

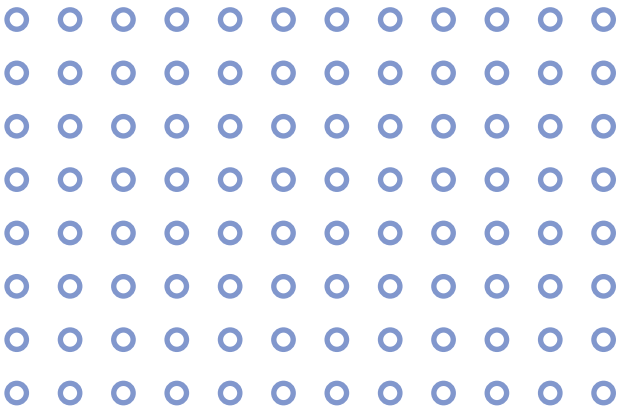


# **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT**



**2018-2019**

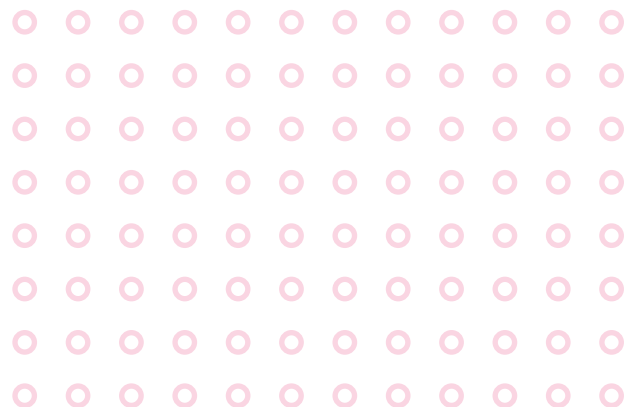




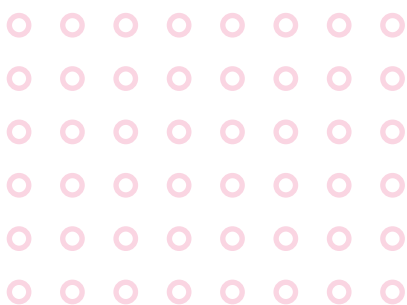
KTU Social Responsibility Report 2018–2019 aims to present the University's achievements and assess its activities of social responsibility. It is revealed applying the system of three indicators merged in the comparative analysis: the United Nations' Global Compact Principles, the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Reporting Initiative.

While preparing KTU Social Responsibility Report 2018–2019, the system of indicators was divided into the following main components: cooperation with interested parties, economic responsibility, social responsibility, environmental responsibility, integration of sustainable development principles in the study programmes provided by KTU.

The system of indicators composed in preparation of KTU Social Responsibility Report allows assessing the process of monitoring of the University's sustainable development, and application of sustainable development principles.



# COOPERATION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES



One of the sustainable development criteria is cooperation with local and international companies, organisations, public institutions and institutions of higher education. KTU cooperation with external companies reduces the gap between research and other activities. Contracts with business companies, organisations, public and private institutions indicate research integration in business and business integration in research. Cooperation between business community and University is mutually beneficial – companies receive the best research-based solutions and University can apply theoretical knowledge in practice.

KTU signed 288 cooperation agreements in 2018–2019: 137 in 2018 and 151 in 2019. The number of signed agreements increased significantly during the analysed period in comparison to 2017 (51 cooperation agreements signed). In 2018–2019, KTU continued the cooperation with the organisations that had previously signed agreements: 277 such contracts in 2018 and 327 in 2019.



Cooperation agreements were signed with Lithuanian and foreign educational institutions, state authorities, public institutions, business companies, associations and organisations operating in other areas. The cooperation agreements were made with Lithuanian and foreign universities and schools of higher education: 34 in 2018 and 44 in 2019.

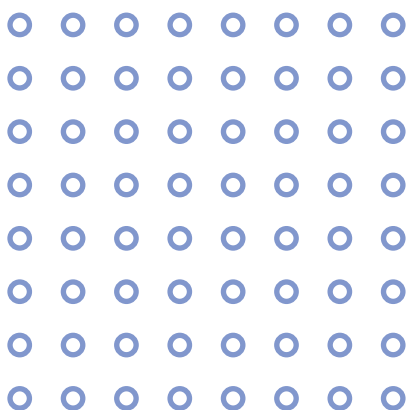
Joint projects strengthen cooperation between the parties, they initiate joint projects, solve local and global problems.

It is important to note that in 2018—2019, KTU sign the agreements with particularly “green” organisations: in 2018 – an agreement with UAB “Ekokonsultacijos” – environmental consulting company, aiming to create a long-term sustainable reputation in the areas of environmental protection, pollution prevention and development and implementation of innovative environmental solutions. In the same year, an agreement was signed with the company “IOCO Packaging”, producer of flexographic printing packages introducing the best production practices including efficient use of raw materials and minimising of the production’s environmental impact. In 2019, an agreement was signed with UAB “EMP Recycling” – waste recycling company specialising in the collection and recycling of secondary raw materials (electrical equipment and electronics, catalyst and cable scrap, non-ferrous and ferrous metals).

The University is creating a modern, universal waste recycling system with the help of these companies.



# ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY



KTU motivates students' pro-activeness during studies and their social activities. Changes in the system of scholarship award provide a possibility of studies not only to the students with very good and excellent academic performance, but also to the socially active ones. Procedure for award of talent scholarship depends on the average of the last semester and additional points are provided according to the significance of activities. Writing of scientific papers, participation in scientific conferences, University's promotion during social events, etc. are classified as additional activities. Twice per year KTU announces competitions for Parton scholarships and Alumnus scholarships.

Stipulated procedure for scholarship award motivates KTU students to focus on their academic achievements as well as actively cooperate with local and international communities.

In 2018, KTU awarded 2270 scholarships to students' total sum of the scholarships was 3 228 620.95 Eur. In 2019, this sum increased making 4 460 610.31 Eur, and they were awarded to 2201 students. In 2019, the average scholarship increased by 42.5% in comparison to 2018.

While analysing KTU economic responsibility, it is important to assess the indirect economic impact at the national and international levels. Aiming to mitigate economic and social exclusion, the University provides financial support to socially disadvantaged and disabled students.



According to the provided data, the number of the one-off social scholarships awarded to KTU students was increasing each year: in 2018 – 40 such scholarships awarded to students, in 2019 – 51; the amount of scholarships has also increased: in 2018 – total amount was 17 670 Eur, in 2019 – 26 852.6 Eur.

The increasing trend is also noticed while providing support to KTU students with disabilities: in 2018, scholarships were awarded to 23 disabled students (total of 15 333.46 Eur), while in 2019, such support was provided to 26 KTU students (total of 18 302.5 Eur).



## PROJECTS

KTU implemented a number of projects in various areas in 2018–2019. Indicators of three systems indicate the importance to assess the number of newly created work places and job positions – UN Global Compact MA.7, UN 1 SDG, GRI 203-2 indicators, infrastructure upgrades – UN Global Compact LA, UN 8 SDG, GRI 203-1 indicators, green procurement – UN Global Compact, UN 12 SDG, GRI 308-1 indicators.



## NUMBER OF NEWLY CREATED JOB WORK PLACES/JOB POSITIONS

While analysing the integration of sustainable development in KTU, it is important to assess the University's contribution to the issue of poverty reduction. The University creates additional work places by employing new employees, in cooperation with other institutions and implementing the outsourced projects: KTU employed 624 employees in 2018, 34 of them were foreign citizens, the number of the employed persons slightly decreased in 2019 as there were 598 new employees; however, the number of foreign citizens employed by the University increased – 52.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

The improvement of infrastructure includes the improvement of the infrastructure itself as well as other important aspects: additionally created work places or support for local business at the level of the city or country, attracted investments, improved environmental indicator. The projects implemented by KTU are focused on the reduction of environmental impact. The projects implemented within 2018-2019 that have a direct impact on the increased energy efficiency:

Façade insulation works in the buildings at Studentų St. 48 and Studentų St. 50. Total area of the insulated buildings – 34 350 m<sup>2</sup>. The investment sum – 1 million Eur.

Installation of renewable energy sources in KTU Chamber IX. The project included the creation of a hybrid energy generation system in the buildings at Studentų St. 48 and Studentų St. 48 A; the system combines the technical equipment generating various types of energy, such as solar energy (380 kW), 500 m<sup>3</sup> thermal energy storage, 170kW heat pump and waste thermal energy collection system. The investment sum – 0.97 million Eur.

10 000 uneconomic filament lamps at the University were replaced by efficient LED lamps. 700 old uneconomic lamps replaced by efficient LED lamps. The investment sum – 30 thousand Eur.

4 energy efficiency audits were carried out in the buildings managed by the University.



A long-term development vision was prepared for KTU Campus during the analysed period; it stipulated the infrastructure's long-term sustainable development strategy at the University's Student Campus. The vision includes the stages of the renovation of buildings or territory as well as the guidelines and sustainable mobility solutions within the managed territories (bicycles, pedestrian paths, recreation areas, parking solutions and transportation connections).





## GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides the following definition of green procurement: “[...] public procurement when contracting authority includes at least minimum environmental criteria in the conditions of public procurement, choosing goods, services and works (hereinafter referred to as product) not only according to their price and quality, but also their reduced environmental impact in one, several or all stages of the product’s life cycle, thus prompting to create more environmentally friendly products.” KTU also conducts green procurement which is based not only on financial advantages (competition’s winner is the supplier proposing the lowest price), but also on environmental aspect – University promotes and supports environmentally friendly business, and prompts business to search for new solutions that are environmentally friendly.

Total amount of “green” procurement conducted by KTU in 2018–2019 is 10 28274.48 Eur. It was the procurement of office paper, stationery and cleaning services in KTU chambers and dormitories.



# SUMMARY



University is an institution of higher education; therefore, the largest part of income is from the state subsidies, and income from the outsourced research makes a sufficiently small part of income. Several tasks of 8 SDG goal – suitable employment and economic growth – are focused on the growth of gross domestic product (GDP). KTU can use the possibilities of the outsourced research more, create more work places, involve students in research activities and create a better GDP of Lithuania. KTU partially implements 8 SDG goal, because it is responsible of its employees' working environment and safety. Although there is no data on accidents collected, all employees get acquainted with the rules of occupational safety. KTU is also concerned about the students' occupation and offers extracurricular activities.

KTU partially implements 9 SDG goal – industry, innovation and infrastructure – partially. Projects for infrastructure improvement are prepared and implemented each year. KTU students are encouraged to relate their course papers with activities of an actual company. As mentioned above, KTU could maintain a more active cooperation with industrial companies, propose innovative solutions and create sustainable society for a more efficient implementation of 8 SDG goal.

University employs persons according to the specified criteria, for example, level of competence, field of scientific research, but not according to their gender or age. Remuneration depends on the volume of works and tasks. Therefore, KTU insures social and economic equality. KTU implements several tasks for achievement of 12 SDG goal – responsible consumption and production. One of the examples – successfully implemented green procurement.

University does not record certain data; therefore it is rather difficult to assess its economic responsibility with consideration to various areas. However, present data indicates that the principles of economic responsibility are rather successfully introduced in KTU activities.



# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



The indicators in the area of social responsibility indicate the principles used by the University for employment, its responsibility for the entire KTU community, insurance of safe working conditions and environment. Social responsibility includes the aspect of discrimination, the development of work atmosphere, the issues of students' occupation and academic integrity.

The assessment of the University's social responsibility includes an important aspect – insurance of equal opportunities. In 2018, KTU had 2112 employees (1152 female and 960 male) – female employees made 54.55% and male employees – 45.45% of all KTU employees; in 2019 – 2072 employees (1107 female and 965 male). In this year, female employees made 53.43%, and male employees – 46.57% of all employees (in comparison, 2015 – 2405 employees (1329 female and 1076 male), 2016 – 2294 (1269 female and 1025 male), 2017 – 2112 (1147 female and 965 male). It can be concluded that in terms of gender breakdown, KTU has a very similar number of employees (male and female). Even though the number of female employees at KTU was higher than the number of male employees in the analysed year, the slight increase in the number of male employees is noticed at the University.

According to the provided data, it is noticeable that even though



the number of employees decreased from 2018 to 2019, the breakdown of employees according to the age groups is similar – the majority of employees is in the category of 35 and below, and the lowest number of employees is in the group of 65 and above. The average age of KTU employees was 43.5 in 2018 and 43.9 in 2019.

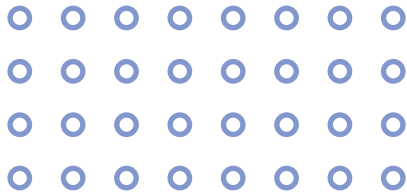
The UN Global Compact LA.5 d, SDG 5, GRI 405-1 indicators define that any discrimination on the grounds of gender, age or other kinds of discrimination is intolerable.







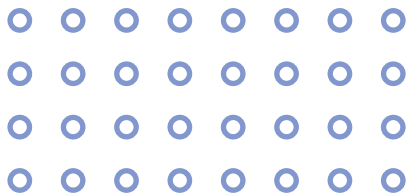
The breakdown of KTU managing positions according to gender is approximately equal, in 2018, 14.27% of male employees had managing positions and 11.89% - female employees. In 2019, 11.83% of female employees had managing positions while male employees in such positions made 13.26% of all KTU employees. Even though the gender breakdown in managing positions is similar, more male employees have managing positions at KTU and the number of female employees in this position tends to slightly decrease during the analysed period.



KTU creates an open environment where individual differences, characteristics, potential and contribution of every employee and student are acknowledged and appreciated. All employees and students have the right to work and study in the environment that encourages respect for everyone's dignity. To promote and ensure the exercise of the fundamental human rights stipulated by the LR Constitution and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, in 2018, KTU assembled and approved the Equality Committee as well as the Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy, including the guidelines for its implementation.



KTU community (students and lecturers) can report the cases of discrimination, misconduct, corruption and academic dishonesty faced by them or noticed in the University's environment. The tasks of the Equality Committee: analyse the reports (complaints) on the violation of equal opportunities or persecution submitted by KTU employees and students; coordinate the implementation of the Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy at the University; provide consultations on the issues of equal opportunities to the managers, employees and students; carry out prevention of the violations of equal opportunities.



## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

KTU provides occupational safety training to the employees yearly, each newly employed KTU employee is provided occupational safety instructions on the first day of work. University does not keep statistics on the accidents; these data are collected by the State Social Insurance Fund Board at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (SODRA); however, it is not possible to distinguish the number of individual accidents due to the technical specifications of the developed system.



## PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

KTU provides the members of its community with services of the University's psychologist since 2016. The number of students who use these services was increasing from 2016 to 2019. It can be related to the fact that society becomes more aware that psychological support and treatment are as important as the treatment of physical illnesses. The quantitative value of this indicator does not indicate whether all the students in need apply for help; however, the insurance of the services of a psychologist to the members of KTU community indicates that society's emotional welfare is important.

In 2019, 70 psychologists' primary consultations were provided: 7 to employees, the remaining to students; total number of provided consultations – 268, including students and employees. One applicant is provided 4 consultations on average. The employees also apply to KTU psychologist regarding individual training or seminars on topics like suicide prevention, stress, anxiety or conflict management.

## INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

KTU develops and improves its infrastructure for the community's members with disabilities. In 2018–2019, KTU performed the works for the infrastructure improvement for people with disabilities: the marking of the parking spots at car parking lots, the stairs of various KTU buildings marked for the sight impaired (yellow stripe), information tables hung at the lifts to help call for assistance.



## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

KTU encourages the members of its community to be involved not only in academic activities; it also proposes various extracurricular activities for creative expression, relaxation and development of other skills, as well as takes care of one's mental and physical health. University proposes a selection of sports, art societies, activities of the Student Union, etc.

Students of the modern world experience stress at work and studies. One of SDG goals – good health and welfare – defines that organisation has to be responsible for its community's welfare. KTU opened its sports club in 2017; it provides a possibility to engage in various kinds of sports for the students, employees and their family members free of charge. University also offers other activities: biking and hiking club, meetings of scientific community, etc.

KTU Sports and Wellness Centre offers KTU community 10 various types of exercises (callanetics, pilates, body design, TRX belts, exercises with balls, etc.); that can be attended at KTU Sports Club several times per week. During the analysed period, 783 students (522 male and 261 female students) and 302 employees (198 male and 104 female employees) attended KTU Sports Club. It was noted that men are more active in sports than women (both, in terms of students and employees).



In 2018—2019, KTU Sports and Wellness Centre organised 50 various sports events for the University's community. Two of them were mass events that had active participants from the general public.



## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

KTU aims to ensure transparency of its activities. The programme of academic integrity encourages students to perform their works honestly and respect the work of other students.

Academic integrity at the University is regulated by the Code of Academic Ethics; the following of this Code is one of the student's obligations stipulated by his/her learning agreement. At the beginning of the studies, the students sign a declaration of academic integrity and undertake to comply with the academic discipline, perform their tasks individually and honestly while preparing the written works, participating in the assessments, project activities and implementing the research. In 2018, the Guidelines for Detection of Plagiarism in Students' Written Works were approved by the order of the Rector. These Guidelines help to apply equal standards for the detection and interpretation of plagiarism in the written works of all KTU faculties.



To ensure the standard of the written work of the University's students and the prevention of plagiarism, the University's students and unclassified students are obligated to prepare their written works according to the formal requirements of the methodological tool "Methodological Guidelines for Preparation of Written Works" published by the University in 2019.

The system "Pranešk" is active from November 2018. It can be used by KTU community (students and lecturers) to report the cases of discrimination, misconduct, corruption and academic dishonesty faced by them or noticed in the University's environment. All these cases are examined by KTU Equality Committee (assembled and approved by the University in 2018), the Board of Academic Ethics or the Department of Student Affairs. The information submitted to the system is considered confidential and cannot be disclosed to the persons unrelated to the alleged violation or its content (except for the cases when the informing person has already disclosed the information).

From the beginning of the system's operating in November 2018 to the end of 2019, 18 reports were received; 4 of them regarding the alleged cases of academic dishonesty (1 report by an employee regarding the student's academic dishonesty (not during the assessment), 3 reports by students regarding the academic dishonesty of other students during the assessment).

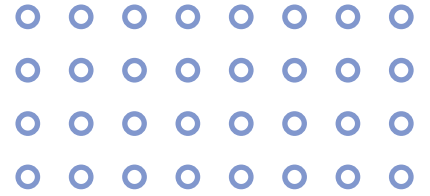
The Commission for Settlement of Academic Violations is operating at the University; it includes one representative of students. The Commission analyses the cases of the students' academic dishonesty recorded during the intermediate and final assessments.



KTU has the Assessment Monitoring Group which monitors the final assessments, i.e., monitors the compliance with the conditions of final assessments applied by the University. The presence of the Assessment Monitoring Groups at the examinations also conducts the prevention of academic dishonesty. There are 8-9 Assessment Monitoring Groups at KTU in total.

In 2018 and 2019, academic penalties for academic dishonesty during the assessments (intermediate assessments and examinations) and the preparation of written works were imposed on 37 KTU students.

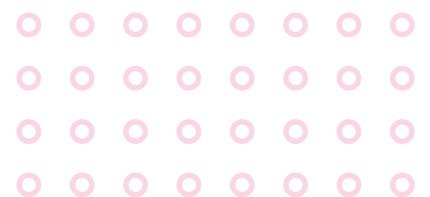
# SUMMARY



Social responsibility is the most widely analysed component of sustainable development. 8 out of 17 SDG goals are intended for the analysis of the University's social responsibility. Gender equality, monitored level of employee satisfaction, integration of the members of KTU community with physical disabilities, psychological support, extracurricular activities for students, academic integrity are the key indicators analysed in 2018–2019.

Breakdown of KTU employees according to their gender and age was similar each year. Management positions are taken equally by men and women; currently the number of men is slightly higher, but this indicator is good. 5 SDG goal – gender equality – is implemented sufficiently well. KTU partially implements 1 SDG goals - reduce poverty. New work places are created each year.

Academic integrity is a very significant indicator to KTU, as an institution of higher education. University insures honesty during examinations; in case of the issues of ethics, people can apply to the Board of Academic Ethics. KTU encourages students to be active participants of the campaign of academic integrity – invigilators at the examinations can be KTU employees, as well as students. This indicator is improving each year – the number of students, who are dishonest during examination of preparation of written works, decreases.



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



The University aims to reduce the use of natural resources, increase the energy efficiency and use of energy from renewable sources of energy, reduce the emissions promoting climate change, and encourage the sorting of waste.

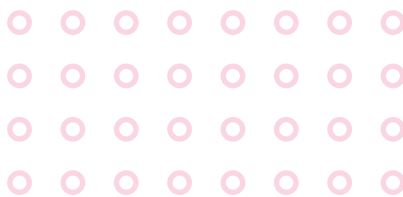


## WASTE

The members of KTU community are encouraged to sort the waste of secondary raw materials. Trash bins for paper, plastic and mixed waste are available at the University's premises. There were 17 containers for plastic, 19 for paper, 7 for glass, 14 for electrical equipment and electronics, 20 for batteries and 2 containers for large waste in KTU territory and the University's buildings in 2018-2019.

According to the received data, the amount of the waste of secondary raw materials sorted by KTU community is increasing each year. There were ~24 t of plastic waste collected in 2018-2019 (in comparison, 6.32 t were collected in 2015, 6.23 t in 2016 and 6 t in 2017). There was twice as much paper waste sorted – 96 t (in comparison, 13.2 t in 2015, 13.5 t in 2016, and 13.8 t in 2017). During the analysed period, ~7 t of glass, ~ 3 t of electrical equipment and electronics, ~0,0025 t of batteries and 927 square m of large waste were sorted at the University.

The provided data indicates that KTU tries to reduce its negative environmental impact. The University encourages its employees and students to use the paper which is produced using recycled paper. The students of the Institute of Environmental Engineering print their final degree projects on recycled paper, without the use of plastic or metal binding elements.





## CLIMATE CHANGE. PROJECTS

KTU implements the projects aiming to reduce the negative environmental impact. In 2018-2019, the University implemented the projects increasing its energy efficiency and joined the projects implemented by other organisations.

Project “Implementation of renewable energy sources at Chamber IX of Kaunas University of Technology” (implementation period: 2017-2019). Aiming to reduce the amount of energy used at Chamber IX of Kaunas University of Technology, promote the development of sustainable energy generation systems and reduce CO2 emissions, the modernisation of heat and electricity facilities has been implemented at the building complex of Chamber IX of the University including the installation of a solar photovoltaic power plant for electricity generation and geothermal energy system (water-ground heat pumps) with underground energy storage.



The implementation of this project and the generation of heat and electricity from renewable energy sources using local equipment has significantly contributed to the reduction of greenhouse gas (CO2) emissions and the implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Renewable Energy Resources – to increase the part of renewable energy resources in the final energy consumption to 23% by 2020 and thereby contribute to the strengthening of Lithuania’s energy independence. This project of the University is a good initiative to generate energy using renewable energy sources, as well as an example of new, innovative technological solutions. The project is a great example of a wide application of renewable energy sources as well as a collaboration of scientific and business communities. The installation of innovative technologies in energy is beneficial not only in terms of the environment; at the same time, it creates the knowledge that can be used for the development of future infrastructure. The implemented measures allow to reduce the University’s financial costs and contribute to the reduction of problems related to the air pollution that have a negative impact on the air quality in Kaunas city and the entire country. It will be beneficial in terms of energy efficiency as well as for educational purposes.

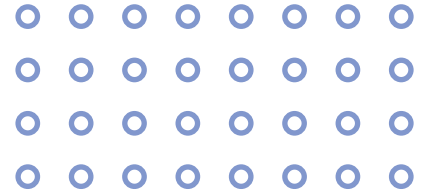


## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

One charging station for electric vehicles is constructed at KTU Student Campus. Quantity of electricity for electric vehicles was 10 MWh in 2018-2019. All this energy was received from Kaunas city networks who state that all energy is currently generated from biofuel.



# SUMMARY



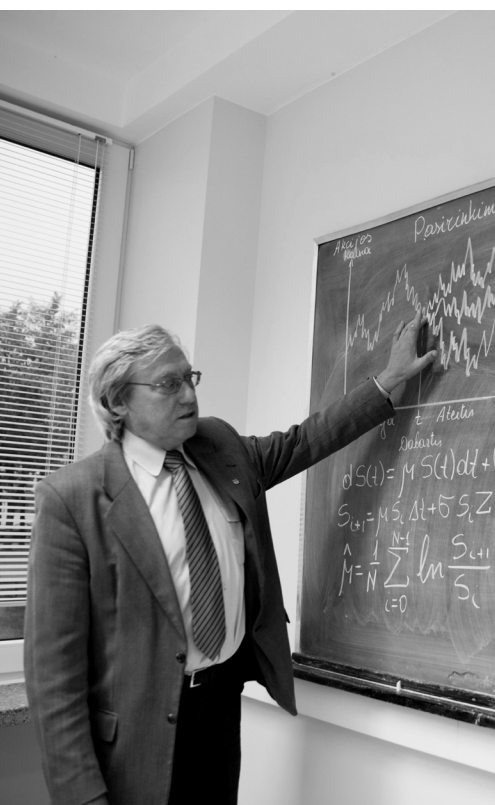
KTU encourages its community to join the environmental conservation initiatives of the University, Kaunas city and entire Lithuania. University aims to contribute to the implementation of sustainable development goals, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, encourages a more efficient use of electricity and thermal energy, and introduces the culture of sorting and waste reduction.

The University mostly responds to 6 – clean water and hygiene – and 13 – minimising of the impact of climate change – SDG goals. The University comprehends the importance of natural resources and the green energy generated by KTU (implemented project “Introduction of Renewable Energy Sources in Chamber IX of Kaunas University of Technology) contributes to minimising of the negative environmental impact.

Sorting is one of the key actions performed at KTU aiming to minimise the negative impact caused by the generated waste. According to the results of 2018-2019 as well as the results of the previous three years (2015-2017), the quantity of sorted paper for one person increased with each year. KTU also contributes to the sorting of hazardous electrical equipment and electronics and batteries.



# INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES IN THE STUDY PROGRAMMES PROVIDED BY KTU



KTU consists of 9 faculties, 8 institutes and 9 science centres.

The number of KTU students tends to decrease each year – the number of KTU students decreased by 24.3% within the last five years (from 2015 to 2019, inclusive). During the last analysed period – from 2018 to 2019 – the number of KTU students decreased by 7%. There were 9034 students in 2018 and 8442 students in 2019.

The decreasing number of students may be influenced by the demographic decrease of the Lithuanian population, decreasing the number of people entering schools of higher education, and increased emigration. According to the data provided by the Association of Lithuanian Higher Education Institutions (LAMA BPO), the total number of the candidates to all local schools of higher education in 2018–2019 was decreasing and was lower than the number of 2016, for example.

The indicator – number of full-time students – is relevant not only for monitoring of the trends in changes in the number of students; it is also focused on the issue of gender equality. According to the data of recent years, the number of male students at KTU remains unchanged, while the number of female students decreases proportionally.

In 2018, female students made 35.2% and male students made 64.8% of the total number of KTU students; in 2019, the trend remained similar: 35.1% of female students and 64.9% of male students. While comparing the data of several years, it is noticeable that the percent of male students of KTU increases in comparison to the number of female students. It can be related to the fact that KTU is a technological university and the engineering studies are traditionally more attractive to men.





However, at the same time, it is a stereotype in our society. To destroy this stereotype and encourage more girls to choose technological studies, KTU initiated the project “Women and Technologies” in 2019. The goal of this project – to destroy society’s gender-related stereotypes in terms of the choice of professions and scientific achievements. The cycle of articles and interviews in KTU communication channels and the media, the photo exhibition in the main street of Kaunas – Laisvės Alley – reveal the stories of success of the women working and studying at KTU in the areas of technologies, engineering, innovations and encourage to inspire more girls to choose the studies in this area.



The noticeable trend at KTU is the increasing number of international students: there were 591 international students in 2018 and 650 in 2019.

Even though the number of the students leaving under exchange programmes decreased in comparison to 2018 (434 in 2018 and 404 in 2019), the comparison with previous years indicates that more and more KTU students use this opportunity and go abroad for studies under the “Erasmus+” programme and KTU bilateral agreements with foreign schools of higher education. For example, 236 students used this opportunity in 2016 and 241 students in 2017.

The number of the students arriving at KTU under the exchange programmes increased in both analysed years: in 2018, 316 students arrived to study at KTU, 369 – in 2019; however, the number remains similar in comparison to the previous years: 319 students in 2016 and 336 in 2017.



## STUDIES

The University provides 122 study programmes: 48 in the first cycle and integrated studies, 54 in the Master's studies, 19 in the Doctoral studies and 1 in professional studies. 46% (56 programmes) can be provided in the English language.

Total of 2187 modules were taught in KTU in 2018—2019: 1304 of the Bachelor's studies, 795 of the Master's studies, 59 of the Doctoral studies and 29 of professional studies.

It is particularly relevant for the University to assess the application of sustainable development principles in the provided study programmes and taught modules. The principles of sustainable development are integrated in various study programmes and modules of KTU.



From September 2019, KTU started a new inter-university study module Sustainable Development. It can be chosen by all the first year students of the Bachelor's study programmes of KTU as one of the two alternatives (another alternative offered to students is Media Philosophy). The inter-university study modules are intended for the development of the students' global, critical and reflective awareness, understanding of social, economic, cultural and environmental context and ethical position (global awareness). The goals of sustainable development are not only a broad vision for a more sustainable future of the world and all the people, it is also a specific system based on the tasks and indicators. Therefore, fundamental knowledge of the trends of social, economic, cultural and environmental development, values and systematic thinking, critical skills allowing the assessment of the obtained knowledge and its application in personal and professional activities are required for the students of various study programmes and the future specialists.

A new inter-university study module analyses the sustainability area in terms of social, economic, engineering and other science fields. It encourages all students and lectures to better understand the social, environmental and economic problems faced by the world while interdisciplinary teaching helps to develop socially responsible specialists.



## RESEARCH

A very important part of KTU mission is the development and transfer of knowledge and innovative technologies for sustainable development of the state and development of innovations. As well as the development of high-level research and creation of high added value, innovative knowledge, materials and technologies for sustainable development.

Each KTU faculty is conducting research related to the fields in the SDGs Agenda.

- Faculty of Chemical Technology (research on environmental impact reduction and sustainable engineering, etc.): <https://fct.ktu.edu/research/>

- Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture (research and innovation contributing to the achievement of country and region-specific objectives of sustainable environment through scientific and advisory activities, training of highly skilled architects and construction engineers): <https://fcea.ktu.edu/research/>

- Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (research and successful cooperation with local and international businesses in creating innovative and versatile solutions, conducting relevant research and identifying the ideas for improvement): <https://feee.ktu.edu/research/>

- Faculty of Informatics (looking into an innovative future full of technologies with inspiration and responsibility): <https://fi.ktu.edu/research/>

- Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (civil society and sustainable development, etc.): <https://fssah.ktu.edu/research/>

- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (technologies for sustainable development and energetics, sustainable socio-cultural development, etc.): <https://fmns.ktu.edu/>

- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Design (sustainable mobility transportation systems, development of the systems and sports equipment catering for the needs of the disabled, etc.): <https://fmed.ktu.edu/research/>

- Panevėžys Faculty of Technologies and Business (technologies for sustainable development and energy: traffic safety, transportation logistics and environmental protection; sustainable growth and harmonious social and cultural development: Educational Empowerment and Employability, Organisational Processes and Management Solutions in the Context of Enhancing Competitiveness, etc.) <https://pftb.ktu.edu/research/>

- School of Economics and Business (future production, smart consumer and responsible society, sustainable economics): <https://seb.ktu.edu/research/#reasearch-areas>





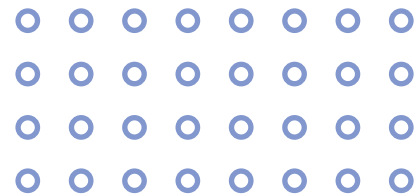
The University's students acquire knowledge, skills and understanding required for their contribution to the creation of sustainable future – one of KTU tasks for introduction of SDG. Introduction of sustainability principles during studies is one of KTU tasks, therefore, in accordance with the set KTU tasks and goals, the UN 17 SDG goals are integrated in the study programmes.

KTU Faculty of Chemical Technology offers the study programmes in the field of SDGs agenda: Environmental Engineering and Technology (Bachelor's studies), Environmental Engineering (Master's studies), Environmental Engineering (PhD studies).

KTU Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Design offers a study programme Sustainable Management and Production (Master's studies).

Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture offers a study programme Sustainable and Energy Efficient Buildings (Master's studies).

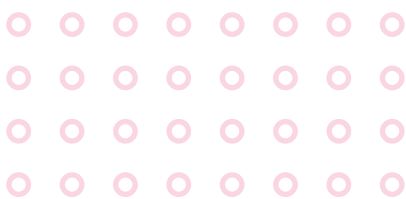
KTU Institute of Environmental Engineering coordinates a double degree PhD study programme in Environmental Engineering with the University of Bologna (Italy).



## ECIU UNIVERSITY

In 2019, the European Commission approved the project proposal for the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) which member is KTU. During the three-year pilot project, the ECIU universities will implement a new international concept of higher education which basis is a challenge-based learning instead of the prevailing European model of higher education granting a degree. The future university model proposed by the ECIU will invite the students, researchers and social partners from various countries to solve the challenges of the real world. This interdisciplinary, flexible educational model will respond to the needs of students and the public. The ECIU university will develop a new model of higher education while responding to the most significant challenges faced by the present-day world.

The implementation of the ECIU university model will focus on the implementation of the United Nations sustainable development goals in the life of cities and communities. It means that the students of the ECIU university will solve real and important societal problems thus contributing to the creation of a better world. The idea of the ECIU university was developed in cooperation with the business and public sector organisations, the representatives of the public and academic community, the present and future students and social partners from all over Europe.



## INTERDISCIPLINARITY

KTU offers about 50 interdisciplinary programmes that include development of the competences of the key speciality as well as additional development of general competences. University offers its students interdisciplinary studies in accordance with the monitored trends of business, industry and research. For example, KTU student can choose a programme MA+ that develops an inter-field expert, or he/she can choose to become the expert in the field of studies.



## UN SDG 4 – EDUCATION OF GOOD QUALITY

Each KTU department and community expresses organisational commitment to one or several SDG goals. UN 4 SDG goal aims to insure education of good quality irrespective of nationality, race, gender, and age. University aims to integrate (award scholarships, invite to study) the students of developing countries in the study and research programmes that are globally important and relevant: information communication technologies, technical, engineering. Also, it aims to ensure for all studying persons to acquire knowledge and skills required for promotion of sustainable development, including education on the issues of sustainable development and sustainable living, human rights, gender equality, peace and promotion of non-violent culture, diversity of global citizenship and cultures, and cultural impact on sustainable development, till 2030.



## PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

KTU encourages its community to implement sustainable development initiatives and projects, follow sustainability guidelines and conduct the activities contributing to the implementation of KTU sustainable development principles. These are several projects and initiatives with participation of KTU community during the analysed period:

- During the analysed period, KTU participated in the international “Erasmus+” project with a goal to conduct a social responsibility audit at the European universities and develop the students’ knowledge, skills and competencies for their understanding of social responsibility. The project “CertSRA: Certificate in University Social Responsibility” (2016—2019). Project coordinator – the National Union of Students (United Kingdom). Project partners – the European Student Union, the University of Edinburg (Scotland), the University of Porto (Portugal), the Student Union of the University of Porto, KTU and KTU Student Union.

During the project, the students learned about the assessment criteria of the social responsibility, the process of the audit and the presentation of its results; they applied the obtained knowledge in practice by conducting the social responsibility audits at the universities of the project partners. During the audit, the students analysed the strategic and legal documentation, assembled the focus groups and interviewed the representatives of the host university. Later, they summarised the results in the mixed international teams and presented them to the host organisation.



The audit results of all the assessed institutions were presented during the final conference of the project organised in 2019. The students who participated in the project were awarded level 6 European Qualifications Framework certificate in the area of social responsibility audit.



- In 2018, KTU Design Centre, in cooperation with the Polytechnic University of Milan (Politecnico di Milano) organised a creative workshop-summer school “Kaunas Urban ReTex”. It focused on the creation of an innovative solution, product or the generation of an idea allowing to recycle, recreate, use and integrate textile waste in the urban areas of Kaunas. The students of KTU and the Polytechnic University of Milan participated in the workshop. The teams of students tried to find the ways to use the textile waste for the development of the city’s welfare, integrate them in the urban areas, propose the ways to use the textile waste in small architecture. During the workshop, the students proposed several solutions to the problem of textile waste.



- KTU Food Institute cooperates with charity and support foundation “Food Bank” (“Maisto bankas”) and contributes to the responsible consumption of food, promotes the efficient use of resources and the solidarity of the public in the attempts to reduce poverty and protect the environment. In 2018, KTU organised the 10-hour training to the employees and volunteers of the “Food Bank”, teaching them how to conduct a sensory analysis of food products. It included checking of the sensitivity of their sensory receptors to tastes and smells, discussion of the main properties of the products to be assessed, they were taught to conduct practical research aiming to identify and recognise the deficiencies of food products.

- In 2019, KTU students participated in the competition of videos-social advertising “The End of Glory of Disposable Cups” organised by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. KTU students created an ad with an idea of showing that disposable cups create no added value in our lives but they hold a horrible secret – they look innocent but are covered in plastic. Due to this reason, they are almost impossible to recycle. KTU students were awarded the fifth place in this competition.

- In April 2019, the exhibition “Challenge Accepted - Sweden and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was organised at KTU “Santaka” Valley. The exhibition presented the global goals of sustainable development and Sweden’s achievements in the area.

- In July 2019, KTU presented the event “Many Faces of Discrimination: are We Tolerant?”. During the event, the community has discussions and learned how to respond when facing discrimination. The representative of the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson Tomas Vytautas Raskevičius participated in the discussion. The participants were invited to assess their personal attitude and openness to various ideas.



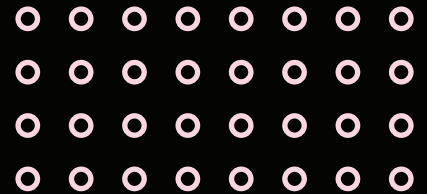
- In 2019, the training “Sexual Harassment: Identification and Prevention” was organised for KTU community. The training was provided by the expert from the Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for quality Advancement. The representatives of KTU community learned about the identification of sexual harassment, possible instruments for the creation of the working environment where harassment and discrimination are not tolerated/ The analysis of specific cases of harassment encouraged the reflection on personal experience and attitude.

- In 2018, the social innovation event “ChangeMakers’ON” took place at KTU; its activities focused on SDG17. The goals of the international event of the social business start-up is the creation of social business from an idea to a social business model in one weekend. The event attracted 70 participants from various countries; the experienced mentors, experts-business professionals provided consultations and shared their experience.



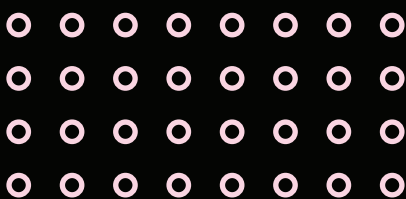
## ANNUAL EVENTS

- Each year KTU community joins the campaign “Let’s do” (“Darom”);
- University’s event “Earth Day with KTU” which aims to introduce ecological ideas to students and pupils;
- Organised thematic events on the occasions of Renewable Energy Day, Car Free Day and Earth Day and etc;
- In 2018 KTU with partners organised an event of social innovations ChangeMakers’ON which activities are focused on SDG17.



## AWARDS:

In 2019, the project by associate professor architect Dalius Šarakauskas received the second prize in the Latvian competition “Sustainable Development in Architecture, Construction, Design” for the best architecture objects designed and built following the sustainability principles. “Komfovent” factory, designed by KTU lecturer and built in Riga, manufacturing the equipment for ventilation systems, was acknowledged in the category of public objects.

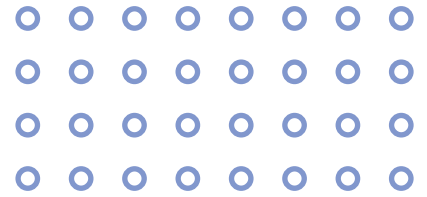


In 2019, KTU won the first place in the challenge of the schools of higher education “#walk15” twice. The challenge lasted more than two months and invited all the Lithuanian schools of higher education, encouraging their employees to be active and walk as many steps and they can every day. KTU community walked 114382003 steps in total during the first challenge and 45727138 steps during the second challenge.

In 2019, KTU invited its community to join the international academic bicycle challenge “ABC!”. The community was riding their bicycles all month, recorded the kilometres using an app and competed among the schools of higher education in Lithuania and all the world. Together, we biked 3683 km in a month.



# SUMMARY



KTU mostly focuses on the quality of the provided programmes. University recommends its students to cooperate with businesses during studies. The goal of such recommendation is to show that research and business are not two separate worlds. On the contrary, they are closely related. Cooperation with businesses provides students with practical experience and they make contacts that could be useful in the future. University aims to follow sustainable development principles. Application of sustainability principles in the study programmes will raise awareness of all students and lecturers of the global social, environmental and economic problems. Interdisciplinary education develops social specialists.

University encourages its community to be active in both academic, and project activities. KTU students and lecturers participate in the University's, national and international projects which aim to create a sustainable University. Besides the awards received at the competitions, the winners are also recognised by the University's community – they are awarded certificates of appreciation and scholarships. KTU audit assessed that University offers a wide range of projects to its students (Kaunas University of Technology Audit Report, 2018). Projects provide a possibility for the students to apply the knowledge acquired in the modules in practice.

During the implemented projects KTU tries to follow sustainability principles, integrates 17 SDG goals in the modules of the provided programmes, cooperates with Lithuanian and foreign universities, business companies, public institutions and organisations.

