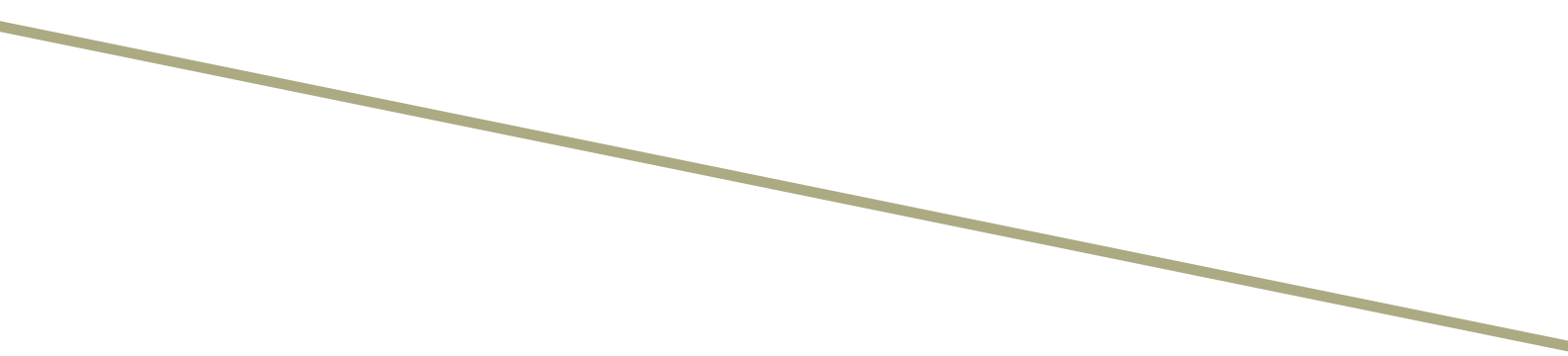




Social Responsibility Report

2013–2014



1. Human Rights

Continuous development and improvement of academic environment and infrastructure are among the University's priority activities. With a view of introducing qualitative changes in the University's studies and research, it is important that appropriate study conditions are created for students, modern access to necessary information is provided, appropriate environment and quality equipment is offered for scientists so that they are able to achieve their creative objectives, administrative staff provide assistance to study and research processes by means of state-of-the-art technologies.

KTU acknowledges the principles of human rights, respects human rights, and takes them into account in its activities as well as applies them uniformly to every person irrespective of their nationality, beliefs, attitudes, sex, age or other criteria.

The University acknowledges all the international treaties concluded by the European Union, the Republic of Lithuania, etc. that are related to protection of human rights. It is also established in the University's Code of Academic Ethics among other things that the members of the University's community shall not discriminate and offend each other by means of language, actions or academic assessment on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, disability, appearance, race or ethnicity, nationality, religion or beliefs, marital status or job nature. Privacy is respected in the University and private information related to a person is not made public without their consent.

The University's activities are based on the principle of academic integrity which builds on the following:

- Protection of students' rights, i.e. teachers may not make public confidential information about students (when there is no reasonable basis);

- The commitment of students and staff not to plagiarize works, falsify research data or intentionally interpret them partially;
- The guarantee that assessment of students' competences is not related to discrimination;
- Equal rights are ensured for both international teachers and students. In the autumn semester of the academic year 2014-2015, a record number of students from abroad started degree studies in the University (200). It is the second best indicator among Lithuanian higher education institutions. The number of international students increased by 42.9 % compared to 2013. The largest number of international PhD students was admitted so far – 7 (10 % of the total number of first year PhD students);
- Respect to intellectual property: the University's staff and units are provided with services for drafting applications related to industrial property objects, register them with the State Patent Bureau and patent institutions of other countries. The unit appointed by the rector represents and protects the interests of the applicant as well as consults it on legal protection of intellectual property.

The lack of systematic coordination was obvious in the area of innovative activities, therefore, KTU was among the first ones in Lithuania to approve the University's regulations for management of intellectual property and conveyance of knowledge. With a view of protecting intellectual property rights as well as possible, it is intended to draft the University's regulations for management of intellectual property and transfer of technologies.

2. Work Principles/ Employees' Rights

The staff of Kaunas University of Technology enjoy all the rights established by the labour laws of the Republic of Lithuania. Their safety and health at work are ensured; they are entitled to refuse to work if it is dangerous for their safety and health; require to compensate for the harm inflicted to their health due to unsafe working conditions; receive the salary on the last day at work when their employment contract is terminated; have the workplace which is compliant with hygiene requirements and appropriately provided; work in the environment which is based on mutual respect, psychologically, morally and physically safe; protect their rights and legitimate interests; ask the higher level of management for assistance in case of issues that are difficult to solve, impede normal course of work; enjoy the rights established by laws and other legislation.

There is no forced or obligatory work in the University, all university employees are over 18 years old.

With a view of ensuring safe working environment, the University holds briefings and training for current and new employees in the area of safety and health at work. The group for safety at work is responsible for this area in the University.

To ensure performance quality and efficiency, in 2014, the activities of the Human Resources Department were focused on implementation of structural reforms by concentrating, developing and properly using the University's human resources in order to achieve the strategic objectives, create and introduce new human resources management processes.

Ensuring safe working environment is not the only important area for the University. To encourage the staff to lead a healthy lifestyle, the University actively contributes to the national and city running, cycling and other marathons. The University organises an annual open KTU run dedicated to the commemoration of Prof. Kazimieras Baršauskas' birthday. Self-expression of the staff and students is also promoted, the University has 9 art groups,

12 amateur sports clubs and 24 sports teams. The University also has several recreational centres ('Politechnika', 'Šlavantėlis', 'Preila', 'Paštys') in different Lithuanian resorts which are regularly visited by KTU staff. In 2014, there were 26 youth organisations in the University and eight of them were founded in 2014. In total, 980 students actively participated in the activities of these organisations (including 480 members of the Students' Representation and nine members of the Faculties' Representation). The University held 150 student events and initiatives.

The University aims at creating a competitive reward system. Since 2012, KTU has been participating in the research of the Lithuanian pay market. To ensure the principle of external competitiveness, the levels of staff positions have been introduced (for administration and service staff) and position categories (for academic staff).

The performance appraisal system has been introduced in the University, the plan for the development of the performance management competence has been drafted for managers. The main objectives of the annual performance appraisal are as follows:

- Alignment of staff's activities with the University's and unit's strategic objectives;
- Formulation of individual objectives for the staff;
- Assessment of the staff's performance;
- Improvement of performance quality and efficiency;
- Encouragement of mutual feedback.

The implementation of the Programme of Managers-Leaders started in 2013 in order to develop the competences of leadership, change management, emotional intellect, coaching and sustainable development; apply efficient principles of collaborative leadership in their activities; ensure management efficiency of the University's units and achieve the University's strategic objectives.

KTU staff receives additional tangible and intangible rewards:

- Talent Promotion Programme. Pay adjustment coefficient for the staff with exceptional competences;
- Additional benefits (sports and recreational centres; summer recreational camps for the staff's children; a benefit in the event of a child birth; a benefit in the event of death by a family member; a benefit in case of *force majeure*; financial support for organisation of a Christmas party for the staff's children under 12 years old);
- Celebrations for the staff (Celebration of September 1st, Christmas celebration, Summer and Sports Festival);

- ERASMUS PROGRAMME – staff mobility;
- Emeritus – the veterans' club;
- Congratulations and awards (on the occasions of anniversaries; for loyalty, for merits: the badge of honour of the Ministry of Education and Science, a letter of appreciation of the Ministry of Education and Science, the medal of Kaunas City Burgomaster Jonas Vileišis, the University's medal of honour, the University's medal)

The University also needed a person who would ensure the control of effective implementation and operation of the staff pay system as well as shape the promotion and reward system management policy. Therefore, at the end of 2013, a new position of reward management specialist was established in the Human Resources Department.

3. Environmental Protection

With a view of successful implementation of strategic performance priorities related to sustainable development and social responsibility, the University intends to further introduce and develop the principles of sustainable development in the University, region and country. To this end, a group of sustainable development experts was set up by KTU rector's order which was delegated the function to provide consultations on integration of sustainable development principles in research and experimental activities, social, cultural development processes, perform expert evaluation and monitoring within the University.

With a view of being socially responsible, various efforts are made to reduce the amount of used paper. Most of documents have been moved online: the presentation of the University's annual report, and the report on the University's performance indicators intended for internal use and analysis is published on the University's intranet, i.e. the University's document management system. The University's study organisation processes are computerised and take place in the Academic Information System (AIS). AIS is adapted for students, teachers, and administrative staff. In 2011, while improving the system, an electronic timetable system was developed which allows for more rational lecture planning and selection of classrooms and laboratories.

In 2012, registration of internship placements was also integrated into AIS and admission of students to master studies was also started.

Online studies are also expanded (all illustrative material provided by teachers and some other resources are available in Moodle learning environment) and more possibilities to access information resources (e-books and subscribed data bases) allow for easier communication with remote experts of the area (practitioners and researchers) and implementation of projects by virtual teams. The following are the major technological platforms used in the study process:

- Virtual learning environment Moodle. In 2014, the virtual learning environment was used in the study process of 980 modules (i.e. had registered students). Compared to 2013, the use of Moodle environment grew 2.5 times.
- System of video lectures ViPS. More than 600 videos of teachers' lectures and presentations are recorded annually and they are uploaded into the system: vips.liedm.lt. Video lectures are used not only in distance mode of studies but also in teaching separate modules (e.g. Technological Entrepreneurship). Broadcasting of lectures of management bachelor study programme started in 2014. ViPS system was integrated into Moodle.

- Video conference system. In 2014, the University started to use workplace video conference solution Vidyo (ktu.vidyo.liedm.lt). The system contains more than 800 lectures, seminars, consultations and 270 recordings.
- All the study literature published by the University's publishing house 'Technologija' (over 800 relevant publications) has been prepared in electronic form and is easily accessible to students online. The number of visits to the e-portal ebooks.ktu.lt reached 300,000 in 2014 (compared to 260,000 in 2013).

Green thinking is becoming prevalent in the University. A responsible attitude towards environment, saving resources, waste sorting and conscious lifestyle is spreading. The initiative group 'KTU – a Green University' set up back in 2012 is expanding its activities. The University's community started sorting waste in a coordinated and systematic manner; the system of processes for sorting, collecting and taking away paper was created; educational environmental activities were carried out; initiatives related to introduction of the waste sorting system in KTU dormitories are implemented; programmes aimed at increasing energy efficiency and energy saving are carried out; collection of other secondary waste also started. Around two tonnes of paper waste are separated from the total flow of domestic waste every month. The University's efforts in boosting energy efficiency were recognised and KTU was acknowledged to be among institutions that consume energy in the most rational way. It is intended to expand these activities, for instance, deal with the issue of green waste management.

In 2013, the coordinators of the project 'Green University' organised the first event 'In Green Pace with KTU' aimed at encouraging the University and the city's community to think and act green, consume with greater responsibility and sort waste. A survey 'KTU – a Green University' was conducted and 250 KTU students, teachers and partners participated in it. The survey was aimed at finding out the community's attitude towards the activities of the project 'KTU – a Green University' and its intended results.

Kaunas University of Technology is probably the only university in Lithuania which has the paper sorting system in place in all its buildings and develops further sorting of all types of waste in dormitories. In 2013, the procedure for sorting secondary waste in KTU dormitories was drafted and a set of 121

containers for waste sorting was placed. To encourage students residing in dormitories to be environmentally friendly, a campaign 'The Greenest KTU Dormitory' was started. To promote waste sorting in all the faculties and buildings of the University, 25 boxes for electrical and electronic waste, more than 200 boxes for paper sorting and 155 sets of 'Ekonovus' waste sorting boxes were placed.

The initiative group of the project 'KTU – a Green University' prepared the strategy for promoting the project aimed at raising awareness of the initiative by drafting a newsletter, using different social networks, creating promotional merchandise, etc. From 2013 to 2014, presentations of the project 'KTU – a Green University' were regularly organised in the events for pupils, students, public lectures or international partners where they were informed about the changes introduced by KTU. It is important to note that the project 'KTU – a Green University' was awarded the prize 'The most economical fox' in the competition 'PR foxes 2015' for making the long-term, environmentally-friendly and the most economical initiative public, integrating it into the organisation's common communication and performance strategy and involving the entire University's community in it.

In 2014, a sustainable mobility plan for 'KTU – a Green University' was drafted for the period from 2014 to 2020. It is one of the first plans of this nature where the overall situation was assessed and the measures for sustainable development of transport of the University and Kaunas city were provided.

The University's student organisations were also actively involved in social initiatives. The representation of students from the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture organised a social event, green afternoon 'Eko.Kaunas' aimed at dissemination of information about the importance of saving environment we live in. The KTU hikers' club 'The Oak' and the community of the Faculty of Economics and Management helped forest enterprises to replant and tidy Lithuanian forests. The international organisation 'Best Kaunas' together with KTU students organised 'Green Workshop' dedicated to the Earth Day where items used every day were created from electronic waste, 'Social Erasmus Week' where ESN (Erasmus Student Network) KTU together with international students ran different social campaigns promoting tolerance, kindness and volunteering. Jean Monnet's continuous seminar 'Sustainable Development in the Visions of Development of the European Union' was organi-

sed. A seminar 'Sustainable Regional Development through Promotion of Responsible Small and Medium Enterprises' was also held where presentations were given about corporate social responsibility in Lithuania, networks of responsible business in Li-

thuania, organic products and the University's activities in promoting corporate social responsibility in Lithuania. Every year, the University's community participates in a public environmental clean-up campaign 'Let's Do it'.

4. Anticorruption Activities

Kaunas University of Technology strictly adheres to the principle of integrity and is committed to comply with all laws, including anticorruption laws. The documents governing the University's activities contain general principles of ethics, intolerance to corruption is embedded there and it is emphasised that activities featuring the signs of bribery and corruption shall be considered a severe violation of labour discipline. In order to ensure the implementation of anticorruption activities in the University, risk assessment procedures were performed in the areas where corruption is possible.

With a view of ensuring the implementation and development of anticorruption activities in the University, in the period from 2013 to 2014, the University's

staff participated in different training and seminars related to the area: 'Assessment of Corruption Risk Management' (Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania), 'Corruption Prevention in the Public Sector' (*Žinių centras UAB*), 'Overview of Violation Practice. Prevention of Violations: Public Procurement and Contractual Works' (Central Project Management Agency), 'Drafting and Administration of Construction Works Contracts in Accordance with FIDIC Requirements' (*Mokesčių srąutas UAB*).

It is important to note that the University makes information about intolerance to corruption public, therefore, KTU started publishing information on anticorruption and prevention of corruption on its website.

5. Studies

The study programmes delivered at the University are directly related to the main strategic documents of Lithuania: the Lithuanian Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030' and the National Progress Programme for 2014–2020, including all five programme priorities and three horizontal priorities. The goal 'Increase quality employment of the population' of priority 1 'Education of the society, science and culture' and priority 2 'Active and solidary society' is reflected in the University's general strategy, vision and mission. Priority 3 'Environment favourable for economic growth' and priority 4 'High added-value focussed and integrated economy' are

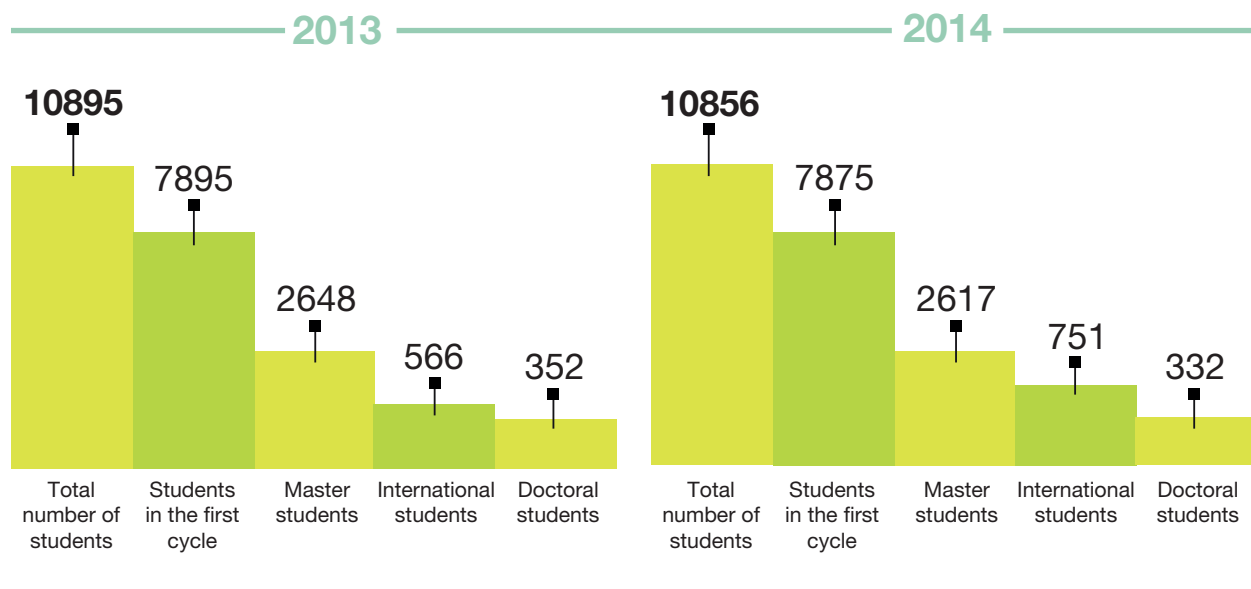
directly linked with the University's long-term mission to train highly skilled engineers-specialists with broad expertise, integrate research and studies, deliver the studies focussed on creativity and development of entrepreneurship. Priority 5 'Advanced public governance matching the society's needs' is linked with specialist politics and public administration studies. Horizontal priorities 'Culture' and 'Regional development' are in line with the University's strategic objectives and mission. Everyone relates the third horizontal priority 'Health' with the University's ambition of breakthrough, new research areas and development of studies based thereon.

The documents of the Bologna Process, the Lithuanian Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030' and the National Progress Programme for 2014–2020 helped to distinguish new strategic highlights: openness of study programmes; student-centred studies where creativity, entrepreneurship and leadership are developed; employment of graduates and possibilities for personal and professional improvement throughout the person's entire career, knowledge creation and closer interrelation between scientific research, teaching and learning at all levels.

The content of intended learning outcomes of study programmes delivered at KTU correspond levels 6, 7 and 8 of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework, the provisions of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, the objectives and goals established in the main documents of the Bologna Process. The learning outcomes of the programmes in the fields of engineering studies are formulated by taking into account ENAEE (EUR-ACE)¹¹ standard, in the fields of informatics and informatics engineering – EQANIE (EUR-inf)¹² standard, in chemistry – ECTN¹³ recommendations. When formulating learning outcomes in study programmes of other fields, a comparative analysis of recommendations by European thematic networks and similar study programmes delivered at other universities is also performed.

Interdisciplinary and interfield education based on the most recent scientific knowledge and discoveries is KTU's priority. Interfield and interdisciplinary studies at the University take place and are developed in several ways: 1) study programmes are interfield in their idea and concept 2) students enrich and customise their study plans (programmes) with modules from other fields, 3) there are more possibilities for selecting minor studies, 4) large-scope project assignments requiring a multifaceted approach towards solution of problems, interfield or interdisciplinary solutions are included into study programmes, 5) projects are implemented in enterprises as a part of the study programme when working in teams composed of students from study programmes belonging to different fields.

The number of students admitted to the University is moderately increasing. This is particularly relevant for state funded places and citizens of third countries. In total, 2,164 persons were admitted (2,063 in 2013), including 1,460 students admitted to state funded places (1,288 in 2013). The number of Lithuanian citizens admitted to places not funded by the state has already dropped. In 2014, 704 such students were admitted into the first cycle. More of them could have been admitted, however, the University is not inclined to adopt a short-sighted approach and admit anyone capable of paying tuition fees. Their readiness for studies is evaluated.



The system for organisation of university studies did not undergo any major changes in 2014. After implementing the main provisions of the upgrading programme adopted by Kaunas University of Technology in 2013, the number of faculties reduced down to

9 (14 previously), the number of departments reduced down to 40 (80 previously), the main programme management functions were handed over from the administration of academic units to independent study programme committees, the need for teacher

positions is established irrespective of the selected didactical system, the declarative teacher workload accounting system was replaced with cumulative accounting system and linked with the system for assessment of students' competences.

In 2014, the initial reform of study programmes was implemented which enabled students from practically all faculties to flexibly customise their study plans, choose studies in two fields in the first cycle (major and minor). The list of modules in delivered studies was considerably reduced; semester projects were introduced; preparations took place for the major reform in the academic year 2015-2016; the responsibility for programme management was handed over to study programme committees. The number of admitted students is growing. The University is in a leading position in terms of the growth in the number of students in state funded places. Its market share in the first cycle amounted to 19 %. 2014 m. atlikta pirminė studijų programų pertvarka, įgalinanti praktiškai visų fakultetų studentus lanksčiai individualizuoti studijų planus, pirmojoje pakopoje pasirinkti dviejų krypčių (pagrindinės ir gretutinės) studijas; gerokai sumažintas vykdomų studijų modulių sąrašas; įvesti semestro projektai; pasirengta dar gilesnei pertvarkai 2015-2016 mokslo metams; programų valdymo svoris perkeltas studijų programų komitetams. Priimamų studijuoti studentų skaičius auga, pagal valstybės finansuojamas vietas augame sparčiausiai, pasiekėme 19 proc. universitetų rinkos pirmojoje pakopoje.

The University devotes a lot of attention to feedback. In each semester and after it, e-surveys of students are performed and round table discussions about the quality of study programmes and modules, as well as teachers' work take place. They help to improve study quality right away, be more objective in teachers' performance appraisal and their selection during competitions for employment. In 2014, students' participation in surveys increased by nearly 80%, compared to 2013. It is important to note that QUESTE-SI accreditation¹ took place at Kaunas University of Technology and according to its evaluation KTU and the Institute of Environmental Engineering received the best evaluation.

Apart from formal education, the University also participates in non-formal adult education by organising and delivering courses, seminars and licence awarding non-formal education programmes. To

fulfil its mission, KTU organises non-formal education studies and provides different teaching and consultation services intended for retraining, improving of acquired qualification; organises scientific practical conferences aimed at acquisition of new knowledge and competences that are necessary in the new era.

In 2014, the new Erasmus+ programme was launched. The academic year 2013-2014 was transitional as the Life Long Learning Programme (LLP) was replaced with Erasmus+. The exchange of students and teachers with partner universities took place on the basis of previously signed contracts, current contracts were updated and new contracts were concluded in agreement to cooperate in Erasmus+ programme (357 contracts were signed on mobility of persons (students and teachers) with 291 higher education institutions in the EU and other parties to the programme). In the autumn semester of the academic year 2014-2015, first students and teachers went for improvement abroad with the funding of Erasmus+ programme grant.

In 2014, in the course of implementation of the project 'Creation of the system for formalisation of competences acquired in a non-formal manner in higher education institutions – FORMALIS' by the University and other Lithuanian higher education institutions, the description of the procedure for assessment of achievements of non-formal and informal learning and recognition of competences was drafted at Kaunas University of Technology. In 2014, three candidates contacted the University for recognition of their competences. The procedure is in place in all faculties.

The Student Education Centre unites advanced study groups (ASG): young people from any study programme of physical and technological sciences who are talented and willing to achieve exceptional outcomes may join an advanced study group (ASG). ASG students can engage in advanced studies of exact sciences (mathematics, physics, informatics, etc.). They can also study additional selected modules free of charge, participate in ASG seminars and receive material support for their research projects. These students also can publish their articles in the journal 'Ad optimus'. Each member of this group is appointed an academic mentor who helps them to start research in the area of interest as soon as possible. According to ASG students, in this group they not only acquire higher-level knowledge and attend lectures given by excellent teachers but also get acquainted and communicate with interesting and motivated people willing to develop more competences and achieve better results. ASG also

¹ One of the main aims of QUESTE-SI accreditation is to promote the principles of sustainable development in higher technical and engineering education institutions. The accreditation is granted by the networks of European higher education institutions EFMD and ENQHEEI.

provide support to those with learning difficulties, consult students with psychological problems. In 2013, the room of academic support was opened where tutors (teachers and volunteer students) are on duty at all times and they are ready to provide assistance to students with learning difficulties. In 2014, the second room of academic support was opened.

Students and graduates are provided with individual and group career counselling services related to self-cognition, career choice and familiarisation with different professions. Acquisition of career development competences is encouraged. Every year, the number of consultations on career issues grows. In 2014, students were provided with 805 group and individual career consultations by the Career Centre. The supply of career consultations in English for international students is well-developed. A series of lectures 'Workshop on Success' was organised with the participation of external lecturers.

In 2013, the University started introducing a unique comprehensive mentoring programme. It is aimed at creating positive supportive environment for the University's students; developing academic and learning culture within the University; fostering students' potential, improving their academic results and competences; encouraging learners' professional and personal improvement; noticing, encouraging and educating young talents within the

University. The mentoring system was successfully introduced in 2014. All first year students in the first cycle (2164) were appointed initial mentors (151); 92 academic advisers, 67 career mentors and 65 research mentors started working with students of other years; 12,275 meetings of students and mentors were recorded. In 2014, activities of research mentors expanded. In a year, 68 teachers expressed willingness to become research mentors.

The event 'KTU Career Days' organised in the University every year is the largest among all Lithuanian academic institutions. In 2013, the event was attended by 3,500 University students, representatives of around 300 enterprises from all over Lithuania participated in it. More than 100 enterprises and organisations participated in 'KTU Career Days 2014', around 4,000 University students attended it. The KTU Career Centre also initiated meetings with representatives of the Youth Employment Centre of Kaunas Territorial Employment Service. With a view of reducing student unemployment and informing students about the developments in the workplace supply in Lithuania and the European Union, a cooperation contract was concluded between Kaunas Territorial Employment Service and the University's Career Centre October 28th, 2013. The trends of KTU graduates' career and their integration into the labour market are positive, compared to other higher education institutions.

6. Social Partners

A new advisory body to the rector, a Business Council, was established in the University. It submits strategic proposals to the rector on internship placement organisation, content of and demand for study programmes, topics to be analysed in students' papers. It also files proposals to the Ministry of Education and Science and the Government on the structure of the state's order in a routine admission of students on the basis of the study voucher principle.

Social partners (professionals) participate in the activities of the commissions for the defence of final theses/final examinations of study programmes, directly assess graduates' knowledge and com-

petences and submit proposals for improvement of the content of study programmes, final theses and examinations. Engagement of partners into assessment and review of final theses contributes to validity and impartiality of assessment.

Relations between the University and organisations-employers are reinforced by the state's targeted funding allocated in recent years as a tripartite contract between a university, a student and an employer where the employer commits not only to fund 20% of studies but also employ the student after the end of studies is prerequisite. Accordingly, the employer is expected to prepare the student as its potential employee from the very first year, including the internship placement and final thesis.

Thanks to cooperation with the Lithuanian Engineering Industries Association 'Linpra', students can participate in the project 'OPEN – Future Business Team'. Project participants, students and teachers from different faculties studying and working in study programmes of different study areas and fields generated and developed innovative ideas in the following areas: energy, automatics and robotics; renewable energy sources and mechatronics; electrical transport and electrical devices; electrical lighting and heating; innovations for wellness, comfort and quality of life. The University's students created such prototypes as an electrical gear for bicycles, a

charging point for electrical vehicles, electrical cars and redesign systems, smart tools, a wood burning boiler, a training device. Students with best results spent a week in student entrepreneurship centre 'Demola' in Tampere (Finland).

In 2014, the number and value of contracts concluded between Lithuanian economic entities and the University's researchers under the measure 'Inočekiai LT' increased considerably: in 2014, 133 contracts of this type were signed and 47 in 2013 (the growth rate is 2.8 times), the value of contracts increased as many as 3.3 times in 2014.

7. Research

The University's research and innovation activities are in line with the mission of research and studies enshrined in the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania, fully aligned with the Lithuanian Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030', the National Progress Programme for 2014–2020, the Concept of Creation and Development of Integrated Science, Studies and Business Centres (Valleys), the priorities of smart specialisation in Lithuania: 'Agri-innovation and food technologies', 'Energy efficiency and sustainable environment', 'Inclusive and creative society', 'New production processes, materials and technologies', 'Health technologies and biotechnologies', 'Transport, logistics and ICT'.

The goals that are set for achieving the University's strategic development objective in research are in line with the goals of objective 1.4 'Promote knowledge creation, dissemination and use', objective 4.2. 'Promote business productivity and innovative business development' and objective 6.2. 'Develop high quality cultural services – ensure their diversity, innovativeness, availability and dissemination' of the National Progress Programme.

In implementing the KTU strategy aimed at improving R&D quality, the number of international publications published in recognised foreign scientific publishing houses increased by around 40%; the number of national research projects went up by around 20%, and 10% more income was generated from them compared to 2013. The only application 'Centre of Excellence in Science and Technology

for Healthy Ageing (HEALTH-TECH)' to be financed in Lithuania and coordinated by KTU was drafted under the measure 'Teaming' of the programme 'Horizon 2020' (H 2020). The partners are the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Vilnius University, Lund University (Sweden), VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland (Finland).

In 2014, the number of international publications published in foreign journals indexed in international databases increased by as many as 60% (up to 381 publications), including the increase in the number of articles published in foreign publications with an impact indicator and included in the list of Thomson Reuters Web of Science by more than 10% (up to 237 publications). It is important to note that the number of international publications in social sciences and humanities published in foreign journals indexed in international databases went up by 50%. The increase was the result of the formulation of the strategic objectives and the approval of the new qualification regulations which stipulate that international publications with an impact factor are a criterion for the assessment of social researchers' research performance.

November 14th, 2014, the open-access KTU Science and Technology Centre and Technological Business Incubator which form a part of the Santaka Valley and are among the largest and most modern in the Baltic region were officially opened. Over 150 million LTL were invested in it. The international conference 'Lithuanian Research and Industry 2014: Valleys as a Medium to Innovation Economy'

having received a lot of attention was organised during the opening. The first event at the Santaka Valley, the international conference, was attended by more than 700 research, business and governmental representatives as well as 50 guests from abroad: Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Carlos Moedas, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania Algirdas Butkevičius, Minister of Education and Science Dainius Pavalkis, Minister of Economy Evaldas Gustas, other renowned Lithuanian and foreign politicians, representatives of business and academic world, public figures.

The Santaka Valley was recognised for becoming one of the most important objects in Kaunas shaping the city's image as attractive for business and investments, providing the place for development of start-ups and high-tech enterprises. The award 'Flourishing Kaunas 2014' was granted to the University by taking into consideration the votes of Kaunas city residents received during a public poll. It evidences that the valley project is considered very important and significant for the city by in the society.

Research carried out at the University is in line with the problems identified by the Research Council of Lithuania in 2010 when approving national research programmes that are strategically important for the Lithuanian state and its society. KTU researchers carry out projects under the following national research programmes: 'The State and the Nation: Heritage and Identity', 'Energy of the Future', 'Ecosystems of Lithuania: Climate Change and Impact on a Person', 'Healthy and Safe Food', 'Social Challenges to National Security'.

The internal system for assessment of scientific products is the analysis of the University's scientific products performed in the course of preparation of the University's annual reports. In the report, indicators of the most important scientific publications, scientific project and innovation activities, activities aimed at training researchers are analysed. The funds allocated to the University's research and study units for research/artistic activities are linked with the units' research performance indicators and the amount of allocations received from the state budget on the basis of these indicators. The external evaluation of the University's research/art products is conducted by the Research Council of Lithuania in accordance with the Methodology for Evaluation of Research/Art Works Produced by Research and Higher Education Institutions. According to the data summarised by the Research Council of Lithuania, the University is a strong leader in the area of technological sciences in Lithuania

and is among leaders in in the areas of social and physical sciences.

The analysis of the University's scientific publications shows that the number of international publications in scientific journals published by international publishing houses is growing, however, it is distributed inconsistently according to the University's priority research areas. A relatively small share of co-publications with researchers from other countries shows that the University has to increase the number of researchers and PhD students from other countries.

With a view of finding more possibilities for cooperation with business, the University promotes creation of innovations, development of scientific research and technologies and their adaptation in business sector. In KTU's point of view, only joint capacities of business and research can ensure sustainable development of the University and the whole country which will promote the competitiveness of Lithuania in the area of innovative solutions all over the world.

In order to promote creation of innovative technological solutions and introduction of innovations at the national and international level, in 2014, a contract of joint activities was concluded between Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU) and the Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI). While developing interdisciplinary and interfield research, joint research projects of KTU-LSMU researcher groups were initiated and funded from the institutions' internal funds. Eight research projects of KTU-LSMU researcher groups were funded and they were carried out by 21 KTU researchers and 10 PhD students. The following are the results of projects: 18 joint publications of researchers (accepted for printing or printed), 5 devices and product prototypes.

In order to achieve its objective, the University developed the network of partners, carried our projects that are important for the city, region and the country's economy:

- As many as 194 international and national projects were started or continued, i.e. the increase of 6% compared to the last year. The network of partners was further developed and maintained.
- In 2014, 73 cooperation contracts (the increase of 70% compared to 2013) were concluded with representatives of the Lithuanian business and public sector: *SchmitzCargobullBaltic UAB*, *Mars Lietuva UAB*, etc. It is very important to note that the contracts with one of the fastest growing renewable energy companies *Geco*

Investicijos and Lithuanian electricity transmission system operator *Litgrid* were also concluded on preparation of the feasibility study with regard to connecting power plants using renewable energy sources to high voltage electricity transmission grid by 2030.

- Thirty one bilateral cooperation contracts were concluded with foreign organisations, such as SRI International (Stanford Research Institute), and one of the largest IT companies in the world IBM.
- A seminar ‘Sustainable Renovation of Buildings’ was organised (in cooperation with the National Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland);
- A project ‘Creating Innovative Sustainability Pathways’ was implemented together with foreign partners.

Research in the field of sustainable development accounts for 10% of the total amount of the Uni-

versity’s scientific products. Research covering all areas of sustainable development (environmental protection, economic and social aspects) was carried out at least in 12 out of 27 University’s academic units (the number before the reorganisation in 2013), research partially covering the areas of sustainable development was conducted in 13 units. Their results were published in international scientific journals or introduced in conference presentations.

The University’s mission is to provide research-based studies of international level; create and transfer knowledge and innovative technologies for sustainable development and innovative growth of the country; provide open creative environment that inspires leaders and talented individuals.

The University’s mission is a leading European university where activities are based on knowledge and development and transfer of technologies.