



**KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT
2024 – 2025**

STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT



On behalf of Kaunas University of Technology, I reaffirm our continued commitment to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. At our University, this commitment guides our everyday decisions and actions — shaping how we educate our students, support our employees, conduct research, develop innovations and govern our institution. This approach was further strengthened with the adoption of KTU Strategy 2026-2030, in which sustainability was established as a horizontal strategic principle guiding in all areas of the University's activities – from education, research and innovation to governance and campus development.

We continued to foster University community in which everyone can study and work with dignity, respect and equal opportunities. In 2025, KTU received the highest award in Lithuania's equal opportunities assessment, earning three Equal Opportunities Wings. We expanded training on equality and non-discrimination, maintained the confidential "Pranešk" reporting system for discrimination, harassment, violence and other potential violations of equal opportunities, and continued improving the accessibility of buildings, learning environments and information resources in accordance with universal design principles.

The well-being of our community remains another important priority. Through the "Kaip TU?" employee well-being programme, we addressed physical, emotional, social, professional and financial well-being. Approximately 1,400 employees received supplementary health insurance, while students and staff benefited from expanded psychological support services and initiatives promoting a healthier, more supportive academic environment.

We also strengthened the integration of sustainability into education. Sustainability-related themes are embedded across all first-cycle study programmes. In 2024–2025, students developed product ideas related to innovative solution for sustainable future, including solutions for solar power plant optimization, innovations for climate change, innovative solutions for sustainable food usage and storage. etc.

Our research community continued to advance interdisciplinary research addressing climate change, renewable energy, the circular economy, sustainable cities and clean technologies. At the same time, we updated our open-access regulations and data management guidelines to make research knowledge more transparent, accessible and useful to society.

We recognise that meaningful progress must remain measurable, transparent and open to scrutiny. Therefore, we reaffirm our commitment to embedding the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact into our institutional decisions and daily practices, reporting our progress openly, and working closely with students, employees, public institutions, businesses, civil society organisations and international partners.

Kaunas University of Technology will continue to place people at the centre of technological progress and to use education, research, innovation and collaboration to create lasting value for society and the environment.

Rector Prof. Dr. Eugenijus Valatka

ABOUT KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Kaunas University of Technology (hereinafter – University, KTU) is one of the largest and strongest universities in Lithuania, recognised for its scientific achievements, innovative study programmes, and close collaboration with business and industry.

Since 1922, the University has been educating highly qualified professionals, generating new knowledge, and bringing together the academic community to address the challenges faced by society. Today, KTU is an internationally competitive university that fosters an integrated ecosystem of studies, research, and innovation for a sustainable future and societal well-being.

Over more than a century of operation, the University has educated more than 157,000 graduates whose

knowledge and expertise contribute to the country's progress across a wide range of fields. KTU actively collaborates with hundreds of partner institutions worldwide, promotes international student and staff mobility, conducts joint research projects, and develops strategic partnerships. Through its active participation in national and international research and innovation initiatives, the University contributes to the development and strengthening of an advanced knowledge and innovation ecosystem.

The University's philosophy is reflected in its motto, **"The Human Side of Technology"**, emphasising that people, their needs, and the value created for society are at the heart of every innovation.

UNIVERSITY VALUES COMPASS



Social responsibility is an integral part of KTU's identity and operations. It is reflected in high-quality and accessible education, research that addresses societal challenges, responsible innovation, commitment to the well-being of the University community, the promotion of equal opportunities, and the sustainable use of resources. Guided by its core values, the University strives to create long-term value for society while contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Lithuania and abroad.

The University's activities are based on the core values of **responsibility, professionalism, innovation, and community**. These values shape KTU's organisational culture, as well as its approach to education, research, innovation, and engagement with society.

Responsibility encourages consideration of the long-term impact of decisions on people, the environment, and future generations. **Professionalism** encourages

the University community's commitment to the highest standards of academic quality, ethics, and integrity. **Innovation** inspires the search for new solutions to the complex challenges of the modern world, while **community** strengthens an open, inclusive, and partnership-based academic community.

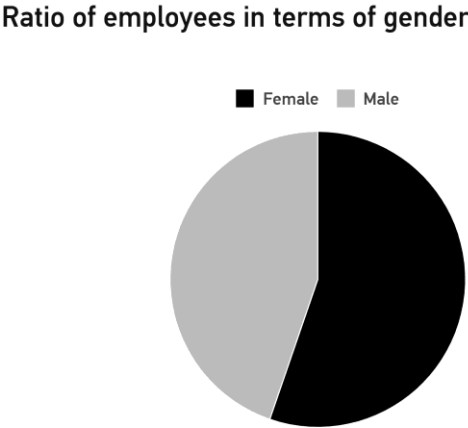
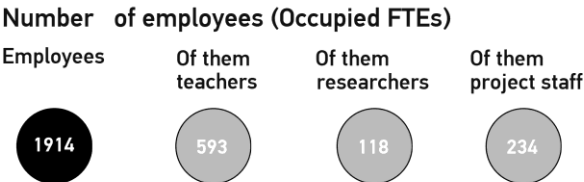
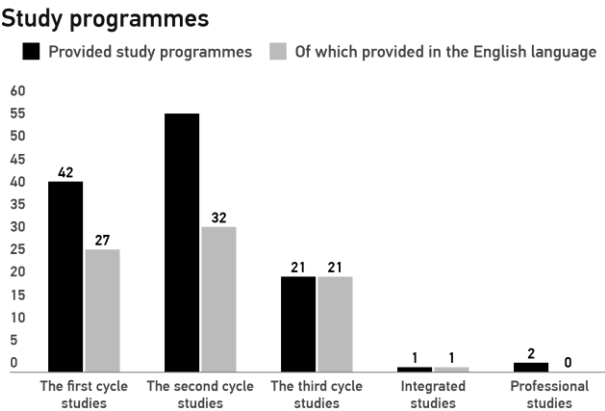
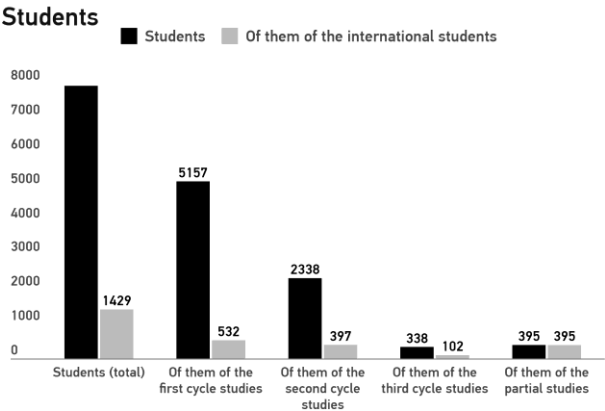
By developing future-oriented competencies, expanding lifelong learning opportunities, and promoting access to higher education, KTU contributes to building a progressive and inclusive society. Through research and innovation, the University develops solutions in energy, health, digital transformation, security, and other fields that are essential for societal resilience and sustainable development. At the same time, it particularly focuses on community well-being, equal opportunities, diversity, and creating an environment where everyone can grow, innovate, and realise their full potential.

In the University's strategy, sustainability is established as a cross-cutting principle integrated into education, research, innovation, and institutional governance. Consequently, KTU's contribution to sustainable development extends far beyond individual initiatives. It is embedded in the University's everyday academic activities through the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the education of responsible citizens, and the engagement of diverse stakeholder groups in pursuing shared goals. In this way, the University consistently contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) and creates long-term value for society.

This Social Responsibility Report presents the University's key achievements, initiatives, and results for 2024–2025, demonstrating KTU's commitment to creating a positive impact on people, society, and the environment. The report illustrates how the University's values are reflected in its daily activities and how they contribute to creating long-term value and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals..

FACTS AND FIGURES



TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT



Kaunas University of Technology conducts its activities according to the **Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact**, covering the areas of human rights,

labour, environmental protection, and anti-corruption. These principles are integral to the University's identity and guide its operations across all areas of activity.



Human Rights

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights within their sphere of influence.
- Principle 2: Businesses should ensure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.



Labour

- Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.
- Principle 4: Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.
- Principle 5: Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labour.
- Principle 6: Businesses should uphold the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.



Anti-Corruption

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.



Environment

- Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.
- Principle 8: Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.
- Principle 9: Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Throughout this report, each area of activity is linked to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, highlighting the University's direct and indirect contributions. This approach provides a comprehensive understanding of KTU's impact by demonstrating its primary contributions, as well as its

broader role in advancing the global sustainable development agenda.

Recognising that the SDGs are interconnected and that progress in one area often supports progress in others, the University's activities are assessed from a systemic perspective, taking into account their **social, economic, environmental, and governance impacts**.

KTU'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE OPERATIONS



KTU views sustainability as a responsibility to create long-term value for society by balancing academic excellence, environmental stewardship, and social impact. This commitment is reflected in the education of responsible professionals, the development of research-based solutions, and the University's contribution to strengthening society's capacity to address today's complex global challenges.

The University's activities in this area are guided by the principles of the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other international commitments. Their implementation is coordinated by the Working Group for the Implementation of the Sustainability Guidelines, which ensures the consistent integration

of sustainability principles across all areas of the University's activities.

KTU and other Baltic circular economy leaders in 2024 signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) at the Nordic Circular Economy Summit in Helsinki, launching a **Baltic Circular Economy Network** to advance the region's circular economy transition.

KTU's commitment to sustainability is also embedded at the strategic level. In the [KTU Strategy 2026–2030](#), approved in 2025, sustainability is defined as a cross-cutting principle integrated into education, research, innovation, infrastructure development, and institutional governance. This strategic approach aims to ensure the creation of long-term value and promote a holistic approach to the University's development.

International Commitments and Partnerships

KTU actively participates in international initiatives and networks that promote the implementation of the principles of sustainable development, environmental responsibility, and social responsibility. The University is a member of:

- [United Nations Global Compact \(UN Global Compact\)](#)
- [Higher Education Sustainability Initiative \(HESI\)](#)
- [Copernicus Alliance](#)
- [Baltic University Programme \(BUP\)](#)
- [European Consortium of Innovative Universities \(ECIU\)](#)
- [European University Association \(EUA\)](#)
- [European University Continuing Education Network \(eucen\)](#)
- [European Society for Engineering Education \(SEFI\)](#)
- [Partner of the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability \(GUPES\)](#)
- [Lithuanian Responsible Business Association \(LAVA\)](#)
- [Digital Education Council \(DEC\)](#)
- [SGroup – Universities in Europe](#)
- [WindEurope](#)
- [Network of Excellence for University Cities \(NEUC\)](#)

Quality of Education and International Recognition

One of KTU's most significant achievements in 2024–2025 was the prestigious **AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)** accreditation for its study programmes in business, management, and economics. In addition, the University's study programmes were awarded several internationally recognised quality labels, including the

EMT (European Master's in Translation) label, the **ASIIN EQAS-Food Label**, **CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)** accreditation, and **ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants)** accreditation. This recognition further strengthens the University's competitiveness and international reputation.

Sustainability Assessment in International Rankings

KTU actively participates in international sustainability rankings that assess universities' contributions to the achievement of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Between 2022 and 2025, the University improved its position in the **Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings**, advancing from the **801–1000** band to the **401–600** band among more than **2,300** participating universities worldwide. KTU achieved its strongest performance in **SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy**,

SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, **SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**, **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities**, and **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**.

In the **QS Sustainability Rankings**, KTU improved from **586th place in 2024** to **531st place in 2025**. The University ranked among the **top 25% of the world's most sustainable universities**, with its strongest performance in the areas of **Environmental Sustainability and Governance**.

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE



KTU's governance is based on the principles of transparency, accountability, academic integrity, and stakeholder engagement. The implementation of these principles supports responsible decision-

making, strengthens the trust of the University community, and creates the conditions for the University's sustainable development.

Academic Integrity

On 11 December 2024, KTU Senate approved **KTU Code of Academic Ethics**, establishing the principles

of academic integrity, transparency, respect, equality, non-discrimination, and responsibility that guide the

entire University community. The Code promotes ethical conduct in education, research, and the workplace, respect for human rights and diversity, social responsibility, academic freedom, and the responsible use of the University's resources.

Compliance with the Code is monitored by the **Board of Academic Ethics**, thereby fostering an organisational culture built on trust, integrity, and mutual respect.

Transparent and Inclusive Governance

KTU's institutional governance is based on the principles of transparency, accountability, responsible decision-making, and stakeholder engagement. The University is committed to maintaining an active dialogue with the academic community, students, alumni, business and industry partners, public sector institutions, non-governmental organisations, local communities, and other stakeholders, incorporating their needs and expectations into strategic planning, education, research, innovation, and infrastructure development.

The **University Council** serves as the University's collegial governing body and includes representatives of the academic community, students, and society. This governance structure ensures balanced stakeholder representation while promoting transparency and accountability in decision-making. The **Senate**, as the collegial body responsible for academic affairs, operates according to the principles of equality among its members, transparency, collegial decision-making, and academic freedom.

Stakeholder engagement is carried out through the University's governing bodies, as well as the Students' Association, working groups, partnership networks, joint projects, consultations, stakeholder feedback mechanisms, and a wide range of community initiatives. This collaborative approach supports better-informed decision-making, strengthens trust in the University, and contributes to the development of an integrated ecosystem of education, research, and innovation, where knowledge is transformed into tangible societal impact.

To ensure open, transparent, and accountable governance, the decisions and annual reports of the University Council, the Senate's annual activity reports, financial statements, annual reports, and other key institutional information are published on the University's website. This allows members of the University community, partners, and the wider public to review the University's decisions, performance, and use of resources, thereby reinforcing trust in the institution and supporting the implementation of the principles of responsible governance.

Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

In 2025, KTU updated its **Gender Equality Policy**, integrating the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) into the University's organisational culture and its generic competency framework. The

policy supports the consistent application of equal opportunity principles across education, employment, and professional development.

Open Science

KTU implements an **Open Science Policy** to ensure the accessibility of research results, scholarly publications, and research data, promote transparency in research, and maximise the societal impact of science. At KTU, Open Science is understood as the responsible creation and sharing of

knowledge, enabling the wider use of research outcomes in education, business, the public sector, and society.

In 2025, the University updated its **Regulations on Open Access to Scientific Publications and**

Research Data and developed **Guidelines for Data Management Plans**. These documents were prepared according to the **UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science**, the regulations of the **Research Council of Lithuania** governing open access to research and experimental development results, and other relevant national and international open access policies.

These measures strengthen the quality, accountability, and international visibility of research, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and facilitate the broader application of scientific knowledge in addressing societal challenges.

Internal Control and Risk Management

KTU's internal control system supports the responsible use of resources, effective oversight of operational processes, and the timely identification and management of risks. The system is governed by the University's **Internal Control Policy and Operational Risk Management Procedure**, which defines the key principles, responsibilities, and procedures for managing operational, financial, legal, and reputational risks.

The effectiveness of the internal control system is regularly assessed by independent experts, using the national methodology for internal control evaluation. The system enhances the University's organisational resilience and strengthens stakeholder confidence in its governance.

Anti-Corruption and Transparency

To ensure transparent and ethical operations, the University implements a comprehensive set of anti-corruption measures, including corruption risk assessments, monitoring of public and private interest declarations, implementation of the University's gifts policy, whistleblower protection mechanisms, anti-corruption awareness and training for the University

community, and the investigation of reports regarding potential misconduct.

The University's resilience to corruption is assessed regularly, and the internal control system is monitored continuously, to ensure the effectiveness of corruption prevention measures.

HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION



KTU is committed to fostering an open, respectful, and inclusive academic environment where the individual differences, abilities, potential, and contributions of every member of the University community are recognised and valued. Guided by the principles of the **European Charter for Researchers**, the **Magna**

Charta Universitatum, the **Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania**, and the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**, the University safeguards the right to work and study in an environment based on respect for human dignity, equal opportunities, and non-discrimination.

Fair Recruitment and Equal Opportunities

KTU applies transparent, objective, and competency-based recruitment and performance evaluation procedures, ensuring equal opportunities for all candidates seeking employment at the University. The implementation of the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is coordinated by the independent **Equal Opportunities and Violence Prevention Committee**.

In 2025, the University conducted the **Equal Opportunities Benchmark** assessment, which evaluated employees' experiences and identified areas for further improvement. The findings served as the basis for developing the **KTU Gender Equality Plan 2026–2030**, aimed at further strengthening an

inclusive, respectful, and equal opportunities environment across the University.

In 2025, Kaunas University of Technology received the highest award from the **Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson of Lithuania**—the **three Equal Opportunity Wings**. The assessment considered the University's equal opportunities measures, employee training, discrimination prevention mechanisms, and the systematic integration of equality principles into institutional practices. This recognition confirms KTU's continuous commitment to fostering an inclusive, diverse, and equitable organisational culture and consistent implementation of the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

A Safe and Respectful Environment

KTU operates an anonymous reporting system, **"Pranešk" ("Report It")**, which allows employees, students, and job applicants to confidentially report cases of discrimination, harassment, violence, or other violations of equal opportunities. All reports are handled according to the principles of confidentiality, impartiality, and respect for human rights, ensuring an

appropriate response to reported incidents and supporting their prevention.

The system also promotes the resolution of conflicts through both formal procedures and alternative, amicable approaches, thereby contributing to a safe, respectful, and inclusive University environment.

Inclusive Organisational Culture and Employee Integration

In 2025, the University further strengthened its culture of equality, diversity, and inclusion by providing online training for managers and employees on equality and non-discrimination. In particular, it focused on the integration of new employees through the launch of

the **"Newcomers' Breakfast"** initiative, designed to foster engagement, encourage collaboration across organisational departments, and facilitate professional networking. The opening event brought together **22 newly recruited employees**.

Raising Awareness of Diversity and Inclusion

In 2025, the University organised the training programme **"How Can We Challenge Unconscious Bias?"** for the University community. The training aimed to increase employees' and managers' awareness of the impact of unconscious bias on everyday decision-making, interpersonal interactions, and the workplace.

Participants explored practical approaches to recognising unconscious bias, reducing the risk of discrimination, and fostering a respectful, inclusive organisational culture based on equal opportunities. The initiative contributed to strengthening employees' competencies in the areas of equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).

Applying the Principles of Universal Design

KTU applies the principles of **Universal Design** to ensure that its learning and working environments, information resources, and physical infrastructure are accessible to all members of the University community, regardless of age, disability, health condition, or individual needs.

The University continuously improves the accessibility of its infrastructure by installing lifts and platform lifts, adapting learning spaces, and ensuring that the study process and learning resources are accessible to students with individual learning needs.

KTU also applies the principles of accessible content creation, provides access to specialised learning equipment, and offers individual support to students and employees. Through these measures, the University creates an environment in which every member of the community can fully participate in academic, professional, and community life.

The University's website was continuously improved to enhance digital accessibility, content quality, and search engine optimisation, resulting in KTU receiving the "Evaluated for EN 301 549 Accessibility Conformance" certification.

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT



Employee Well-being

In 2025, KTU launched the University's employee well-being programme, "**Kaip TU?**", encompassing eight areas of well-being: physical, emotional, financial, social, professional, spiritual, intellectual, and environmental. The programme aims to foster a healthy and supportive working environment, strengthen the sense of community, promote employee engagement, and reduce the risk of burnout. More than **400 employees** participated in the programme's monthly events.

To support employees' physical and emotional well-being, the University significantly expanded its employee benefits package. In 2025, approximately **1,400 employees** were covered by additional health

insurance. In cooperation with the **Kaunas City Public Health Bureau**, KTU organised the "**Key to a Healthy Heart**" initiative, raising awareness of cardiovascular disease prevention and promoting healthy lifestyle choices.

The range of employee benefits was expanded through the community-driven "**Birthday Leave**" initiative, which grants employees an additional paid day off on their birthday. In 2025, **564 employees** made use of this benefit.

To strengthen employees' social well-being and provide more support during significant life events, the University increased financial assistance for employees in cases of childbirth or adoption, illness, and the loss of a close family member.

Work-Life Balance

To help employees better balance their professional and family responsibilities, KTU established family-friendly shared spaces across its administrative and academic departments. These spaces allow employees to work alongside their children while providing young family members with opportunities to play, engage in creative activities, and spend time in a child-friendly environment.

During school holidays, the University also organises activity camps for employees' children, offering educational, creative, sports, and recreational programmes.

These initiatives contribute to the development of a family-friendly organisational culture and enhance employee well-being.

Psychological Support

In 2025, **235 individuals** applied for an initial consultation with a psychologist, compared with **195** in 2024. The total number of psychological consultations increased from **701** in 2024 to **898** in 2025.

The University published five articles and recommendations on student mental health and shared expert insights through social media and other media channels. It also organised **10 lectures**

covering topics such as stress and conflict management, time management, the inclusion of international students, and successful adaptation to university life.

In addition, two lectures were organised for the University community on topics related to individual needs:

- "Mental Health Challenges in Higher Education: What Should Teachers Know?"

- "Introduction to Information Accessibility: How to Create Content Accessible to Everyone".

Employees were also provided with access to the "Pasikalbėk" online psychological counselling platform.



Spiritual Support

KTU promotes the holistic well-being of its community, encompassing not only physical and emotional health but also spiritual well-being. In 2025, the Chapel of Jesus the Perfected was opened in the University's XI Building (Studentų St. 50–122), complementing the

existing Chapel and Prayer House of Our Lady of Šiluva in the University's III Building (Laisvės Ave. 13–106), both of which are open to all members of the academic community.

Community Engagement and Active Living

In 2024 and 2025, the University supported **6 artistic ensembles**, bringing together 308 active members who participated in more than 120 performances, events, and other artistic activities throughout each year.

In 2025, the University was home to 6 artistic ensembles with 308 active members and **18 student organisations with 963 members**, including **825 KTU students**. Together, these organisations implemented more than **180 events and initiatives** for both the communities of the University and Kaunas City, promoting student engagement, volunteering, leadership, and community spirit.

KTU continued to expand opportunities for sport and recreational activities. During 2025, the **KTU ACTIVATed Gym** welcomed **4,494 students and employees**, hosted **711 group fitness sessions**, and organised **844 recreational sports activities** involving **1,222 students**. In addition, the University organised **eight sporting events**, bringing together **737 participants** from both the University and the wider community.

The University launched the "**Active Breaks**" initiative, encouraging employees to incorporate more physical activity into their working day and take care of their

physical and mental well-being. Regular short online exercise sessions help establish healthy habits, reduce the negative effects of sedentary work, and support employee well-being.

Further initiatives included organised hiking trips, lunchtime ice-skating sessions, participation in the **National Mobility Challenge**, and the **Strava Summer Steps Challenge**. These activities promoted physical activity, healthy lifestyles, and a stronger sense of community.

In 2025, KTU joined the "**International Outdoor Office Day**" initiative for the first time, promoting the well-being of students and employees, sustainable lifestyles, and strengthening connection with the natural environment. Originating as a community-led initiative, the project encouraged staff and students on 12th June to relocate selected daily activities, consultations, and meetings outdoors, creating a healthier, more creative and collaborative working and learning environment.

Building Employee Resilience and Emergency Preparedness

In 2025, KTU systematically strengthened employees' professional, leadership, and artificial intelligence competencies while particularly focusing on developing civil protection and crisis management capabilities.

In cooperation with the **Lithuanian Red Cross**, the University organised **10 training sessions** attended by **210 employees**, who acquired practical knowledge on emergency preparedness, public safety, crisis response, and first aid. KTU became the **first university in Lithuania** to implement this type of comprehensive training programme.

In collaboration with the Lithuanian Armed Forces, the University organised practical emergency

management exercises involving nearly 100 members of the University community.

KTU organised the public lecture "**Resilience in Crisis Situations**", which explored behavioural responses of individuals and communities during emergencies, the importance of psychological resilience, and ways of supporting others in times of crisis. The lecture was a part of a broader training programme designed to strengthen the KTU community's competencies in civil protection, crisis management, and emergency preparedness.

These initiatives enhanced the University's preparedness for potential crises and promoted responsible action during emergencies.

Safe and Community-Oriented Infrastructure

During 2024–2025, KTU continued investing in the development of a safer, more comfortable, and community-oriented campus environment.

To strengthen the University's capacity to respond to medical emergencies, additional **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)** were installed across the campus. These investments in health and safety infrastructure form an important part of the University's commitment to creating a safe, resilient, and community-focused environment.

The University continued to invest in community-building and improving the quality of its working and learning environments. New shared community

spaces were established across University departments, creating additional opportunities for informal interaction, collaboration, and community engagement.

Furthermore, the Students' Association premises were renovated, student residential spaces were modernised, new bicycle parking facilities were installed, building façades and engineering systems were upgraded, and automatic ventilation and air-conditioning systems were installed. These improvements contribute to a more comfortable, sustainable, and future-ready University infrastructure.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY



Community Engagement and Support Initiatives

Cake Day

KTU community actively participates in social responsibility and charitable initiatives. **Cake Day** has become an annual tradition that brings together academic and administrative departments, as well as student organisations, in a joint fundraising campaign.

Over the past two years, funds raised during Cake Day have been donated to the **Rugutė Charity and Support Foundation**, which provides assistance to children with cancer. Community support has grown steadily, increasing from **EUR 2,604** in 2023 to **EUR 3,771** in 2024 and **EUR 5,182** in 2025, reflecting the University's growing spirit of solidarity and community engagement.

KTU Cookbook and "Bakes for Kindness"

In 2025, the initiative was complemented by publishing the University's first community cookbook, **KTU Flavours**, featuring favourite recipes shared by members of the University community. Beyond

celebrating creativity and community spirit, the cookbook inspired the **"Bakes for Kindness"** social initiative, organised in December 2025.

As part of the initiative, cookbook contributors and the wider University community prepared and donated baked goods for residents of the **Kaunas Generations Home**. The collected treats were distributed to the **Family Support Centre**, the **Residential Care Unit for Older Adults**, and the **Day Centre for Older People**.

Supporting Animal Welfare

To mark **World Animal Day** in 2025, KTU organised a community donation campaign encouraging employees and students to contribute pet food and other essential supplies for dogs and cats. Donations for cats were delivered to the **Kauno katės** animal welfare organisation, while dog food was transported to shelters supporting animals in Ukraine. Logistics and delivery were coordinated by the KTU student organisation **Baltai Juoda**.

Initiatives Promoting Social Awareness and Inclusion

Promoting Mental Health and Emotional Well-being

In 2025, members of the University community joined the national **"Green Light for Life"** campaign organised by **Jaunimo linija (Youth Line)**, raising awareness of mental health and emotional well-being while encouraging open dialogue on these important issues.

Encouraging Women and Girls in Science

In 2024 and 2025, KTU actively participated in the celebration of the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, promoting the participation of women and girls in science, technology, engineering,

and mathematics (STEM) and increasing their visibility within the scientific community.

The University organised dedicated events, highlighted the achievements of women researchers, and held educational initiatives and discussions promoting gender equality in science while challenging stereotypes related to career choices.

Denim Day

In 2025, KTU community joined the international **Denim Day** campaign to raise awareness of sexual violence and express solidarity with survivors. By

participating in the initiative, the University reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a safe, respectful, and equitable environment and maintaining a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of violence and discrimination.

World Down Syndrome Day

The University community in 2024 and 2025 actively participated in initiatives marking **World Down Syndrome Day**, expressing support for people with Down syndrome while promoting public awareness, inclusion, and respect for diversity.

Sustainable Consumption and Environmental Initiatives

GOOD(s)2SHARE

To encourage sustainable consumption and strengthen community engagement, KTU launched the **GOOD(s)2SHARE** initiative in its student dormitories. The initiative encourages departing residents to leave reusable items for incoming students, promoting reuse, reducing waste, and strengthening a culture of mutual support within the University community.

Earth Day Initiatives

In 2024–2025, KTU celebrated **Earth Day** through a range of activities promoting environmental awareness and sustainability.

In 2024, the University community and the wider public were invited to participate in open discussions on the relationship between people and the environment, sustainability challenges, and future perspectives.

In 2025, KTU organised a community swap event promoting the reuse of goods and responsible consumption. The initiative raised **EUR 1,000** for the

Ancient Woods Foundation, enabling the protection of **1,000 m²** of old-growth forest. The University also hosted a public discussion on climate change, sustainable mobility, and other sustainable development topics.

Urban Beekeeping Initiative

An initiative led by **Dr Ginas Čižauskas** at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Design resulted in the installation of beehives on campus as part of an urban beekeeping project.

The initiative contributes to biodiversity conservation and environmental awareness while providing an educational and creative space for students. The beehives inspire design and engineering projects ranging from innovative hive designs to beekeeping-related products, such as specialised protective clothing. They also offer students, staff, and visitors an opportunity to better understand the importance of bees for ecosystems and urban biodiversity.

Student Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility

Student organisations and clubs play a vital role in advancing social responsibility and sustainability initiatives at KTU by engaging the community in volunteering, civic action, environmental projects, and other activities that benefit society.

The student organisation **Baltai Juoda** brings together socially active young people who implement civic

initiatives, support vulnerable groups, and contribute to projects that generate positive social impact.

The **Ažuolas Hiking Club** promotes responsible engagement with nature, environmental awareness, and active lifestyles while fostering appreciation of the natural environment, community spirit, and sustainable living.

Empowering Staff to Contribute to the SDGs

KTU offers a free **Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)** entitled "**Empowering University Staff to Contribute to the SDGs**", developed as part of the international SDG-iLevel project.

The course provides University staff with knowledge and practical tools to integrate sustainable development principles into their daily professional activities and contribute more effectively to the achievement of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

The programme also supports the development of sustainability competencies, strengthens collaboration, promotes responsible approaches to environmental and social challenges, and contributes to employees' psychological well-being and effective teamwork. Participants who successfully complete the course receive an internationally recognised certificate.

DEVELOPING COMPETENCIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Developing Sustainability Competencies through Education

KTU offers study programmes designed to develop sustainability competencies and address contemporary sustainability challenges. These programmes are characterised by interdisciplinarity, innovation, and the application of advanced technologies in fields such as environmental protection, energy, urban development, design, and social innovation.

Sustainability-Focused Study Programmes

KTU offers a diverse portfolio of study programmes aimed at developing sustainability competencies and preparing specialists capable of addressing contemporary environmental, social, and technological challenges through interdisciplinary and innovation-driven approaches.

The University's sustainability-oriented study portfolio includes the master's programmes **Sustainable Management and Production, Environmental Engineering, Renewable Energy, and Sustainable and Energy-Efficient Buildings**, as well as the bachelor's programmes **Renewable Energy and Industrial Design Engineering**.

In 2025, KTU further expanded its sustainability-related educational offer by introducing several new master's programmes: **Design for a Sustainable Future, Sustainable and Smart Urban Environment, Advanced Materials for Engineering, Contemporary Heritage in Architecture and Urbanism, and Social Innovation and Research**. These programmes address emerging societal needs related to the green transition, sustainable urban development, advanced

technologies, cultural heritage preservation, and social innovation.

The University also offers the professional studies programme **Subject Pedagogy Studies**, contributing to the preparation of future educators capable of integrating sustainability principles into teaching and learning processes.

At the doctoral level, KTU delivers a joint **PhD programme in Environmental Engineering** in cooperation with **Vytautas Magnus University** and the Lithuanian Energy Institute. The programme is distinguished by its interdisciplinary approach and strong emphasis on advanced environmental engineering technologies with direct applications in environmental protection and sustainable development.

These study programmes are characterised by interdisciplinarity, innovation, and a strong focus on addressing challenges related to climate change, the energy transition, circular economy, sustainable urban development, and social transformation. Through them, KTU contributes to educating professionals and researchers capable of leading the green and digital transitions and supporting the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum

Sustainability is embedded across all first-cycle (bachelor's) study programmes and is typically addressed in at least three to four different study modules.

For example, in the bachelor's programme **Food Science and Technology**, sustainability topics are incorporated into modules such as **Introduction to Food Science and Technology, Sustainable Food Systems, Future Food and Technologies**, and **Packaging Materials and Technologies**.

Sustainability is also extensively integrated into master's programmes, where it is typically covered in at least two study modules. For example, the **Energy Technologies and Economics** programme includes modules such as **Social Responsibility, Energy Systems, Efficient Energy Use, Environmental Protection in Energy Production, Occupational Safety and Health, and Sustainable Energy**.

All bachelor's students can enrol in the elective **Sustainable Development** module. The course promotes global, critical, and reflective thinking, helping students better understand social, economic, cultural, and environmental contexts while fostering an ethical mindset based in the principles of sustainable development. On average, approximately **400 students** complete this module each year.

At the master's level, students may also choose from the **MA+ Competency Framework**, selecting either a **disciplinary expert** or an **interdisciplinary expert** pathway. The MA+ portfolio includes competencies directly related to the Sustainable Development Goals, such as **Challenge-Based Innovation** and **Circular Design Strategies**.

Integrating Interdisciplinary Projects and Challenge-Based Learning

Students enrolled in bachelor's programmes can take the [Product Development Project](#) module, which brings together researchers, social partners, and interdisciplinary student teams to address real-world challenges and develop innovative products and services with societal value.

The module is currently available in 37 bachelor's programmes, compared with **32 programmes** in the 2022–2023 academic year. Students work on real products and services, while project topics are aligned with the University's annual strategic theme, reflecting global, European Union, regional, city, and institutional priorities.

During the **2024–2025 academic year**, students developed product innovation projects inspired by the innovative solutions for a sustainable future. Project topics included Employees' Personal Sustainability Coach, Circular FoodGen: Circular food generation, Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Food Use and Storage, Use of Sustainable Materials in Modern Furniture Manufacturing, Sustainability Initiatives Website for Employees, Solar Power Plant Optimization, Long-Term Sustainability Challenges of Hydrogen-Powered Vehicles, Innovations for Climate Change: Interdisciplinary Solutions to Global Challenges, A Personalized Educational Solution on the Impact of Microplastics on the Environment. KTU offers the **Development of Challenge-Based Innovation** study module to third- and fourth-year bachelor's students as well as master's students.

Within this module, KTU students collaborate with peers from other universities to address real-life challenges related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Challenges are proposed by **Kaunas City Municipality**, Lithuanian businesses, and non-

governmental organisations. The module is delivered within the framework of the **European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU)**, bringing together **13 European universities** to promote challenge-based, interdisciplinary learning.



Quality, Accessibility and Internationalisation of Studies

KTU is committed to enabling every student to realise their full potential by continuously enhancing the quality of education, improving access to higher education, and expanding international opportunities. These efforts are reflected in the University's ability to attract high-achieving applicants and an increasing number of international students, as well as in initiatives aimed at improving the accessibility of studies and promoting student mobility.

Attractiveness of Studies and Academic Excellence

KTU has maintained its position as one of Lithuania's leading universities for high-achieving applicants.

In 2024, the University ranked **third** among Lithuanian universities in admissions to state-funded study places and **second** in the number of admitted students who achieved at least one **maximum score (100 points)** in the national secondary school graduation examinations, with **126 students** meeting this criterion. In 2025, KTU retained **second place** with 525 students according to this indicator.

The University also ranked first among Lithuania's comprehensive universities in terms of the proportion of study programmes selected as applicants' **first-choice preference—84,6%** in 2024 and **92%** in 2025.

These results demonstrate the high quality of KTU's study programmes, and the strong confidence prospective students place in the University.

KTU strengthened its international attractiveness. The number of admitted international students increased from **329** in 2024 to **366** in 2025, while demand remained consistently strong, with **2,361 applications** submitted by international applicants in 2025.

Improving Access to Higher Education and Promoting Inclusion

KTU continuously improves access to higher education and promotes inclusion by introducing new admission pathways and creating broader opportunities for applicants from diverse social backgrounds.

In 2025, the University introduced **early admission** to bachelor's programmes for the first time. Of the **1,470 students** admitted that year, **492** were enrolled through this admission procedure.

During 2024–2025, KTU further strengthened its academic support system for first-cycle (bachelor's) students, particularly focusing on first-year student integration and academic success. Preparatory

courses for **six national secondary school graduation examinations** were organised for prospective students, while **five foundation courses** in key academic subjects were provided for first-year students, including a newly introduced in-person mathematics course designed for students requiring additional academic support.

In addition, all first-year students were invited to participate in preparatory courses at the beginning of their studies, tailored to their prior academic preparation and individual learning needs.

Since 2024, KTU has also implemented a **second admissions pathway** designed to improve access to higher education for underrepresented social groups and applicants with significant professional experience. The number of students admitted through this pathway increased from **13** in 2024 to **23** in 2025.

To widen access to higher education and support talented students from around the world, the University implements a range of international scholarship and financial support initiatives.

In 2024, **four Belarusian citizens** were admitted to KTU with state financial support. In cooperation with the **Education Loan Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia** and the **Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in the Republic of Korea**, **four students from Mongolia** commenced bachelor's studies at KTU.

During the same year, in cooperation with the **Education Exchanges Support Foundation**, **16 students from Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and**

Azerbaijan were admitted to second-cycle (master's) programmes, receiving state-funded tuition and monthly scholarships.

In addition, KTU awarded **20 full tuition fee scholarships** to talented students from **North Macedonia, Syria, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, the United States, India, Ukraine, South Africa, Palestine, and Georgia**.

In 2025, again in cooperation with the **Education Exchanges Support Foundation**, **11 students from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan** enrolled in master's programmes at KTU, receiving state support covering tuition fees and monthly scholarships.

These initiatives contribute to widening access to higher education, attracting talented students from diverse regions of the world, strengthening social inclusion, and expanding international cooperation.

International Mobility

In line with the **Erasmus+ Inclusion and Diversity Strategy**, KTU provides additional financial support to students from socially disadvantaged and underrepresented groups to ensure equal opportunities for participation in international mobility.

In 2024, this support was awarded to **23 students** (22 KTU students and one student from a partner university), while in 2025, **29 KTU students** received additional funding. These measures enabled more students to participate in international study and traineeship mobility opportunities.

Strengthening Academic Staff Competencies

KTU continuously invests in the professional development of its academic staff by promoting lifelong learning, encouraging educational innovation, and supporting the exchange of good teaching practices. These initiatives contribute to enhancing the quality of education and fostering a student-centred learning environment.

Academic Staff Professional Development

During 2024–2025, KTU organised a series of **Teaching Cafés**, providing a platform for sharing good practice

and strengthening the professional competencies of the academic community.

In 2024, the University held **six Teaching Café sessions**, covering topics such as funding opportunities for educational projects, the development of digital learning modules, the ethical use of artificial intelligence in teaching and research, and other aspects of improving the study process.

In 2025, **seven additional sessions** were organised, focusing on the practical application of artificial intelligence in higher education, fostering creativity, inclusive teaching practices, and the integration of gamification into the learning process.

A key role in supporting academic staff development is played by the **EDU_Lab Centre for Teaching and Learning Excellence**, which creates an environment that encourages teachers to continuously enhance their pedagogical competencies, adopt innovative teaching methods, and implement student-centred learning approaches. The Centre supports the University in maintaining high educational quality while responding proactively to developments in higher education and the evolving needs of the labour market.

Promoting Educational Innovation

During 2024–2025, KTU funded a range of educational development initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of studies and promoting innovation in teaching and learning.

In 2024, the University funded **four educational development projects** focused on improving study

programmes, strengthening educational quality, and enhancing learning environments.

In 2025, funding was awarded to **11 academic staff projects** dedicated to introducing innovations into study modules and improving the student learning experience, aiming to develop competencies relevant to future careers.

New Academic Staff Development Programme

During 2024–2025, KTU continued implementing its **New Academic Staff Development Programme**, designed to strengthen the pedagogical and didactic competencies of newly appointed teachers.

In 2024, **12 early-career teachers** successfully completed the programme, while **23 newly appointed teachers and doctoral candidates** joined the initiative.

In 2025, the programme began to be delivered in both **Lithuanian and English**, increasing its accessibility for the international academic community. During the same year, an additional **33 teachers and doctoral candidates** who had recently started their academic careers at KTU enrolled in the programme.



Career Development and Employability

KTU is committed to equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience needed to successfully navigate an evolving labour market. To achieve this, the University provides comprehensive career guidance services, talent development programmes, close collaboration with employers, and initiatives that recognise learning and competencies acquired beyond the formal curriculum.

Strengthening Career Planning and Employability Skills

During 2024–2025, KTU expanded its career planning and counselling services for both students and external stakeholders, including employers, aiming to strengthen career management competencies and support successful transitions into professional careers.

These initiatives contribute to widening access to career opportunities, promoting lifelong learning, improving graduate employability, and strengthening the University's contribution to sustainable economic and social development, while directly supporting **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth** and **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities**.

In 2024, the **WANTed** career development programme provided **112 individual career consultations**, representing a **23% increase** compared with 2023. In 2025, the number of consultations increased to **123**—a further **10% increase** over the previous year. During the same year, the University organised **34 career seminars and lectures**, attracting more than **1,600 participants**.

More than **500 first-year students** attended the lecture "**Your Career Starts in Your First Year**", while additional workshops focused on presenting international study and mobility experiences effectively in a curriculum vitae (CV).

KTU organised **four career planning lectures** for upper secondary school students and one professional development session for school teachers on career guidance and counselling.

Since 2025, KTU has collaborated with the **Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT)** to produce the podcast "**Towards Your Career**", featuring experts

from a wide range of professional fields who share their career journeys, discuss professional challenges, and reflect on lessons learned throughout their careers. The podcast helps students and the wider public gain a deeper understanding of different professions, labour market trends, and career opportunities.

WANTed Career Days

In 2024 and 2025, KTU organised **KTU WANTed Career Days**, one of the largest career development events in the Baltic States, bringing together students, pupils, and employers from Lithuania and abroad.

During the reporting period, the event hosted **more than 120 companies and organisations**, offering approximately **860 internship and employment opportunities**, while attracting around **10,000 visitors annually**.

KTU WANTed Career Days provide students with valuable opportunities to connect directly with employers, gain insights into labour market expectations, and make informed career decisions. The event strengthens students' employability, promotes purposeful career planning, and reinforces the connection between higher education and professional practice.

Talent Development Programmes

KTU's talent development programmes—**GIFTed**, **GIFTed Masters**, **SKILLED FinTech**, and **SKILLED AI**—provide students with opportunities to develop leadership, professional, and interdisciplinary competencies while strengthening their connections with business and scientific community.

The programmes combine academic learning with mentoring, practical projects, collaboration with partner organisations, and personalised competency development.

Participation continued to grow during the reporting period, increasing from **183 students** in 2024 to **216 students** in 2025. Through these programmes, talented students accelerate their professional development, gain valuable practical experience, and strengthen their readiness for successful careers in the knowledge economy.

Recognition of Non-Formal Learning and Student Achievement

KTU recognises academic achievement, as well as students' engagement in University life, volunteering, research, civic participation, and other developmental activities.

To support this approach, the University has introduced a **digital badges** system that enables students to document, validate, and showcase the competencies and achievements acquired through a wide range of formal and non-formal learning experiences.

Digital badges are awarded for volunteering, participation in student organisations, independent learning, research activities, knowledge sharing, mentoring programmes, achievements in Olympiads, competitions, and sporting events, as well as other activities that contribute to students' personal and professional development.

The digital badges system encourages active citizenship, social responsibility, lifelong learning, and meaningful participation in University life. At the same time, it enables students to demonstrate labour market-relevant competencies that support both their personal growth and long-term career development.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



KTU's research and innovation activities are focused on developing research-based solutions to address the most pressing societal, economic, and environmental challenges. The University promotes interdisciplinary research, strengthens collaboration

with business, the public sector, and international partners, and contributes to the achievement of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Strategic Research Priorities

KTU concentrates its research activities in several strategic priority areas aligned with European Union, national, and regional research and innovation strategies. Two of these priorities—Technologies for a Sustainable Future and Sustainable Socio-Cultural Development—most comprehensively reflect the University's commitment to developing research-based solutions that address societal, economic, and environmental challenges.

Technologies for a Sustainable Future

This research priority focuses on the development and application of advanced technologies that contribute to climate change mitigation, the energy transition, improved health and well-being, and sustainable industrial development.

Its priority research thematics include:

- Artificial Intelligence and Robotics,
- Biomedical Engineering and Medical Technologies,
- Chemical and Environmental Technologies,
- Diagnostic Technologies,
- Applied Mathematics,
- Electronics and Electrical Engineering,
- Functional Materials and Technologies,
- Information and Communication Technologies,
- Food Systems and Biotechnologies,
- Mechanical and Transportation Engineering,
- Construction Technologies,
- Applied and Medicinal Chemistry,
- Sustainable Energy.

Sustainable Sociocultural Development

This research priority focuses on the transformation of society, organisations, and the public sector, while promoting cultural heritage preservation, creativity, innovation, and social well-being.

Its priority research thematics include:

- Architecture,
- Urban Activities and Cultural Heritage,
- Audiovisual Arts,
- Educational Environments and Technologies,
- Financial Technologies,
- Economic Analytics and Competitiveness,
- Business Models,
- Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship,
- Organisational Development,
- Industrial Design,
- Digital Media and Culture,
- Public Administration.

Interdisciplinary Research and Societal Impact

KTU's research encompasses the fields of engineering, technology, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and the arts. Research conducted across the University's faculties and research institutes addresses a broad range of topics, including sustainable energy, climate change mitigation, environmental protection, the circular economy, advanced manufacturing technologies, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, biomedical and health technologies, sustainable

management, digital transformation, cultural heritage, and many other areas that are essential for sustainable societal development.

Interdisciplinary collaboration with business, the public sector, and international partners enhances the societal impact of the University's research and strengthens its contribution to achieving the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Research Capacity and Scientific Community

Researchers and artists represent one of the University's most valuable strategic assets. KTU is committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and sustainable academic community that brings together early-career researchers, experienced scholars, and artists, encouraging intergenerational collaboration and knowledge exchange. This approach provides a strong foundation for high-quality research, transfer of knowledge, and long-term continuity of academic excellence.

Table 1. Age Distribution of Researchers and Artists

Age group	2022	2023	2024	2025
25-34	18,20%	16,53%	16,30%	18%
35-44	31,80%	31,24%	30,60%	29,30%
45-54	29,50%	31,74%	31,10%	30,70%
55-64	13,70%	12,58%	14,70%	15,10%
65 and over	6,80%	7,91%	7,30%	7,00%

The data indicate that the age profile of KTU's academic staff—including researchers and artists—

has remained stable and well balanced over the reporting period. The University successfully combines the recruitment and development of early-career researchers with the retention of experienced

academics, ensuring generational diversity, effective knowledge transfer, and long-term continuity of research and academic excellence.

Strengthening the Research and Innovation Ecosystem

KTU continuously strengthens its research and innovation ecosystem, creating an environment that enables the development, testing, and implementation of advanced solutions to address major societal, economic, and environmental challenges. Investments in research infrastructure, prototyping capabilities, technology development, and the competencies of early-career researchers enhance the University's capacity to contribute to a sustainable and innovation-driven future.

Developing Early-Career Researchers and Innovation Infrastructure

During 2024–2025, KTU strengthened its innovation and high-tech ecosystem for early-career researchers by expanding opportunities for experiential learning, prototyping, and technology development.

Launched in 2024, **Young Lab** has become a dynamic hub for creativity and innovation, where students and early-career researchers can develop and test innovative solutions while collaborating with businesses, start-ups, and public sector organisations. During its first year of operation, the facility supported **more than 18 prototyping projects**, engaged **over 300 students**, and hosted events and workshops attended by **more than 1,100 participants**.

Students enhanced their practical engineering and technological competencies through the University's **Fab Lab, MakerSpace, and SKILLed Market** workshops, which provide opportunities to experiment, develop prototypes, and apply knowledge acquired during their studies in practical settings.

In 2025, the University's innovation infrastructure was expanded through the establishment of the **KTU Chip Academy**, providing access to advanced semiconductor design technologies developed by global industry leaders, including **Cadence, Synopsys, and Siemens**. The Academy strengthens

Lithuania's technological, research, and innovation capabilities in the semiconductor sector.

Together, these facilities accelerate the transformation of ideas into prototypes and practical solutions, strengthen the preparedness of students and researchers for careers in high-technology industries, and foster closer collaboration between academia, business, and the public sector.

Competence Centres Addressing Sustainability Challenges

KTU's research excellence is concentrated within specialised **Competence Centres**, where researchers, students, and external partners collaborate to develop solutions to pressing technological, environmental, and societal challenges.

The centres focus on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, sustainable energy, the circular economy, and other strategic areas that contribute to the achievement of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** while strengthening Lithuania's innovation capacity and international competitiveness.

The University has established **four Competence Centres**:

[DigiDefence Competence Centre](#)

Operating under the strategic priority "**Secure and Inclusive Digital Society**", the **DigiDefence Competence Centre** strengthens cyber resilience and the protection of personal data by integrating research, innovation, and strategic partnerships to support the development of a secure digital society.

The Centre conducts research and develops solutions in the fields of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence risks, and post-quantum cryptography, helping public authorities, businesses, and society to better prevent, detect, and respond to cyber threats while fostering a long-term culture of cybersecurity.

In 2025, two major agreements supporting the development of **Quantum Communication Infrastructure (QCI)** were signed (**Lat-LitQN** and **PIONIER-Q-SAT**). The University also acquired Lithuania's first quantum computer, **SPINQ Gemini Lab**, and initiated its integration into both research infrastructure and study programmes.

The Centre also contributes to strengthening public sector preparedness for cyber threats by delivering a long-term professional training programme for law enforcement specialists in combating cybercrime.

SmartEcoTech Competence Centre

The **SmartEcoTech Competence Centre** develops and implements innovative solutions in the fields of sustainable energy, the circular economy, and climate-neutral industry.

Its research focuses on bio-based and biodegradable materials, advanced food packaging, green hydrogen production technologies, next-generation energy storage solutions, solar energy technologies, and smart hybrid energy systems.

The Centre's research contributes to reducing dependence on fossil fuels, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and accelerating the transition towards a sustainable, climate-neutral economy.

Centre of Excellence in Technological and Physical Sciences (TiFEC)

The **Centre of Excellence in Technological and Physical Sciences (TiFEC)** conducts internationally competitive research and experimental development in electrical and electronic engineering, energy engineering, thermal engineering, and chemistry.

The Centre brings together researchers, advanced research infrastructure, and strategic partnerships to develop advanced materials, semiconductor technologies, energy solutions, and other high-value technological innovations.

Its activities focus on advancing sustainable energy systems, improving energy efficiency, developing advanced functional materials, and applying these

innovations in next-generation technologies. Researchers at TiFEC develop multifunctional hybrid microchips, innovative materials, and technology prototypes that contribute to the energy transition, technological progress, and Lithuania's international competitiveness.

TiFEC also contributes to the implementation of the **European Green Deal** by developing technologies that support the transition to low-carbon energy systems and more efficient energy management. Its research focuses on reducing energy losses, improving the utilisation of renewable energy sources, and developing advanced energy systems that contribute to environmental sustainability and societal well-being.

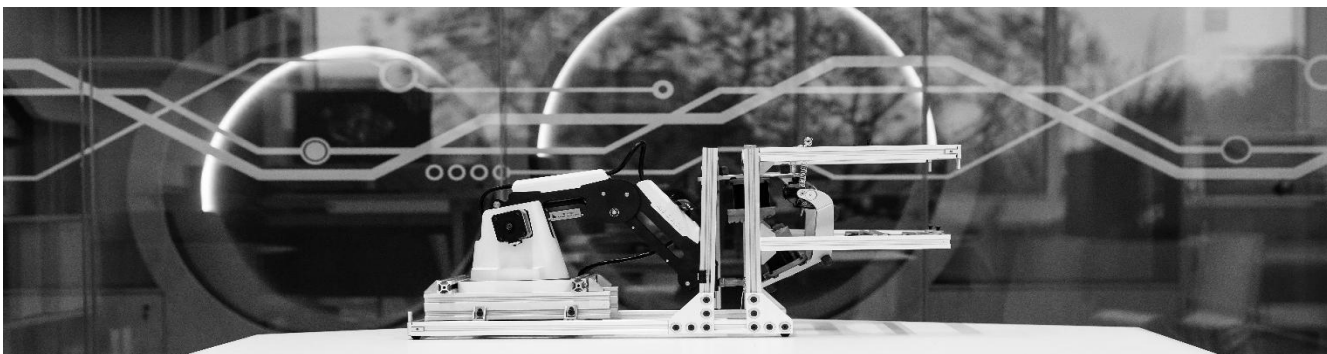
SustAInLivWork – Artificial Intelligence Competence Centre for Sustainable Living and Working

The **Artificial Intelligence Competence Centre for Sustainable Living and Working (SustAInLivWork)** develops and applies artificial intelligence-based research and innovation solutions for industry, energy, healthcare, and transport.

The Centre brings together researchers from **Kaunas University of Technology (KTU)**, **Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VILNIUS TECH)**, **Vytautas Magnus University (VMU)**, and the **Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU)**, in collaboration with international partners including **Tampere University (Finland)** and **Hamburg University of Technology (Germany)**.

Its activities focus on supporting the sustainable transformation of society and industry through the development of new study programmes, professional training initiatives, stronger collaboration with business and the public sector, and the advancement of Lithuania's artificial intelligence ecosystem.

By accelerating the transfer of AI research into practical applications, the Centre strengthens Lithuania's capacity to develop and deploy advanced artificial intelligence solutions in strategically important sectors.



Research Infrastructure for Sustainable Solutions

KTU's research infrastructure provides an environment for developing, testing, and validating innovative solutions that address the most pressing sustainable development challenges. Its laboratories and research facilities support projects in sustainable energy, urban development, the circular economy, design, and public health.

M-Lab Experimental and Prototyping Laboratory Centre

The **M-Lab Experimental and Prototyping Laboratory Centre** brings together **12 thematic laboratories**, integrating diverse research, development, and innovation (RDI) disciplines while fostering effective collaboration between academia and industry.

Research activities at the M-Lab are focused on people: their health, well-being, and the environment in which they live. Through collaboration across disciplines, researchers can test and validate

innovative solutions under real-life conditions, accelerating the development of high-value innovations.

The following laboratories focus specifically on sustainability and sustainable development:

- **City Systems Lab**, developing solutions for sustainable and smart cities;
- **GeoEnergy Lab**, advancing innovations in geoenergy and renewable energy technologies;
- **D-Lab**, promoting user-centred and sustainable industrial design;
- **INDfood**, developing healthy and personalised nutrition solutions.

These laboratories contribute to sustainable urban development, energy transition, the circular economy, and improved public health.

Research Projects and Their Societal Impact

During 2024–2025, KTU implemented numerous national and international research projects addressing climate change mitigation, the circular economy, sustainable energy, health technologies, food systems, smart cities, and societal well-being.

Most of these projects are carried out in collaboration with international partners, businesses, and public sector organisations, thereby enhancing their societal impact and creating greater value for society.

More information on the University's research portfolio is available in the **KTU Research Reports 2024** and [2025](#).

Research Projects Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals

KTU researchers conduct research aimed at improving resource efficiency, developing alternative energy sources, advancing circular economy solutions, addressing environmental and climate challenges, promoting innovation in health and life sciences, strengthening sustainable food systems, developing digital technologies, and fostering social innovation.

Examples of projects contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals include:

- **TextiFuel – Alternative Fuel Production from Textile Waste for Energy-Intensive Industries**
- **B2B – Biochar from Baltic Hemp**
- **Prospects of Green Ammonia for Sustainable Energy Development**

- **Eco-Multi-Comp**
- **ATMODOR**
- **SWEPP**
- **FEAST**

More information about these and other projects is available on the [University's website](#).

Knowledge Transfer, Innovation and Commercialisation

KTU is committed to ensuring that the knowledge, technologies, and innovations created at the University are translated into practical applications that generate value for business, the public sector, and society. Knowledge is transferred through the provision of research, development and innovation (RDI) services, strategic partnerships with external organisations, the commercialisation of intellectual property, and the promotion of technology-based entrepreneurship.

Partnerships with Business and Other Organisations

In 2025, KTU signed **85 new cooperation agreements and 111 new sponsorship agreements** with companies and organisations.

During the year, **63%** of all organisations that had cooperation agreements with the University actively participated in KTU activities by establishing scholarships, offering internships, contributing to events and joint initiatives, delivering guest lectures, and engaging in other collaborative activities. On average, each active partner participated in **five** different University activities.

In 2025, **38 new or previously inactive organisations** became actively involved in cooperation with KTU.

These partnerships strengthen the links between research, education, and professional practice while facilitating the effective transfer of knowledge and innovation.

Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Services

During 2024–2025, KTU actively provided **research, development and innovation (RDI)** services to organisations in Lithuania and abroad.

The University's services were delivered to partners in **15–17 countries**, with the total value of RDI services increasing from **EUR 3.77 million** in 2024 to **EUR 4.22 million** in 2025.

KTU's scientific expertise was applied to addressing technological and operational challenges faced by businesses, public sector organisations, and other partners, supporting the development of new products, processes, and innovative solutions.

Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer

During 2024–2025, KTU continued to strengthen the protection and practical application of its research results.

Over the reporting period, the University was granted 20 patents in 2024, and 25 patents in 2025 in Lithuania and abroad.

In 2024, income generated from the commercialisation of intellectual property, the transfer of intellectual property rights, and licensing activities amounted to **EUR 261.4 thousand**.

These achievements demonstrate the commercial potential of innovations developed at KTU and their successful transfer to the marketplace.

Start-up Development and Entrepreneurship

KTU's early-stage start-up incubator, **Startup Space**, continues to foster innovation and technology entrepreneurship.

In 2024, the incubator supported the establishment of **five new companies** in the fields of information technologies and health technologies. In 2025, **two additional information technology start-ups** were established.

The Startup Space provides students, researchers, and aspiring entrepreneurs with opportunities to develop innovative ideas, evaluate their market

potential, and build high-value, knowledge-based businesses.

Citizen Science and Public Engagement in Research

KTU promotes public participation in research through the development of citizen science initiatives, creating opportunities for diverse groups within society to contribute to the generation of knowledge.

These activities strengthen the dialogue between science and society, enhance scientific literacy, and encourage collaborative approaches to addressing societal challenges.

Strengthening Collaboration Between the University and Society through Citizen Science

To systematically expand citizen science activities, KTU established the **Citizen Science Centre** as part of the project "**Development of Citizen Science Activities at KTU**".

The Centre encourages public participation throughout the research process, from identifying

research topics and collecting and analysing data to disseminating research findings.

The University has also developed **Guidelines for the Initiation and Implementation of Citizen Science Projects**, promoting open, inclusive, and socially responsive research practices.

Citizen Science Projects

KTU implements citizen science initiatives through national and international projects addressing civic participation, social innovation, education, environmental protection, and sustainability.

During 2024–2025, the University participated in a range of [citizen science projects](#) that engaged members of the public in research related to civic engagement, social innovation, education, environmental sustainability, and other issues important to society.

CREATING KNOWLEDGE AND SUSTAINABLE VALUE FOR SOCIETY



KTU's contributions to society extend beyond education and research outcomes and include the active dissemination of knowledge, competencies, and innovation. The University creates long-term value

through science communication, lifelong learning, collaboration with the education community, alumni engagement, and a wide range of initiatives that are open to society.

Science Communication and Public Engagement with Innovation

KTU is committed to ensuring that the knowledge and innovations developed at the University are accessible to society. Through science communication initiatives, public events, and the presentation of technological innovations to diverse audiences, the University promotes public understanding of scientific achievements, technological progress, and their contribution to societal development.

Science Communication

In 2024, KTU launched the science communication podcast "**Mokslas paprastai**", which quickly became one of the most listened-to podcasts on the **Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT)** platform.

The first season premiered in May 2024, while the second season was released in autumn 2025 in collaboration with **LRT** and the **Mokslo sala (Science Island) Science and Innovation Centre**. Video content was added in the new season, making it accessible through the [LRT Radio Library](#), the [KTU YouTube channel](#), and [Spotify](#).

The initiative improves public access to scientific knowledge, encourages interest in science, and strengthens dialogue between researchers and society.

"Technorama" Innovation Exhibition

For more than two decades, KTU's **Technorama Innovation Exhibition** has served as one of Lithuania's leading platforms for technological innovation, bringing together students, researchers, start-ups, businesses, investors, and the wider public.

In 2024, the exhibition showcased approximately **70 technological innovations** developed by **more than 300 students, researchers, and start-up representatives**, attracting about **1,500 visitors**.

In 2025, approximately **300 innovators** presented **more than 75 innovative projects**, which were explored by around **1,500 visitors**.

Technorama provides innovators with an opportunity to present their solutions to businesses, investors, and the public, promotes the dissemination of research

and innovation, and facilitates the development of new partnerships and collaboration opportunities.

Applying Scientific Knowledge to Meet Societal and National Needs

The knowledge and technological solutions developed at KTU are applied to address pressing societal and national challenges. Through collaboration with public sector institutions, municipalities, and other partners, the University contributes to the development of innovative solutions in national security, urban development, resource management, and other fields of strategic importance to society.

Collaboration in the Field of National Security

In 2025, KTU contributed to the first training programme for **Lithuanian Armed Forces unmanned aerial systems (UAS) technicians and maintenance specialists** by providing the required infrastructure and technological facilities at the **M-Lab and Young Lab** innovation spaces.

During the programme, military personnel acquired practical competencies in drone assembly, maintenance, 3D modelling, and additive manufacturing, strengthening the technological capabilities of the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

This initiative demonstrates how the University's research expertise and advanced infrastructure contribute to strengthening national security while supporting the development of specialised competencies within public institutions.

Digital Twins for Sustainable Urban Development

In 2022, KTU developed a **digital twin of the City of Kaunas**—a three-dimensional digital model of part of the city integrating spatial data, historical heritage assets, urban development projects, and real-time information collected through sensor networks. The digital twin serves as an advanced tool for energy management, urban planning, and evidence-based decision-making.

The platform enables the simulation of alternative urban development scenarios, supports more efficient resource management, and contributes to achieving climate neutrality objectives. At the same time, it serves as a valuable research and educational

platform, providing students and researchers with opportunities to develop, test, and validate innovative solutions for sustainable and smart cities..



Lifelong Learning and Skills Development

KTU is committed to lifelong learning by providing diverse opportunities for individuals to continuously update their knowledge and develop professional competencies throughout their careers. The University's lifelong learning portfolio includes programmes in technology, management, leadership, and engineering, as well as training designed to support sustainability and the green transition.

Lifelong Learning: Developing Competencies for Sustainability and the Green Transition

As part of its lifelong learning mission, KTU offers professional development programmes in information technology and artificial intelligence, leadership and professional development, business and management, economics, engineering and technology, and educational innovation.

A significant share of these programmes focus specifically on sustainability and the **green transition**, targeting professionals from business, the public sector, and educational institutions.

Each year, **more than 1,300 participants** enrol in the University's lifelong learning programmes.

The training portfolio includes topics such as sustainable construction, the practical application of **ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance)** principles in business, certification and professional training for building energy performance assessors, developing a culture of sustainability within

educational communities, implementing sustainability principles in manufacturing companies, and designing circular business models.

During 2024–2025, KTU expanded its non-formal education and lifelong learning offer by strengthening adult education through national learning platforms.

In 2024, the University developed and registered **33 new non-formal adult education programmes**, which were made available through Lithuania's national adult learning platform [Kursuok](#). A total of **158 participants**, whose studies were funded by the state, successfully completed KTU training programmes.

In 2025, the University's lifelong learning portfolio expanded further, with **52 new programmes** developed, **39** of which were made available on the **Kursuok** platform.

These lifelong learning initiatives support continuous skills development, help individuals adapt to technological and economic change, and strengthen society's preparedness for both the digital and green transitions.

Collaboration with Schools and Developing Future Talent

KTU actively encourages pupils to explore science, higher education, and future career opportunities

through a wide range of non-formal education, career guidance, and mentoring initiatives.

One such initiative is the **KTU Children's University**, an educational programme designed for pupils in **grades 6–9**. Through hands-on activities, participants explore scientific topics, become familiar with university studies, and gain insights into a variety of career pathways. In 2024, **137 school pupils** participated in the programme. In 2025, there were **110 participating pupils**.

The University also runs the **GUIDed Junior** mentoring programme, which connects pupils with KTU student mentors. The programme helps young people become familiar with university life, academic opportunities, and the student experience while building confidence in making informed decisions about their future education and careers.

Through the **Guide for Schools** initiative (Gidas mokykloms), KTU offers lectures, laboratory activities, campus visits, guided tours, creative workshops, and other educational events for pupils, teachers, and parents. These activities strengthen cooperation between the University and school communities while introducing participants to contemporary scientific achievements, academic disciplines, and career opportunities. The initiative also promotes interest in technology, engineering, and other STEM fields.

Overall, **1,359 school pupils** participated in KTU's non-formal education programmes in **2025**, while **1,051 pupils** took part in **2024**.

Alumni Network

KTU alumni community brings together **more than 170,000 graduates** who actively contribute to strengthening the University community, supporting students' professional development, and fostering collaboration with business and society.

During 2024–2025, **membership in the KTU Alumni Association increased by 29%**. The Association expanded its mentoring initiatives, engaging KTU alumni as career mentors (**101 mentors in 2024 and 75 mentors in 2025**), organised the traditional "Alumni Invite Alumni" networking events, implemented the "**9 Faculties – 9 Months**" programme, and delivered a range of other initiatives designed to strengthen alumni engagement and community ties.

KTU alumni shared their professional expertise with students, contributed to the development of career competencies, and supported innovation initiatives and emerging talent. The Alumni Association also strengthened cooperation with business organisations, regional alumni communities, and international partners, promoting a culture of philanthropy, social responsibility, and lifelong engagement with the University.



SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



Sustainable Infrastructure Development

In 2025, KTU continued its strategic investments in infrastructure modernisation, creating a contemporary, energy-efficient environment that supports high-quality research and education.

In October, reconstruction began on the building at **Studentų St. 48A**, which will become the home of the **Artificial Intelligence Competence Centre for Sustainable Living and Working (SustAIInLivWork)**. Renovation also began in dormitory No. 3 at **Studentų St. 69**, focusing on improving the quality of student accommodation, increasing energy efficiency, and ensuring a more sustainable operation of the building.

Modernisation works were also launched in the building located at **Tunelio St. 60**. Upon completion, the building will achieve **Energy Performance Certificate Class B** and will house the **Competence Centre for Smart and Climate-Neutral Manufacturing Processes, Materials and Technologies**.

These investments strengthen the University's research capacity, improve the quality of learning and living environments, and reduce the environmental impact of KTU's infrastructure.

Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation

KTU is committed to reducing its environmental footprint by improving energy efficiency, expanding the use of renewable energy sources, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These initiatives contribute directly to the University's long-term climate neutrality objectives.

Renewable Energy Generation

KTU continues to increase the amount of renewable energy generated on campus.

In 2025, the University produced **2.18 million kWh** of renewable energy—the highest annual output recorded over the past four years and **almost 80% more** than in 2022, when total renewable energy generation amounted to **1.22 million kWh**.

Despite the University's extensive infrastructure, total annual energy consumption remained stable between **2022 and 2025**, at approximately **23–24 million kWh** per year.

In 2025, renewable energy accounted for approximately **9.2%** of the University's total energy consumption.

The growing share of renewable energy contributes to reducing dependence on fossil fuels, strengthening the University's energy resilience, and advancing its climate neutrality goals.

Reducing the University's Carbon Footprint

KTU's investments in energy efficiency and infrastructure modernisation have significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Between **2019 and 2025**, the University's annual reduction in **CO₂ emissions** increased more than sixfold—from **318 tonnes** to almost **1,956 tonnes** per year.

These achievements demonstrate the long-term impact of KTU's investments in sustainable infrastructure and its commitment to reducing the environmental footprint of its operations.

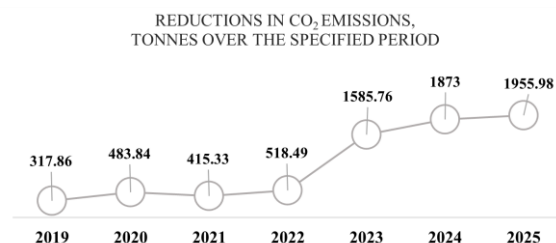


Fig 1. Reductions in CO2 emmisions

The most significant progress was recorded from **2023 onwards**, following the implementation of large-scale investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems. In 2025, the University achieved its **highest annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions** over the entire reporting period.

Cultural Heritage and Its Sustainable Preservation

KTU regards cultural heritage as an integral part of a sustainable environment and societal identity. Through its research expertise and advanced technologies, the University contributes to the preservation, study, digitalisation, and accessibility of cultural heritage.

Cultural Heritage Preservation and Digitalisation

KTU researchers are developing **digital twins of Lithuanian architectural heritage in Chicago** to preserve and showcase culturally significant Lithuanian heritage sites located outside the country.

In cooperation with the **Lithuanian Department of Cultural Heritage**, the University also carries out architectural surveys of neglected immovable cultural heritage sites using photogrammetry and other digital technologies. These methods enable the accurate documentation and long-term preservation of

information about heritage assets that are at risk of deterioration.

The University also invests directly in the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage buildings. One notable example is the renovation of **Building A of the Faculty of Chemical Technology**, an important example of **Kaunas Modernist architecture**. The renovation preserves the building's architectural heritage while ensuring that it continues to provide a modern and functional environment for research and education.

By combining advanced digital technologies with heritage conservation practices, KTU contributes to improving public access to cultural heritage, ensuring its long-term preservation, and promoting its sustainable use for the benefit of society.

Responsible Resource Management

KTU is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its operations through the responsible use of natural resources and the integration of sustainability principles into its everyday activities. This is achieved through a combination of organisational measures and technological solutions that promote more efficient resource use.

Green Public Procurement

KTU incorporates **green public procurement** principles into its purchasing processes to minimise environmental impacts and contribute to the objectives of the **European Green Deal**.

Procurement activities are carried out according to national legislation, methodological guidance issued by the **Public Procurement Office**, and established environmental criteria, which are integrated throughout the procurement cycle, from identifying organisational needs to contract implementation.

This approach promotes responsible resource use, encourages the procurement of sustainable products and services, and supports the integration of sustainability requirements throughout the University's supply chain.

Responsible Water Management

To improve the efficient use of natural resources and reduce its environmental footprint, KTU implements a range of responsible water management measures.

The University has installed **12 drinking water refill stations** across academic, administrative, and recreational buildings, encouraging the use of reusable water bottles and helping to reduce single-use plastic waste.

In addition, water-saving aerators are being installed in the University's buildings. These systems reduce both drinking water consumption and wastewater generation by **up to 40%**, contributing to more efficient use of natural resources.

These initiatives promote more responsible resource management and support the University's broader sustainability objectives.

Sustainable and Publicly Accessible Campus

KTU is committed to ensuring that its campus infrastructure is accessible to both the University community and society at large, creating opportunities for learning, professional development, and participation in educational and cultural activities.

The **KTU Campus Library** serves as a multifunctional centre for learning, collaboration, and community events, welcoming all visitors. It provides study and reading spaces, access to library collections, and opportunities to participate in training sessions, public events, guided tours, and a variety of other community-focused activities. Besides providing access to information resources, the library fosters knowledge exchange, cultural engagement, and community building.

The Student Campus is equipped with **32 electric vehicle charging stations**, two e-scooter rental points, bicycle parking facilities adjacent to University buildings, and bicycle and scooter storage areas in student dormitories.

In 2025, KTU continued to improve its green spaces, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and outdoor lighting. The University's sports facilities were also modernised, including the renovation of football and basketball courts. These investments promote sustainable mobility, enhance the quality of the campus environment, and create opportunities for active recreation and physical activity for both the University community and the wider public, who have access to the Student Campus facilities.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



KTU integrates the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** across all areas of its activities—including education, research, innovation, infrastructure development, community well-being, and institutional governance—thereby creating long-term value for society.

The University's most significant contributions are made towards **SDGs 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 17**. However, through its diverse activities, KTU contributes either directly or indirectly to the achievement of all **17 Sustainable Development Goals**.

The University's impact is inherently interconnected. Investments in education strengthen innovation and economic competitiveness; research contributes to

addressing climate change and other societal challenges; community engagement promotes equality, inclusion, and social cohesion; and strategic partnerships increase the value created for the region and society.

In the [KTU Strategy 2026–2030](#), sustainability has been established as a **cross-cutting strategic principle**, embedded across all areas of the University's activities and strategic priorities. Through this commitment, KTU reaffirms its determination to continue strengthening its contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals while building a resilient, responsible, inclusive, innovative, and climate-neutral future.

