
<b>7. Zemelah.online: Digital Archive of Soviet Jewish ego-documents</b>				
Vilnius, Lithuania	52 114,30 (43 250 GDP)	Coordinator	Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe	02-01-2024 02-01-2026
Project aims and results	The goal of the project is to further develop a digital corpus of Soviet Jewish ego-documents Zemelah.online, initiated in 2021. By gathering Jewish personal narratives of the Soviet period and indexing textual fragments corresponding to particularly Jewish and universal subjects (historical events, elements of Jewish tradition and religion, family and romantic relations, public and professional life, education and culture, etc.), we wish to present a comprehensive portrayal of the Soviet Jews' lives and experiences. We provide a platform for students, scholars, and anyone interested to explore the rich heritage of Soviet Jewish history through these narratives.			
<b>8. Establishment the Digital Humanities Laboratory at the EHU, G-2023-22373</b>				
Vilnius, Lithuania	50 000	Coordinator	Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	01-01-2024 01-31-2025
Project aims and results	To establish a Digital Humanities Lab at EHU, integrating AI into humanities studies to enhance research methodologies, teaching practices, and interdisciplinary collaborations.			
<b>9. Russian language courses for US students</b>				
Lithuania, USA	104 132	Coordinator	William & Mary University	06-02-2024 07-026-2024
Project aims and results	Students received 150 hours of intensive classes in Vilnius, immersing themselves in the language environment while exploring Lithuanian landmarks such as Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Visaginas, and Druskininkai. American students were paired with EHU students as language partners, engaging in daily language practice throughout their stay in Vilnius. The program concluded with a specialized external exam and the issuance of certificates.			
<b>10. Belarus research network on the neighbourhood policy 2, LIIA-2023-EHU-CONT</b>				
Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus	10 000	Coordinator	Latvian Institute of International Affairs	11-03-2023 10-30-2024
Project aims and results	The project gathered knowledge on how neighboring regions could best approach Belarus and assist on its pathway to democracy. The Belarus Research Network on Neighborhood Policy aims to: Produce facts-based debate on relevant topics for the development and understanding of Belarus; Inform local and regional policymakers on key policy issues of importance to Belarus; Inform a wider audience about the developments in Belarus and ensure that a democratic Belarus remains one of the priorities on the regional agenda; Establish a network of experts on Belarus across the Nordic and Baltic countries. This project has been set up for researchers from Belarus to be brought into the regional context, and to ensure equal partnership between Belarusian, Nordic and Baltic research communities.			

Place of implementation	Total value of the project, EUR	EHU part in the project	Donor	Implementation period
<b>11. OSUN Science-Shop (Civic Engagement) II</b>				
Lithuania, Belarus	54 819 (57 900 USD)	Coordinator	Central European University	01-01-2024 12-31-2024
Project aims and results	<p>This project was a continuation of the program that ran from January 1 to December 31, 2024, overlapping with the no-cost extension for the previous cycle of the program until May 31, 2024.</p> <p>The 2024 project year focused on increasing the program's internal and external visibility and embeddedness, piloting cross-university teaching and learning, expanding the network of engaged faculty, students, and non-profits to increase positive impact, and fostering engaged and experiential teaching and learning through faculty training and peer learning circles. EHU continued the development of the Science Shop on an institutional level, increasing the quantity and quality of projects. EHU also shared the know-how of Science Shop implementation with BRAC and CEU Science Shop coordinators at partner institutions and was responsible for collecting and creating a shared inventory of research needs.</p>			
<b>12. Human Rights Literacy for the Belarusian Civic Society, SLH50023GR0024</b>				
Vilnius, Lithuania, Belarus	137 284 (145 000 USD)	Coordinator	American Embassy Vilnius, Belarus Affairs Unit	03-01-2024 12-31-2024
Project aims and results	<p>Increase the legal literacy of Belarusians in the field of human rights, instil internal intolerance towards violations of human rights, values of democracy and freedom. Project objectives: emergence and expansion of the Belarusian community that shares the values of human rights, democracy and freedom and is ready to implement changes in the society; development of the mechanisms and principles for the implementation of individual rights, inter alia, cultural rights in relation to cultural heritage sites with a complex history; increased recognition of EHU as a center of higher education in the region in the field of human rights and constitutional law; development of an interdisciplinary approach to research and implementation of the concept of human rights, inter alia, in a specific area - cultural heritage governance and protection of cultural rights.</p>			
<b>13. Platformization, Digital Disinformation, and Non-Democratic Politics: Belarus in Comparative Perspective</b>				
Vilnius, Lithuania	18 694,75 (19 650 USD)	Coordinator	Bard College	03-18-2024 07-29-2024
Project aims and results	<p>Development and implementation of the 2024 summer school "Platformization, Digital Disinformation and Non-Democratic Politics: Belarus in Comparative Perspective at the European Humanities University". The summer school explored both the consequences of digital platforms' omnipresence in non-democracies, with a special focus on Belarus, as well as the antidemocratic aspects of digital developments in democracies, such as digital disinformation. This conceptual and empirical multi-sited focus on the transformation of the political realm due to platformization aimed to provide a comparative framework for dialogue among OSUN and non-OSUN academic scholars, sectoral experts, civic activists, and students of all levels.</p>			

Place of implementation	Total value of the project, EUR	EHU part in the project	Donor	Implementation period
<b>14. Support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania for Research and Experimental Development (Non-Economic Activities) for 2024</b>				
Vilnius, Lithuania	512 000	Beneficiary	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania	01-01-2024–12-15-2024
Project aims and results	Support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania for Research and Experimental Development (Non-Economic Activities) in 2024			

#### INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EHU

During the reporting period, an Agreement between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EHU has outlined level of financial support for socially vulnerable EHU students and students needing urgent financial support:

- Orphans and children left without parental care;
- Persons who lost both parents or single parent during the period of studies (while in the status of a student) as well as those who have lost their primary provider;
- Disabled people as well as those disabled since childhood due to injury or diseases;
- Other socially vulnerable persons when reasons are argued in a motivation letter and confirmed by the corresponding documents.

During the reporting period the total sum of 53 861 Eur Norwegian aid was distributed (25 453 Eur received).

According to the contract signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the EHU (latest amendment dates to 02-08-2023), the Finnish government financial support distribution was further implemented (13 656 of the total sum).

The Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues its annual support of the value of 50 000 EUR.

Based on the agreement with the Nordic Council of Ministers office in Lithuania dated December 23, 2022, EHU received 109 984 EUR target financial support to be distributed during one academic year for students affected by political persecution in Belarus and students affected by Russian full-scale invasion in Ukraine and difficult financial situation. During the reporting period 20 students affected by political persecution from Belarus and 23 students from Ukraine were supported.

EHU has started an intensive and full-fledged integration process into OSUN in 2020 by signing an agreement to participate in OSUN activities on 26 August 2020. While the academic partnership between EHU and Bard College (USA) and the Central European University (Austria), the main coordinating institutions of OSUN, has been long established, the signing of the agreement between EHU and OSUN has taken this partnership to a higher level. This step has enabled the University to expand its activities focused on building a democratic and socially responsible society and addressing socially relevant issues. In order to ensure a smooth and productive institutional participation in OSUN activities, the position of institutional coordinator of OSUN activities was created.

During the AY 2023-2024 EHU faculty and students initiated and carried out more than 20 OSUN-funded projects. These projects covered a wide range of activities: student mini-projects, student exchange programmes between OSUN institutions, curricula study courses focused on the building of democratic societies, and short- and long-term faculty projects. Closely linked to EHU strategic objectives, OSUN's activities have been of particular importance to the University community. In January 2023, EHU signed an agreement (OSUN Multilateral Student Mobility Agreement) allowing students at all levels of education to participate in the exchange programme.

**OSUN courses.** EHU teachers, who have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills through specialised training, offer EHU students a choice of OSUN Online, Network Collaborative and Summer courses: Global Citizenship (M. Laktionkina), First Year Seminar, Civic Engagement, Social Entrepreneurship (N. Mikhailova), Visual Storytelling for Civic Engagement (J. Titova), Freedom of Expression, Visual Significance of Money (K. Shtalenkova), Algorithmic Fairness (I. Stolper), Visual Language of Hate and Dominance (K. Gaitanži). Together with colleagues from Princeton University (USA), EHU prof. A. Kalbaska taught an individual elective course "History Since 1300" for EHU students.

**EHU Debate Union.** The EHU Debate Union is a vibrant community of students, faculty, and staff dedicated to fostering civic dialogue and debate at the university, in the local community, and globally. The Union was founded in 2017 in collaboration with the Bard Debate Network and later with OSUN Global Debate in 2020. The coordinator of the EHU Debate Club since 2018 is Mariia Laktionkina. During the 2023–2024 academic year, the Union expanded to include around 30 active members and alumni, while approximately 80 second-year students engaged in debate activities as part of the Second Year Seminar course and OSUN Global Citizenship course. The main activities of the club are meetings, trainings and practise sessions, participation in international tournaments (held in Poland, Latvia, Denmark and Lithuania). Regular public debates on topical issues are also organised with invited guests. EHU Debate union collaborates with the OSUN Global Debate Network and local partners such as Jaunimo Debatai (Vilnius) and MRU Debate Society.

The EHU Debate Union actively contributes to the implementation of the EHU Third Mission, providing services to the public and working with external users and partners: EHU Debate Club coordinator Mariia Laktionkina acts an associate member of the faculty of the Institute for Writing and Thinking at Bard College; Anna Shkilenok and Stepan Sodel (a fourth-year student) officially joined as Debate Union tutors, contributing to classroom debates and workshops; union members volunteered at the Belarusian school "Stembridge," teaching debate skills to schoolchildren.

**Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network (EHCN).** The University's participation in this project is the initiative of EHU lecturer and Head of Laboratory of Critical Urbanism S. Liubimau. The main objective of participation in EHCN activities is to explore the impact of new technologies on the humanities and related issues. The project activities are divided into three phases to be implemented over the next three years. The implementation of the project is taking place at different levels: institutional, faculty and student.

The following activities have been implemented at the university under the EHCN programme during AY 2023-2024:

- OSUN Network Collaborative Course “The Laboratory and the City: Critical Approaches in Urban Studies”, together with Elisabeth Saleh. The course was taught jointly at American University of Beirut and at the EHU, with joint classes taking place in March and April 2024.
- Summer School "Platformization, Digital Disinformation and Non-Democratic Politics: Belarus in Comparative Perspective" at the EHU in Vilnius, July 16-27
- Symposium "City / Energy Relations In Transformation, February 28 - March 1, 2024;
- Webinar “Localised online misinformation: Unpacking the objects and mediums of polarised sustainable urban transport issues in London and the UK” with Scott Rodgers, Birkbeck, University of London, online, January 15, 2024
- Interactive museum “Kafkaesque Nightmare”, by the EHU students Kseniya Huryeva et al.

**Threatened Scholars Initiative.** From 2021 onwards, EHU is an active participant in this programme coordinated by the Central European University. The programme provides comprehensive support to scholars and artists in various situations of peril. In the light of the political developments in Belarus, EHU involvement in this programme is crucial for the implementation of the University's strategic objectives. During AY 2023-2024, 12 scholarships were awarded under this programme.

**The OSUN Science Shop** program at EHU was launched in AY 2021/22 in collaboration with the Central European University for the implementation of project activities in the field of civic engagement. The program is specifically aimed at delivering the projects by the students with the support of their teachers and supervisors within the training courses, as well as course and annual projects at EHU. What is important, research topics and project directions are proposed by civil society organizations and independent researchers, taking into account their real needs and requests. On behalf of EHU, OSUN Science Shop is acting as an intermediary in the process of facilitating partnership contacts between academia and civil organizations, providing coordination and support for all participants involved in project activities. Thus, the goal of the program is consistent with the mission of the University – to support the development of civil society for students from Belarus and the region, through quality education, promoting European values and agility as a timely and adequate response to changes in external and internal social environments. The program began with 6 projects successfully implemented during AY 2021/2022. The second year in AY 2022/2023 initiated 16 projects, with 12 projects finished by June 2023 and 4 projects more continued during the fall semester 2023. During its third year, the program will finalize 12 new projects by the end of December 2024. During this period, the program has collaborated with 30+ civil society and cultural organizations in Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Georgia and Brazil, including relocated organizations from Belarus and Russia.

**OSUN International Conference "Get Engaged-2024"**. From June 24 to July 1, 2024, EHU students A. Kalachova, M. Sharag and P. Shynkevich participated in the annual OSUN Student Annual Conference "Get Engaged 2024" in Berlin, Germany. This annual conference brought together 90 students and related staff from 20 OSUN partner institutions. "Get Engaged" conference is the main event of the OSUN Get Engaged activity framework in which multiple activities, seminars and workshops are taking place year round across all OSUN partner institutions.

## SUPPORT FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

In the academic year 2023-2024, the study process at EHU was significantly impacted by the ongoing full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, which sent ripples across the entire region. This conflict led to a rise in the number of students from Ukraine who brought fresh ideas, activities, and projects to the university community. Meanwhile, students from Belarus faced increased challenges in obtaining the necessary documents to study in Lithuania, requiring additional support from the EHU Student Services Unit. Furthermore, recent legal measures in Lithuania have made it nearly impossible for students from Russia to enter the country.

During the reporting period, the EHU Student Services Unit continued its traditional functions while taking on new responsibilities to support students. The unit assisted EHU students residing in Vilnius with dormitory and visa-related issues, provided guidance on accessing personal data and navigating legal matters, and offered mediation for medical assistance. A thorough search resulted in a new contract with a student dormitory.

In addition, one of the critical responsibilities of the Student Services Unit is supporting students' mental health. Recognizing students' challenges in balancing academic, personal, and social pressures, the unit has prioritized mental health services as a core part of its mission. Through access to a dedicated psychologist who provides both online and in-person counseling, Student Services creates a safe space for students to seek help, discuss personal concerns, and develop coping strategies. This work is essential in fostering a supportive university environment, encouraging emotional resilience, and enabling students to thrive academically and personally.

## STUDENT PROJECTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

During the 2023-2024 academic year, nearly 20 diverse student projects received support totalling €2,500. These projects spanned various fields, including interest clubs, exhibitions, and the development of computer games and applications.

EHU Times, the university's student-led newspaper, has consistently provided a platform for students to share news, opinions, and creative content, fostering a strong sense of community and engagement within EHU. Its ongoing success is a testament to the initiative and dedication of each new cohort of students who bring fresh perspectives and energy to the publication, ensuring its relevance and impact over the years.

Students organised and hosted the international student film festival "Retrospective". They initiated and carried out the reform of the student self-government, updating its legal status and statutes. The members of the Student self-government started to participate more actively in the life of the University, to make student proposals and to take part in decision-making processes.

In May 2024, the Student Services Unit hosted its traditional Soft Skills Camp, a three-day intensive training course in a scenic area near Vilnius. The camp focused on enhancing students' project development and civic engagement skills, featuring prominent experts' lectures and an immersive learning experience.

This range of projects and events highlights students' dedication to cultural enrichment, civic involvement, and support for both local and international communities.

## STUDENT CAREER CENTER

The EHU Student Career Centre continued its activities during the 2023-2024 academic year, offering a range of lectures, seminars, and other initiatives to enhance students' career development and professional skills. Throughout the year, the Centre organized excursions to various organizations, including Stembridge, the MMO Museum, and the editorial office of Delfi, providing students with valuable insights into different professional environments.

Additionally, the Centre held multiple seminars and training sessions covering essential skills such as interview techniques, time management, and writing motivational letters. These events aimed to better prepare students for the job market and foster their professional growth.

As part of the "Women's Leadership" project, coordinated by E. Rabkina, participants engaged in a comprehensive learning journey covering all phases of project development—from ideation and fundraising to reflecting on lessons learned and creating sustainable, long-term initiatives.

Another highlight was the Nuclear Summit, a public debate on nuclear and anti-nuclear issues organized by the NGO Ecohome in collaboration with the Career Centre and the Debate Club. The summit provided a platform for an in-depth examination of both positions on the topic. The project began with a three-week preparatory phase, during which Ecohome specialists led three educational events. These sessions allowed 10 students to delve deeply into the complexities of nuclear energy. At the same time, public debates engaged a larger audience of 30 to 100 participants in exploring the pros and cons of atomic development. The debates were part of World Climate and Justice Education Week. Following the debate, an open discussion actively involved participants and the audience, raising awareness of climate change and related issues.

In May, the Student Services Unit, in collaboration with the EHU Communication and Marketing Unit, organized EHU FEST, a large-scale event featuring a career fair with over 10 participating companies and public organizations, a public debate, and a music concert headlined by the popular Belarusian band Irdorath.

## STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

During the reporting period, EHU students were actively involved in international activities which take place on an annual basis:

- Model European Union (MEU) (spring 2024). The Model European Union (MEU) focuses on the theme: *"Across EU Borders: Enlargement, Strengthened Defense, and Schengen Reform."* These critical topics were essential to understanding the current challenges and opportunities within the European Union;
- Geneva Immersive University UNIFY (spring 2024);
- International conference "Get Engaged-2024" in Berlin, organised by Bard College and OSUN (summer 2024);
- Vilnius Summer Academy organised by German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutsches Volkes) - an international summer school for Studienstiftung scholarship holders which is also open for students of EHU and Vilnius University



- A series of international scientific and creative conferences. Theatre students have participated in the International Student Theatre Festival and the Debating Club has regularly participated in various competitions.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

In AY 2023-2024 EHU provided financial support for students to ensure equal study and educational opportunities for young people from Belarus and the wider region. Socially disadvantaged students have also had the opportunity to benefit from financial support, including available support for students affected by the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. During the reporting period, EHU provided more than €325,500 in financial support to students in the form of scholarships, including student achievement and social support scholarships.

## COMMUNICATION

Communication of EHU activity has been performed on the website of the university as well as on social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Tiktok.

On 1 May 2024, EHU launched admissions to 9 Bachelor (high-residence and low-residence), 6 Master and one PhD programme, covering a wide range of Social Sciences and Humanities. The main admission process lasted until 5 August with a total of 461 applications.

Major information campaign has been conducted to support admission campaigns for AY 2024-2025 admissions campaign. During the campaign in 2024, EHU has significantly increased the number of one-to-one counselling sessions for prospective applicants: more than 1100 responses by e-mail (1 June - 1 September), 2-3 live consultations per day on average, 45 unique phone consultations (7-30 August). This has not only improved communication with applicants, but has also provided valuable feedback to continuously improve the University's services. Live informational sessions have taken place on 3-4 July 2024. A tool developed by the Communication and Marketing Unit, together with students in the previous academic year, @EHUSupportBot, was used in order to facilitate admission questions for prospective students by providing automated answers. Promotional content was being shared in social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Tiktok as well as in traditional media outlets (Zerkalo, Lietuvos rytas). By using targeted communication campaigns and boosted social media posts (total of 60), more than 930 000 users were reached within exceptionally low advertisement cost (2 037 Eur).

In addition, EHU strategic placement of advertising on social networks as part of the AY 2024-2025 admissions campaign has extended EHU reach beyond Belarus and Russia and successfully attracted an audience from Kazakhstan. Staff members participated in educational fairs in Central Asia "Begin High School Tour in Central Asia 2024" (Bishkek — February 20, Tashkent — February 22, Almaty — February 23)

Preparatory Year Course Series activity was organized in Fall and Spring semesters. 134 prospective students were recommended for enrolment in the course, 99 of whom successfully completed the program. Graduates of this course accounted for 33% of all BA applicants who passed entrance exams in the 2023/2024 academic year.

On May 30, 2024, the Communications and Marketing Unit, together with the Student Services Unit, organised EHU FEST in the University Courtyard. The festival included a career fair with Belarusian and local companies, academic discussions and a musical performance by the Belarusian musician Den Rivers and band "Irdorath".

In May 2024, the Communications and Marketing Unit prepared EHU Internationalisation strategy guidelines which outline primary fields of action in university management, study, research and Third Mission fields.

Due to departing Communications and Marketing Unit staff members, Project Management Office was in charge of communication duties, including the admissions campaign, for the period between June and October 2024.

## BUDGET AND FINANCES

### EHU FINANCING AY 2022-2023

During the reporting period, the University's activities were funded by donor contributions, funds from the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and targeted support for Belarusian students and researchers from the governments of Estonia and Norway.

In order to effectively and co-ordinately manage donor contributions, at the beginning of 2022 the EHU Multi-Donor Trust Fund (EHU Trust Fund) was established. The EHU Trust Fund is administered by the Lithuanian Central Project Management Agency (CPMA). The EU signed an agreement with CPMA on the contribution to the EHU Trust Fund, which enabled the EHU Trust Fund to start operating from February 2022. In March 2022 the EHU trust fund began to fulfil the function of financing the University's activities. CPMA is also responsible for the management of the donor oversight structure, the implementation, monitoring and financial control of the allocation of funds to the EHU and reporting to donors and support for the implementation of the EHU 2021–2026 action plan. For this purpose, the EU allocated funds for ad hoc technical assistance to EHU in the same contract with CPMA. CPMA finances EHU and ensures the stability of financial flows in the short term.

Funding is carried out based on EHU annual work plans and the approved budget for the implementation of those plans. The main attention is paid to the requirements of the Lithuanian higher education institution, quality assurance and EHU accreditation, university management; for research and innovation, internationalisation, building partnerships with external stakeholders, accounting and financial management, human resources planning and management.

The balance of the EHU Trust Fund at the beginning of the reporting period amounted to EUR 885 599 Eur (this amount was returned during the year). For the financing of the University's activities, 4 821 756 Eur was received during the reporting year, was received during the reporting year, EUR 4210765,67 Eur was used to cover the running costs of the University, with a balance of EUR 610990,33 Eur as at 30 September 2024.

According to the EHU budget for the AY 2024-25, approved by the Governing Board meeting on September 28, 2024, the need for external funding for the next financial year will amount to EUR 5,5 million. In the assessment of the management of the University, there are no doubts about the solvency of the institution and its ability to continue its activities in the next financial year.

The annual work plan and budget of the university for AY 2023-2024 was divided into 4 blocks, taking into account the insights of the stakeholders and reviewing the activities related to the set goals. In order for EHU to have a stronger financial foundation and move towards sustainability, the number of students at the University needs to be increased significantly. There is a need to further strengthen the University's research activities so that EHU research centres and individual faculty members can use effective internal mechanisms and resources to carry out research activities, preparing applications for research funding and managing research projects. There is also a need to reform and strengthen management and administrative structures and procedures. The contents of the work plan and the approved annual budget reflect the proposal to increase the funding provided by the donor community, and the transition to the four activity block funding model (instead of the main funding model used until now) was also planned. For the AY 2024-2025 EHU budget expenses were planned to increase by about 18 %, i.e. by about 1,6 million euros.

Analysing expenses by individual blocks, it is clear that the growth of expenses was planned in each block, and the largest relative increase was planned in block 2 - Scientific research, innovation and political activity. The budget for the AY 2023-2024 reflected the main priorities of the university – to strengthen the educational capacity by creating new study programmes and providing the necessary personnel to meet the growing needs of students, and at the same time create more favourable conditions for the targeted increase in the number of students; to strengthen the research capacity of the university by allocating the necessary time of the academic staff for studies and research, based on the policy prepared in accordance with the recommendations approved by the order of the Minister of Education, Sports and Science; reform and strengthen management and administrative structures and procedures; and to focus on the activities of the third mission related to the main mission of the EHU.

The budget for AY 2023-2024 was fulfilled by 95 %. A deviation of the budget costs amounted to EUR 445 596. The costs incurred by the University were lower, as not all activities planned in the annual work plan were fully implemented. A detailed budget implementation report is presented in Table 6.

**Table 6. EHU budget implementation report**

EXPENDITURES	2022/2023 budget	2022/2023 fact	Deviation nominal (C-B)	Implementa tion %	2023/2024 budget	2023/2024 fact	Deviation nominal (G-F)	Implementa tion %
<b>Block 1. Teaching and learning</b>	<b>3,347,081</b>	<b>2,828,159</b>	<b>(518,922)</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>4,443,912</b>	<b>3,951,402</b>	<b>(492,510)</b>	<b>-11%</b>
Teachers, including their mobility expenses	1,647,889	1,458,192	(189,697)	-12%	2,011,137	1,676,214	(334,923)	-17%
Academic administrative and support staff	865,262	728,504	(136,758)	-16%	1,019,175	912,038	(107,137)	-11%
Development, Recruitment, Student Service	237,400	197,872	(39,528)	-17%	256,800	219,281	(37,519)	-15%
Library Operation and Collection Development	33,000	26,213	(6,787)	-21%	15,000	40,539	25,539	170%
Financial support to students	563,530	417,378	(146,152)	-26%	1,141,800	1,103,331	(38,470)	-3%
<b>Block 2. Research, innovation and policy outreach</b>	<b>1,184,399</b>	<b>931,753</b>	<b>(252,646)</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>1,468,650</b>	<b>1,347,726</b>	<b>(120,924)</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Scientists salaries	664,873	574,564	(90,309)	-13.6%	721,860	778,896	57,036	7.9%
Academic administrative and support staff	370,826	312,216	(58,610)	-15.8%	436,790	390,873	(45,917)	-10.5%
Conferences and research activities, staff training, IR traveling, PhD defences, etc.	128,700	29,894	(98,806)	-76.8%	286,000	159,783	(126,217)	-44.1%
Printing books and publication journals	20,000	15,079	(4,921)	-24.6%	24,000	18,173	(5,827)	-24.3%
<b>Block 3. Governance, administration and resources</b>	<b>1,448,693</b>	<b>1,400,492</b>	<b>(48,201)</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>1,900,012</b>	<b>1,590,480</b>	<b>(309,532)</b>	<b>-16%</b>
General administration	693,447	824,438	130,991	19%	849,459	795,927	(53,532)	-6%
Operations	650,246	534,312	(115,934)	-18%	975,553	772,469	(203,084)	-21%
Funds rising	80,000	25,873	(54,127)	-68%	50,000	13,285	(36,715)	-73%
GB and Mngmt expenses	25,000	15,869	(9,131)	-37%	25,000	8,798	(16,202)	-65%
<b>Block 4. Third mission activities</b>	<b>704,760</b>	<b>1,076,763</b>	<b>372,003</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>917,941</b>	<b>1,220,990</b>	<b>303,049</b>	<b>33%</b>
Center for Constitutionalism- Justice Hub	77,500	74,976	(2,524)		-	-	-	
Support the Hub's development through the work of the Business Development team to be established under the Action Plan.	30,000	-	(30,000)		-	-	-	
Support the Centre's development through the work of the Business Development team to be established under the Action Plan.	30,000	-	(30,000)		-	-	-	
Projects carried out through university	567,260	1,001,786	434,526	77%	917,941	1,220,990	303,049	33%
<b>TOTAL expenditures in cash</b>	<b>6,684,933</b>	<b>6,237,167</b>	<b>(447,766)</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>8,730,515</b>	<b>8,110,597</b>	<b>(619,918)</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Capital fund</b>	<b>80,996</b>	<b>82,817</b>	<b>1,821</b>		<b>108,158</b>	<b>282,481</b>	<b>174,323</b>	<b>161%</b>
<b>TOTAL expenditures</b>	<b>6,765,929</b>	<b>6,319,984</b>	<b>(445,945)</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>8,838,673</b>	<b>8,393,078</b>	<b>(445,596)</b>	<b>-5%</b>

REVENUES	2022/2023 budget	2022/2023 fact	Deviation nominal (F-B)	Implementa tion %	2023/2024 budget	2023/2024 fact	Deviation nominal (F-B)	Implementa tion %
<b>Students tuition fees</b>	<b>1,619,916</b>	<b>1,691,942</b>	<b>72,026</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2,163,161</b>	<b>2,054,579</b>	<b>(108,582)</b>	<b>-5%</b>
HMD programmes	704,494	781,745	77,251	11%	914,364	875,217	(39,147)	-4%
SMD programmes	915,422	910,198	(5,224)	-1%	1,248,797	1,179,362	(69,435)	-6%
<b>Donors</b>	<b>4,325,223</b>	<b>3,479,991</b>	<b>(845,232)</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>4,936,772</b>	<b>4,563,657</b>	<b>(373,115)</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>EHU Trust Fund ( CPMA)/EU Delegated funds 23/24</b>	<b>4219223</b>	<b>3,333,624</b>	<b>1,064,389</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>4,711,772</b>	<b>4,100,782</b>	<b>(610,990)</b>	<b>-13%</b>
EU delegated funds	2,269,235						-	
Other donors	979,988				4,711,772	4,100,782	(610,990)	-13%
Sweden government delegated funds	776,000		(776,000)	-100%			-	
Lithuanian government delegated funds (MFA)	194,000		(194,000)	-100%			-	
<b>Lithuanian government delegated funds (MSES)/ research activities</b>	<b>106,000</b>	<b>146,367</b>	<b>40,367</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>462,875</b>	<b>237,875</b>	<b>106%</b>
<b>Third mission activities (incl. projects carried out through university)</b>	<b>567,260</b>	<b>1,001,786</b>	<b>434,526</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>917,941</b>	<b>1,220,990</b>	<b>303,049</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Revenues from student accomodation</b>	<b>253,530</b>	<b>165,998</b>	<b>(87,532)</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>820,800</b>	<b>521,555</b>	<b>(299,245)</b>	<b>-36%</b>
<b>IT impact on revenues</b>		<b>(19,734)</b>				<b>32,297</b>	<b>32,297</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,765,929</b>	<b>6,319,984</b>	<b>(445,945)</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>8,838,674</b>	<b>8,393,078</b>	<b>(445,596)</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>TOTAL revenues in cash</b>	<b>6,765,929</b>	<b>6,319,984</b>	<b>(445,945)</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>8,838,674</b>	<b>8,393,078</b>	<b>(445,596)</b>	<b>-5%</b>

## COSTS

The financial plan provided for the following allocation of costs according to 4 blocks of set activities:

Block 1. Teaching and learning – 50.3%;

Block 2. Scientific research, innovation and policy dissemination – 16.6%;

Block 3. Management, administration and resources – 21.5%;

Block 4. The activity of the third mission – 10.4%.

On 30 September 2024, the structure of actually incurred budget costs according to 4 blocks of set activity was as follows:

Block 1. Teaching and learning – 47.1%;

Block 2. Scientific research, innovation and policy dissemination – 16.1%;

Block 3. Management, administration and resources – 18.9%;

Block 4. The activity of the third mission – 14.5%.

The notes that should be pointed out are as follows:

**Note 1** (Block 1. Teaching and learning). The costs of this block amounted to 11% less than predicted in the financial plan. The most obvious deviations were obtained: costs incurred in the part of teachers' salaries amounted to EUR 334 923 less, costs incurred in the part of academic administration salaries amounted to EUR 107 137 less and in the part of financial support for students – EUR 38 470 less.

Lower costs in the part of teachers' salaries were incurred due to the actual lower annual bonus paid to teachers in the amount of EUR 43 831 compared to the budgeted amount (not all teachers achieved the set annual goals according to the valid EHU motivational procedure), and the rest of the savings were obtained due to the actual lower number of teacher positions (7,83 full-time positions less) than was planned in the financial plan (plan 116,13 full-time positions, fact 108,3 full-time positions). The block's share of these costs is 0.7.

The salary costs of the academic administration were lower, as the 3 staff positions planned in the annual work plan were not fully employed. The total planned expenses amounted to EUR 176 195 per year, and the share for Block 1 was 1 full-time position x 0.7 (vice-rector 1 full-time position, lifelong learning centre coordinator 1 full-time position, 1 head of communication and development unit).

The costs of financial support for students were lower, because factually less departmental scholarships were paid out to students than was planned (planned EUR 314 000 EUR, paid 283 596 EUR).

**Note 2** (Block 2. Research, innovation and policy dissemination). The costs of this block amounted to 8% less than predicted. The most obvious deviations were obtained: costs incurred in the part of academic administration salaries amounted to EUR 45 917 less and in the part of costs of conferences and research activities – EUR 126 217 less. Lower costs in the salaries of teachers and researchers were incurred due to a lower number of teacher positions (7.83 fewer positions) than was planned in the financial plan. The block's share of these costs is 0.3.

The salary costs of the academic administration were lower, as the 3 staff positions planned in the annual work plan were not employed. The total planned expenses amounted to EUR 176 195 per year, and the share for Block 1 was 1 full-time position x 0.3 (vice-rector 1 full-time position, lifelong learning centre coordinator 1 full-time position, 1 head of communication and development unit).

The costs of conferences and scientific research activities were significantly lower than planned, mainly due to the non-implementation of the following activities of block 2 provided for in the annual work plan:

- The use of Development Fund funds has been suspended in order to balance financial flows taking into account the EHU funding conditions stipulated in the Grant Contract – 74 964 Eur
- Additionally, conference costs and costs of development of the Media hub were reduced – 32 313 Eur.

**Note 3** (Block 3. Management, administration and resources). The costs of this block amounted to 16% less than predicted in the financial plan. The most obvious deviations were obtained due to the cost savings incurred: in the part of salaries of administration amounted to 53 532 Eur and cost saving occurred in software and hardware development, renovation of premises, office supplies in the amount nearing EUR 100 000. IT Development and cyber security measures were abandoned in 2023-2024 due to the need to cut costs and adjust them to available financing.

**Note 4** (Block 4. The activity of the third mission). The costs of this block amounted to 33 % more than predicted in the financial plan. During the reporting period, the activities of other projects implemented by the University increased in the amount of EUR 303 049. In AY 2023-2024 the academic community of the university continued its activities by initiating and implementing new project initiatives both at the national and regional (Lithuania - Belarus) and international levels. During this period, a number of regional and international projects were implemented, the results of which significantly contributed to the implementation of the university's long-term goals, had a significant positive social impact on the target groups participating in the projects, or directly and effectively addressed the problems of individuals (students, teachers, researchers of Belarusian universities) experiencing repression by the Belarusian regime and persecution, especially intensified after of the presidential elections of this country in August 2020.

**Note 5** (Capital endowment 5%). With the consent of the university's main donors, from AY 2021-2022 the university started forming the capital endowment in the amount of 5% from tuition fees. At the end of the reporting period, this fund amounted to EUR 480 835, in total EUR 322 534 from 2023/2024 AY. The capital endowment gives the University the flexibility to meet immediate needs and provides the necessary resources for a better working environment, better learning conditions and greater opportunities for development and success.

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## INCOME

The financial plan forecasted subtotal operating income from the following sources: 55.9% from EHU external funds (from donors); 24.4% tuition fees and tuition-related income; 10.4% income from other small-scale projects implemented by the University; 9.3% income related to student dormitories.

As of 30 September 2024, the actual operating income structure in the implemented budget was as follows: 54.4% EHU external funds (from donors); 25% tuition fees and tuition-related income; 14.5% income from other small-scale projects implemented by the University; 6.2% income from renting student dormitories.

The notes that should be pointed out are as follows:

**Note 6** (Tuition related and other income): in AY 2023-2024, the amount collected in tuition fees and tuition-related income increased by 21.4% from EUR 1 691 942 to EUR 2 054 579 in comparison with previous year. In total during AY 2023-2024 the support provided by donors for tuition fees for repressed students from Belarus amounted to EUR 34 965, and 18 students received it (Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

**Note 7** (Funding-donors). This line shows accounting funds received from donors through EHU Trust Fund (CPMA) and funds delegated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania.

The use of funds and balances are shown in Table 7.

The funds allocated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania for the reporting period amounted to EUR 484 000. During the reporting period, EUR 462 875 was used. The balance of these funds is EUR 75 787 and will be used until 15 December 2024 for the financing of the academic budget of AY 2024-2025.

In order to effectively manage and coordinate donor contributions, at the beginning of 2022 the EHU Multi-Donor Trust Fund (EHU Trust Fund) was established. The EHU Trust Fund is administered by the Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) in Lithuania. The EU signed an agreement with CPMA on the contribution to the EHU Trust Fund, which enabled the EHU Trust Fund to start operating from February 2022. From March 2022 the EHU Trust Fund began to fulfil the function of financing the University's activities. CPMA is also responsible for the management of the donor oversight structure, the implementation, monitoring and financial control of the allocation of funds to the EHU and reporting to donors and supporters for the implementation of the EHU Action plan for 2021-2026. For this purpose, the EU allocated funds for ad hoc technical assistance to EHU in the same contract with CPMA. CPMA finances EHU and ensures the stability of financial flows in the short term. Funding is carried out based on EHU annual work plans and the approved budget for the implementation of those plans. The main attention is paid to the requirements for the Lithuanian higher education institutions, quality assurance and EHU accreditation, university management; for research and innovation, internationalisation, building partnerships with external stakeholders, accounting and financial management, human resources planning and management. The balance at the beginning of the reporting year was EUR 885 599. The university used EUR 4 2107 66 for day-to-day activities, and the remaining balance on 30 September 2024 amounted to EUR 610 990.



**Table 7. The main balances of the amounts used from donors for financing typical university activities in the AY 2022–2023 as of 30 September 2023**

<b>CHANGE IN THE AMOUNTS OF DONOR FUNDING DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD (Eur)</b>						
<b>No</b>	<b>The source of targeted funding</b>	<b>Balance as 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 as at the close of the reporting period</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>State budget</b>	<b>54,662</b>	<b>484,000</b>	<b>462,875</b>	<b>21,125</b>	<b>75,787</b>
1.1	Funds allocated by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania for funding of the University's research activities	54,662	57,000	111,100	-54,100	563
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		256,000	180,776	75,224	75,224
1.3	Funds allocated by the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania for the achieved performance indicators of the University		171,000	171,000		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Municipal budgets</b>					
<b>3.</b>	<b>Other sources</b>	<b>885,599</b>	<b>3,826,173</b>	<b>4,100,782</b>	<b>-274,609</b>	<b>610,990</b>
3.1	EHU Trust Fund (CPMA)	885,599	3,936,157	4,210,766	-274,609	610,990
	Support for BY students is recognized as EHU's income for tuition		-109,984	-109,984		
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>940,261</b>	<b>4,310,173</b>	<b>4,563,657</b>	<b>-253,484</b>	<b>686,777</b>

**Note 8** (Income from other ongoing small-scale projects implemented by the University - Table 8). The line includes grants that were drawn down for implementation of special-purpose projects in the University. In AY 2023-2024, the total amount of funds used to finance projects implemented by the University amounted to EUR 1 220 990. In the reporting period, the largest part of these operating incomes, EUR 221 752, was made up of funds intended for the mobility of students and employees under the Erasmus program and funds allocated by the Education Exchanges Support Foundation.

**Table 8. Changes in the amounts of targeted funding during the reporting period**

CHANGES IN THE AMOUNTS OF TARGETED FUNDING DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD (Eur)						
No.	The source of targeted funding	Balance as at the beginning of the reporting period	Obtained over the reporting period	Drawn down over the reporting period	Change in the amounts receivable	Balance as at the close of the reporting period
<b>1.</b>	<b>State budget</b>		<b>19,427</b>	<b>16,542</b>	<b>2,885</b>	<b>2,885</b>
	Research Council of Lithuania		19,427	16,542	2,885	2,885
<b>2.</b>	<b>Municipal budget</b>		<b>4,480</b>	<b>4,480</b>		
	Vilnius Municipal SAR congress		4,480	4,480		
<b>3.</b>	<b>Other sources</b>	<b>608,250</b>	<b>1,619,257</b>	<b>1,232,265</b>	<b>386,993</b>	<b>995,243</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Education exchanges support foundation, Erasmus mobility programme, financing of master's degree students' tuition fees and scholarships, in that number under the agreements:</b>	<b>244,112</b>	<b>171,691</b>	<b>221,752</b>	<b>-50,061</b>	<b>194,051</b>
3.1.2.	2021-1-LT01-KA131-HED-000011157	15,327	-2,188	10,138	-12,326	3,001
3.1.3	2022-1-LT01-KA131-HED-000056861	31,382	7,990	39,371	-31,381	
3.1.4	2019-1-LT01-KA103-060210/01	5,742	-5,742		-5,742	
3.1.5	2017-09.3.1-ESFA-V-709-01-0003-SU-27/07	35,243	-9,242	1,935	-11,177	24,066
3.1.6	2020-1-LT01-KA103-077470	1,968				1,968
3.1.7	AIMED lenku	55				55
3.1.8	MS-2022-LT-1911	1,350	16,830	15,360	1,470	2,820
3.1.9	2022-1-LT01-KA171-HED-000096118	14,452		12,930	-12,930	1,522
3.1.10	2023-1-LT01-KA171-HED-000141580	22,211				22,211
3.1.11	2023-1-LT01-KA131-HED-000127479	105,046		63,529	-63,529	41,517
3.1.12	MS-2023-LT-1964	11,337	30,753	42,090	-11,337	
3.1.13	2024-1-LT01-KA131-HED-000205307		118,288	36,399	81,889	81,889
3.1.14	RRFP2598		6,500		6,500	6,500
3.1.15	ŠMPF TBV-PL1-2024-LT2763		266		266	266
3.1.16	ŠMPF 000238060-2024-1-LT01-KA171-HED000238060		8,236		8,236	8,236
<b>3.2</b>	<b>BARD college, micro grants for students' projects</b>	<b>793</b>				<b>793</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, support for Belarusian students and researchers</b>	<b>36,569</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>38,965</b>	<b>11,035</b>	<b>47,604</b>
	<i>Support for Belarusian students recognized as EHU income for science research</i>		-34,965	-34,965		
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, support for Belarusian</b>	<b>28,408</b>	<b>25,453</b>	<b>53,861</b>	<b>-28,408</b>	

	<b>students and researchers</b>					
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, support for Belarusian students and researchers</b>	<b>13,656</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>13,656</b>	<b>-11,006</b>	<b>2,650</b>
	<i>Support for Belarusian students recognized as EHU income for science research</i>					
<b>3.6</b>	<b>US State department, US embassy in Vilnius "University without borders" part II, SLH50021GR3016. Promoting democratic values and the challenges of disinformation: an aspect of distance learning</b>		<b>16,766</b>	<b>16,766</b>		
<b>3.7</b>	<b>ES Woman in Tech</b>	<b>35,947</b>	<b>13,440</b>	<b>49,387</b>	<b>-35,947</b>	
<b>3.8</b>	<b>ES Woman in Tech II</b>		<b>300,408</b>	<b>132,156</b>	<b>168,252</b>	<b>168,252</b>
<b>3.9</b>	<b>Central European University. TSI Fellowships IV of the Open Society University Network. Programme to support Belarusian researchers</b>		<b>91,760</b>	<b>26,858</b>	<b>64,902</b>	<b>64,902</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		<b>-2,048</b>	<b>-2,048</b>		
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Central European University. TSI Fellowships V of the Open Society University Network. Programme to support Belarusian researchers</b>		<b>90,195</b>		<b>90,195</b>	<b>90,195</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>					
<b>3.11</b>	<b>Central European University. TSI Fellowships II of the Open Society University Network. Programme to support Belarusian researchers</b>	<b>29,620</b>		<b>29,620</b>	<b>-29,620</b>	
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		<b>2,105</b>	<b>2,105</b>		
<b>3.12</b>	<b>Central European University. TSI Fellowships III of the Open Society University Network. Programme to support Belarusian researchers</b>	<b>82,731</b>	<b>18,436</b>	<b>101,167</b>	<b>-82,731</b>	
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		<b>-5,857</b>	<b>-5,857</b>		
<b>3.13</b>	<b>Central European University. OSUN Subaward Graduate Students Mobility Fall.</b>		<b>4,561</b>	<b>4,561</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		<b>-108</b>	<b>-108</b>		
<b>3.14</b>	<b>Central European University. OSUN Science-Shop II 2021-2022</b>	<b>27,235</b>	<b>7,926</b>	<b>35,160</b>	<b>-27,235</b>	
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		<b>-623</b>	<b>-623</b>		
<b>3.15</b>	<b>Central European University. OSUN Science-Shop III 2023-2024</b>		<b>48,824</b>	<b>29,208</b>	<b>19,616</b>	<b>19,616</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		<b>-1,319</b>	<b>-1,319</b>		
<b>3.16</b>	<b>American Center for education. Carnegie foundation II</b>		<b>25,870</b>	<b>25,870</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		<b>-639</b>	<b>-639</b>		

<b>3.17</b>	<b>American Center for education. Carnegie foundation III</b>		<b>10,663</b>	<b>10,663</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-236	-236		
<b>3.18</b>	<b>American Center for education. Carnegie foundation IV</b>		<b>12,244</b>	<b>12,244</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-285	-285		
<b>3.19</b>	<b>Bard College, OSUN activities</b>	<b>6,384</b>	<b>120,320</b>	<b>86,780</b>	<b>33,540</b>	<b>39,924</b>
<b>3.19.1</b>	<b>Funds from Experimental Learning Institute in Bard College</b>	<b>349</b>				<b>349</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>					
<b>3.19.2</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) "NCC Global Citizen course"</b>		<b>2,123</b>	<b>2,123</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-67	-67		
<b>3.19.3</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Engaged Senior Project Award /ESPA</b>	<b>781</b>				<b>781</b>
<b>3.19.4</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) "Network for Experimental Humanities Collaboration" (part III)</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2,501</b>	<b>2,573</b>	<b>-72</b>	
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-125	-125		
<b>3.19.5</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) "Network for Experimental Humanities Collaboration" (part V)</b>		<b>42,111</b>	<b>16,759</b>	<b>25,352</b>	<b>25,352</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-393	-393		
<b>3.19.6</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) "OSUN Undergraduate Mobility Students during the fall 2023 semester"</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>					
<b>3.19.7</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Civic engagement and Social Action</b>		<b>3,495</b>	<b>3,495</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-85	-85		
<b>3.19.8</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Debate Union - events, tournaments</b>	<b>3,152</b>		<b>3,036</b>	<b>-3,036</b>	<b>116</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-71	-71		
<b>3.19.9</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Mobility management committee I</b>		<b>1,424</b>	<b>1,424</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-23	-23		
<b>3.19.10</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Mobility management committee II</b>		<b>1,424</b>	<b>1,424</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-23	-23		
<b>3.19.11</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) coordinator</b>		<b>8,886</b>	<b>8,886</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-232	-232		
<b>3.19.12</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) online course</b>		<b>2,106</b>	<b>2,106</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-49	-49		
<b>3.19.13</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) online course spring semester</b>		<b>2,123</b>	<b>2,123</b>		

	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-59	-59		
<b>3.19.14</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Faculty compensation Civic Engagement Network Collaborative Course</b>		<b>2,777</b>	<b>2,777</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-72	-72		
<b>3.19.15</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Global media fellows</b>		<b>915</b>	<b>915</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-31	-31		
<b>3.19.16</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Summer Debate Workshop</b>		<b>6,511</b>	<b>6,511</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-170	-170		
<b>3.19.17</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Visual Storytelling I</b>	<b>616</b>				<b>616</b>
<b>3.19.18</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Visual Storytelling II</b>		<b>9,092</b>	<b>7,479</b>	<b>1613</b>	<b>1613</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-193	-193		
<b>3.19.19</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) Support implementation of an OSUN First Year Seminar</b>	<b>1414</b>		<b>1,414</b>	<b>-1414</b>	
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-28	-28		
<b>3.19.20</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN) The Laboratory and the City 2</b>		<b>4,723</b>	<b>4,540</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>183</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-109	-109		
<b>3.19.21</b>	<b>Bard College (OSUN). Seminario išlaidų kompensavimas</b>		<b>489</b>	<b>489</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		17	17		
<b>3.19.22</b>	<b>OSUN Nuclear symposium</b>		<b>1,101</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>367</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-21	-21		
<b>3.19.23</b>	<b>OSUN NCC palaikymas, saviraiškos laisvė, įskaitant instruktorių ir studentų padėjėjus</b>		<b>3,029</b>	<b>3,029</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-74	-74		
<b>3.19.24</b>	<b>OSUN EHNC Summer school</b>		<b>15,577</b>	<b>15,530</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-353	-353		
<b>3.19.25</b>	<b>OSUN Faculty Mobility Short-term fellowship</b>		<b>2,244</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>636</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-34	-34		
<b>3.19.26</b>	<b>Hosting the OSUN Librarian</b>		<b>9,860</b>		<b>9,860</b>	<b>9,860</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>					
<b>3.20</b>	<b>USAID</b>		<b>16,680</b>	<b>16,680</b>		
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-340	-340		
<b>3.21</b>	<b>IFES (International Foundation for Electoral Systems), via USAID Belarus Rapid Response Program</b>	<b>10,695</b>	<b>6,576</b>	<b>17,270</b>	<b>-10,695</b>	

	<b>2023</b>					
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-416	-416		
<b>3.22</b>	<b>William and Mary College I agreement</b>	<b>2,087</b>	<b>69,940</b>	<b>67,860</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>4,167</b>
<b>3.23</b>	<b>William and Mary College II agreement</b>		<b>31,862</b>	<b>28,931</b>	<b>2,931</b>	<b>2,931</b>
<b>3.24</b>	<b>Marshal Foundation</b>	<b>279</b>		<b>279</b>	<b>-279</b>	
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-17	-17		
<b>3.25</b>	<b>Transatlantic Baltic-American Cooperation</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>-521</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>-696</b>	
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-25	-25		
<b>3.26</b>	<b>Dutch Jewish humanitarian fund</b>		<b>5,400</b>	<b>4,337</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,063</b>
<b>3.27</b>	<b>Digital Humanities laboratory A.P. Sloan foundation</b>		<b>45,901</b>	<b>20,056</b>	<b>25,845</b>	<b>25,845</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-966	-966		
<b>3.28</b>	<b>EPAM</b>		<b>25,621</b>	<b>24,990</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>631</b>
<b>3.29</b>	<b>Rothschild Foundation Europe</b>		<b>50,590</b>	<b>22,487</b>	<b>28,102</b>	<b>28,102</b>
<b>3.30</b>	<b>BEROC EHU part (NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/434-092- 0007)</b>		<b>30,321</b>	<b>26,607</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>3,715</b>
<b>3.31</b>	<b>BEROC BEROC part (NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/434-092- 0007)</b>		<b>220,782</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>220,237</b>	<b>220,237</b>
<b>3.32</b>	<b>Human Rights Literacy US Embassy</b>		<b>91,154</b>	<b>67,330</b>	<b>23,824</b>	<b>23,824</b>
	<i>Coverage of the cost of converting USD into EUR</i>		-1,121	-1,121		
<b>3.33</b>	<b>Scholars at Risk network</b>		<b>53,138</b>	<b>53,138</b>		
<b>3.34</b>	<b>Institute of Foreign Affairs of Latvia</b>		<b>4,800</b>	<b>4,800</b>		
<b>3.35</b>	<b>Lund University (Gender Studies and War Challenges in Resilience of Universities in Ukraine: Networking for excellence in Teaching and Institutional Development)</b>		<b>2,670</b>	<b>2,670</b>		
<b>3.36</b>	<b>Residual value of fixed assets acquired with grant funding/Depreciation of fixed assets for the reporting year/Deduction of IT acquisition funds</b>	<b>89,037</b>		<b>32,297</b>	<b>-32,297</b>	<b>56,740</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>608,250</b>	<b>1,643,164</b>	<b>1,253,287</b>	<b>389,879</b>	<b>998,129</b>

#### FIXED ASSETS

As at the close of the University's reporting year, the residual value of its intangible assets was EUR 0.

Residual value of fixed tangible assets was EUR 56 740 (in AY 2022-2023 – EUR 89 037). During AY 2023-2024 the University acquired fixed tangible assets worth EUR 6 296 at acquisition costs, accumulated depreciation amounts to EUR 38 593.

Full stocktaking of all asset classes was carried out at the University as of the close of September 2024.

The university is currently using new teaching and administrative premises at Savičiaus st. 17, Vilnius. The right of use of these premises has been transferred to the University for four years by the Government's decision. In the off-balance sheet of the University, it is considered that the value of the received/used support in the form of premises is equal to EUR 1 870 000 according to the average market value determined by the Center of Registers. The contract for the use of the premises was signed on 31 December 2019.

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#### UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT COSTS

During the reporting year, the salaries and social security costs calculated for the University top-level management (both Rectors, both Chancellors) amounted to EUR 245 568 (AY 2022-2023 – EUR 339 326).

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#### DATA ON THE HEAD OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION, THE UNIVERSITY COSTS FOR THE WAGES OF ITS HEAD AS WELL AS OTHER BENEFITS

Over the reporting period, the amount calculated in salary to the Rector of the University was EUR 135 901 (in AY 2021-2022 it was EUR 185 275).

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#### 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 top management who are also members of the Governing Board of the University.

Rector



**dr. Vilius Šadauskas**