

**CORPORATE SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY REPORT
OF KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY 2022–2023**

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CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REPORT OF KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY 2022–2023



In the past two years (2022–2023), the world has returned to its natural rhythm after the pandemic, but restoring economic, social and ecological balance has again presented many challenges. A wave of unrest swept across the world, wars escalated and serious threats to society emerged. Global phenomena undoubtedly have a lasting impact on many people's lives and determine future trends. Living amid such events makes it all the more necessary to focus on meaningful activities and consider the importance of sustainability, which requires special attention in the long term.

In recent years, a number of sectors have faced quite serious challenges, and the education sector is no exception; however, the pandemic has taught a lesson in making the necessary decisions on time.

Kaunas University of Technology (hereinafter - KTU, the University) is committed to continuing its operations sustainably and responsibly, focusing on ongoing work, important activities and new ideas, regardless of the circumstances of life. The University continues to consistently integrate 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) into its activities, to educate responsible leaders of the future, actively contribute to society's welfare, and promote innovative initiatives. KTU has a goal of helping local communities as well as influencing global welfare issues.

We present the Corporate Social Responsibility Report of Kaunas University of Technology 2022–2023

(hereinafter - Report) which is based on the key principles of the UN Global Compact. The University's achievements over the last two years are presented in a comparative analysis which combines three indicators - the UN Global Compact, the 17 global SDGs set by the UN organisation and the Global Reporting Initiatives - into one framework.

The report consists of the following parts (assessment areas): Cooperation with Stakeholders, Awards, Quality Education and Studies, Integration of Sustainable Development Principles in the Study Programmes Provided at Kaunas University of Technology, Interdisciplinarity, Academic Integrity, Research, Project Initiatives Responding to Sustainable Development Goals, Implemented Projects, Number of Newly Created Jobs/Newly Established Job Positions, Social Responsibility, Psychological Support, Extracurricular Activities, Adaptation of the Infrastructure of Kaunas University of Technology for People with Disabilities, Occupational Safety, Economic Responsibility, Additional Funding for Kaunas University of Technology, Green Public Procurement, Responsible Infrastructure Development, Infrastructure/Energy Efficiency, Electric Vehicles, Waste, Highlights for 2022–2023 Achievements in Research and Innovation. The indicators in these areas enable an assessment of the current state of the University's sustainable development and an analysis of how effectively the sustainable development principles are applied.

COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS



To maintain the image of a sustainable university and implement SDG 17 Partnerships for Results, continuous cooperation is required with national and international higher education institutions, various companies, organisations and public institutions. Such cooperation enhances the image of the University and promotes the development of innovation, knowledge exchange and sustainable development initiatives that impact the region as well as the broader community.

KTU continues to strengthen its international cooperation, establishes contacts with international institutions, conducts top-quality studies, develops the community spirit within the organisation and promotes progress in research and innovation. The University's continuous cooperation with various external companies bridges the gap between science and the business world, while simultaneously promotes innovation, the practical application of knowledge, and high-quality preparation of students for the labour market.

KTU is a member of various networks and actively participates in their activities, including the BALTECH consortium of universities in the Baltic Sea Region, of which it is a founding member. Since the establishment of this consortium, the University has been actively contributing to its activities, aiming to build partnerships and closer cooperation among technical universities in the Baltic Sea Region in the fields of natural sciences, technologies and industrial management, and to contribute to the long-term development of the region's education and research based on the region's needs.

KTU is also a partner of the NORDTEK network of rectors and deans of technical universities in the Nordic and Baltic countries. This consortium consists of 28 universities from 8 countries cooperating in the fields of education, research and innovation, at the same time promoting European projects and contributing to sustainable long-term cooperation increasing the competitiveness of the Nordic and Baltic countries in global higher education and research.

In 2023, KTU became a member of the Nordic Circular Hotspot, a collaborative platform aiming to accelerate the transition to a circular economy in the Nordic region, and is conducting research in the fields of sustainable development and environmental protection.

The successful integration of science and business is highlighted when the University signs partnership agreements with businesses, organisations, public and private institutions. Such cooperation promotes innovation, business development and hands-on training for students, and gives them the opportunity to work on real business challenges and problems. In this way, the University maintains its connections with the business world, updates its research and adapts to market needs.

In 2022-2023, KTU signed 49 new cooperation agreements with other Lithuanian and foreign universities: 27 agreements were signed in 2022, and 22 were signed in 2023. This indicator shows an increase in cooperation in comparison with the previous years (2020-2021) when KTU had signed 18 such agreements (5 in 2020 and 13 in 2021). The increase in the number of cooperation agreements is a significant strategic move that can stimulate significant scientific discoveries, student and researcher exchanges

and contribute to the overall development in research and academia.

Cooperation between the University and its partners promotes research, the development of innovation and the practical application of knowledge. Such cooperation allows students to gain real-world experience, contribute to significant projects and better prepare for their professional careers. In response to this need, the University has continued to develop its cooperation with various companies, public institutions, associations and organisations. In 2022-2023, KTU signed 65 cooperation agreements (38 in 2022 and 27 in 2023). In comparison to 2021-2022, this number has slightly decreased, with 101 new cooperation agreements concluded in this period (50 in 2020, 51 in 2021).

These long-term partnerships are testimony to the University's efforts to maintain and strengthen existing relations with various sectors, thus ensuring continuity in joint projects and creating added value for both academic community and partners.

2022-2023 KTU continued its cooperation with the organisations under the previously signed agreements. At that time, 531 agreements were in force (264 in 2022 and 267 in 2023) which is significantly more than the 175 agreements in 2020-2021 (82 in 2020 and 93 in 2021). This significant growth in the network of partners and the increase in the number of contracts demonstrates that the maintenance and continuity of partnerships are particularly relevant for the University. Such consistent cooperation not only strengthens the relationships but also allows for more efficient implementation of joint projects and the sharing of resources and expertise, thus contributing to the University's development and innovation. Moreover, a strong network of partners provides more opportunities for students and researchers and encourages the creation and dissemination of knowledge and technologies.

In 2022-2023, KTU signed 6 contracts with spin-offs and 6 contracts with start-ups. In 2020-2021, 22 contracts were signed with new spin-offs and 5 with start-ups.

Cooperation with spin-offs and start-ups promotes innovation and technology transfer. This strengthens the University's position as an innovation leader and

contributes to regional economic growth. Students can participate in real projects, develop entrepreneurial skills, and build professional relationships beneficial to their careers. Often these partnerships lead to the development of new products or services, which allows the University to successfully develop its research and expertise areas and increases its visibility and prestige in the international arena.

KTU strengthens its relations with Lithuanian schools by getting involved in cooperation with gymnasiums and lyceums. In 2022-2023, the University concluded 18 contracts with educational institutions. In 2023, KTU continued its cooperation with existing partners and focused on developing cooperation relations with regional education centres: Lazdijai Education Centre, Elektrėnai Education Service Centre and Kretinga Education Centre. These centres are actively involved in teacher competence development programmes. The number of cooperation agreements with gymnasiums has slightly increased each year

compared to previous years: 1 agreement in 2019, 3 in 2020, 5 in 2021 and 18 in 2022. Cooperation with schools allows pupils to deepen their knowledge and broaden their horizons in seminars, lectures and workshops, where they are introduced to the latest trends in science and technology, and receive practical knowledge from teachers and researchers. Excursions to KTU laboratories introduce pupils to research, modern equipment and applied technologies. The University promotes cooperation between schools and universities through various projects and competitions that foster creativity and innovative thinking, and introduces various study programmes to pupils at career days and fairs.

In 2022-2023, the academic incubator KTU Startup Space founded 6 new companies (7 in 2021), operating in the fields of food technologies, advanced applied technologies, e-commerce, health technologies, and processing of fossil raw materials.

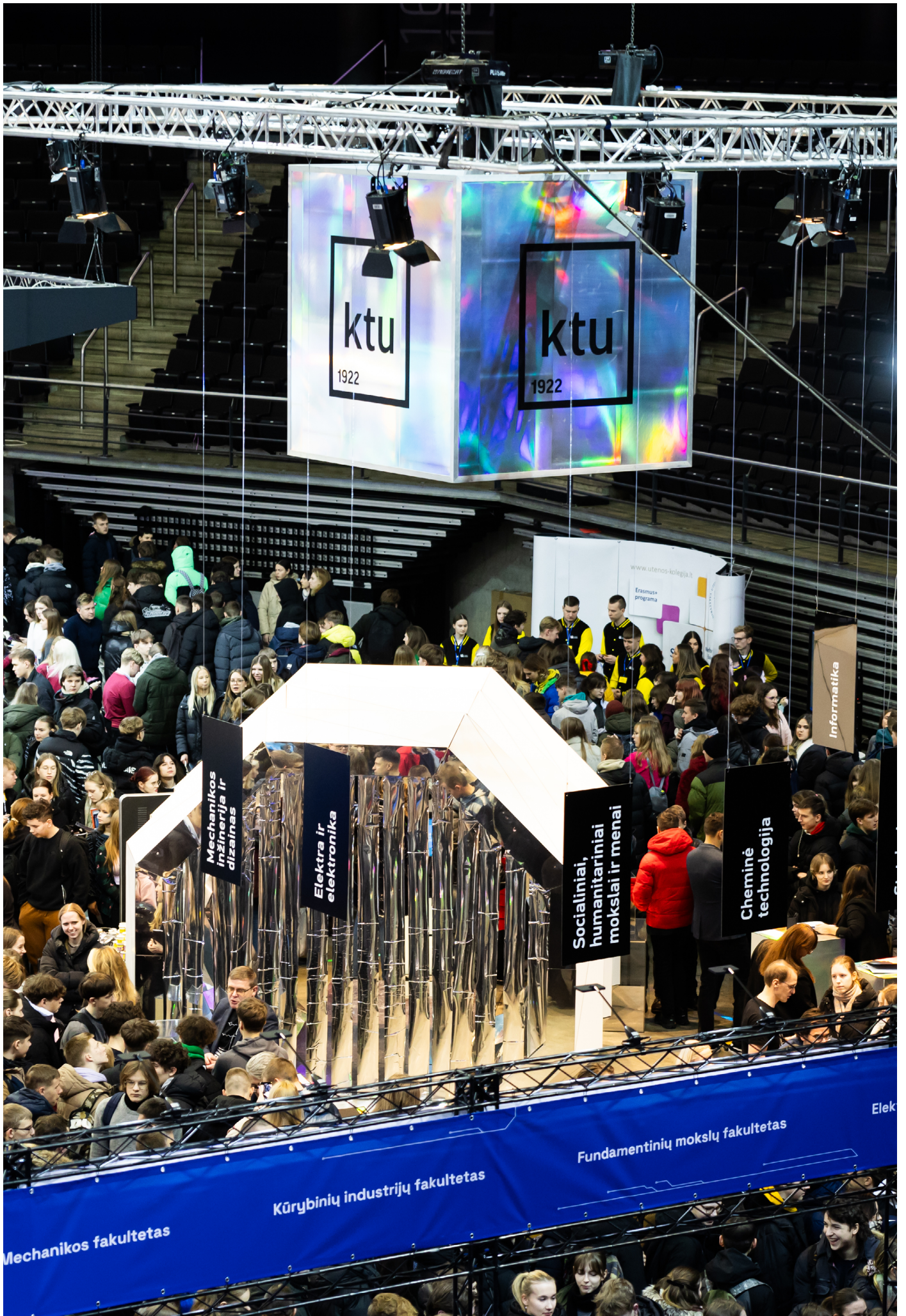
COOPERATION WITH SCHOOLS



For two years, the University has been developing the KTU Classes network which consists of 13 schools in the country. The main objective of these classes is to provide pupils with comprehensive knowledge in the fields of natural and exact sciences: mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology and information technology. The pupils acquire this knowledge in cooperation with KTU Gymnasium and the University.

To promote science and technology and introduce scientific innovations and studies at the University to children of all ages, KTU has been organising for

the third year the Children's University project for pupils of grades 6 to 9 from partner schools, covering twelve different topics, with classes taught by the University's lecturers. During the classes, 120 pupils developed smart solutions applicable in everyday life, participated in theoretical and practical classes, and improved their decision-making, communication and cooperation skills.



ktu
1922

ktu
1922

Mechanikos
inžinerija ir
dizainas

Elektra ir
elektronika

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Elek



KTU is a member of the ECIU, a network of innovative European universities aiming to modernise European higher education by challenging traditional thinking: to address societal challenges with innovative ideas and provide personalised learning and career opportunities at the European level. Being a member of the network strengthens links with other European universities, the opportunities to share experiences, promotes academic exchanges and contributes to the growth of the University.

Since 2019, KTU has been working with other partner universities to develop the model of the future university which encourages students, researchers and social partners from different countries to address real-world challenges together. ECIU University offers an interdisciplinary and flexible educational model responding to the needs of both students and society, adapting to rapidly changing conditions and challenges.

The ECIU University model places particular emphasis on the SDGs. Based on this concept, students are actively involved in addressing real societal challenges and contribute to the development of a better world in collaboration with various European partners from the representatives of business, public sector, academia and society. In the study module Development of Challenge-Based Innovations, students from KTU and other universities are actively involved in projects addressing the SDGs in cooperation with Kaunas City Council, businesses and NGOs.

At ECIU University, students use a challenge-based learning method and address real-life challenges that focus on the 11th SDG „Sustainable Cities and Communities“. The team of KTU Centre of Smart Cities and Infrastructure (CSCI) has digitised KTU Student Campus with real-time data integration with a digital model.

By participating in this initiative, students gain international experience, work with students from other countries and use modern technologies. This develops their understanding of various cultures which is important in a global world. The ECIU University not only promotes learning through activities and proj-

ects; it also emphasises the development of sustainable solutions, community involvement and long-term social responsibility. Therefore, ECIU University becomes an academic knowledge platform as well as an active catalyst for change, contributing to the creation of a better future.

In 2022, KTU decided to establish an ECIU Centre that would coordinate the initiatives of the European University Alliance and integrate the activities of the ECIU University into the daily life of the University, ensuring their high-quality and efficient management.

The ECIU University activities have led to the development of an innovative and unique concept of flexible learning pathways which is presented in the University's publication "Moving Forward and Beyond in Education: Concept of Flexible Learning Pathways".

In 2022, the study module Development of Challenge-Based Innovations was continued with the participation of 15 students from KTU and ECIU partner universities. In international and interdisciplinary teams, together with mentor teachers and representatives of companies, students solved 4 challenges presented by Kaunas Regional Waste Management Centre, AB Ignitis Group, UAB SCANIA LIETUVA and UAB Mars Lietuva.

The University's scientists actively participated in the European Union (EU) Horizon 2020 project SMART-ER, which funds research and innovation at the ECIU University. The Seed programme funded 5 projects in collaboration with the ECIU University members.

In 2022, KTU scientists and researchers participated in two pilot citizen science projects with the ECIU member universities, while simultaneously conducting other activities:

- | A strategy and action plan for the integration of the ECIU University vision into KTU strategic activities has been developed. It will help to link the University's strategy and action plan with the strategic documents of the ECIU University, involve KTU departments in the ongoing

processes, and increase the motivation to actively engage in the implementation of change, thus ensuring the University's high-quality integration into the ECIU.

| In 2023, KTU and other ECIU members won two projects of the European Policy Experimentations relevant to the objectives of the European University Alliances: European Status for ECIU University (ESEU) which aims at exploring the possibilities of a legal status for European Universities and Future-proof Criteria for Innovative European Education (FOCI) which aims at making recommendations for the implementation of the European Diploma. Two ECIU universities, including KTU, and six universities from the YUFE and EPICUR alliances participate in these projects.

| ECIU University was the first of the European university alliances to introduce an innovative system of centralised, digital micro-credentials. From autumn 2023, it started issuing centrally validated micro-credentials, protected by the ECIU digital seal, and transferring them to the digital Europass wallet for easy access and management by learners. Micro-credentials detailing the competencies acquired during the

learning process, including the level of competencies, are issued through the European Digital Credentials Platform. KTU also applies this principle.

| By developing a new model of higher education, ECIU University is addressing the most important global challenges of our time, such as climate change, digital transformation and social inequalities. Consortium members collaborate to develop innovative teaching methods and research projects that provide students with the knowledge, skills, creativity, critical thinking and practical decision-making skills.

The ECIU challenges conventional thinking by encouraging innovative ideas to address societal problems and providing personalised learning and career opportunities at the European level. The concept of the joint partner university is planned to be realised by 2030. It is expected that by 2025, ECIU University will be a shared space offering learners a choice of the personalised flexible learning pathway, recognised at the European level, and by 2030, it will be a European University with a sustainable funding model.



AWARDS



KTU is recognised as one of the universities with the greatest impact on sustainable development in the world. KTU was ranked for the first time in the Impact Ranking 2022 published by Times Higher Education, an international university ranking agency, on 27 April 2022. KTU was included in the prestigious ranking highlighting the University's focus on the SDGs for its attention to quality education, sustainability, innovations, gender equality and social and environmental responsibility. This achievement is in line with KTU's Green University initiative and commits KTU to continue its activities and improve their quality.

In 2023, KTU participated in the QS Sustainability ranking for the first time and was ranked 586th out of 1403 universities in the overall ranking. Of the three areas assessed, KTU received the highest score in the area of management, where it was ranked 317th. In the area of environmental impact created by universities, KTU achieved very good results in the Environmental Sustainability indicator, where it was ranked 126th. This indicator assesses the institution's strategy and activities aimed at implementing sustainable solutions and promoting environmental activities. In Europe, KTU was ranked 250th out of 493 ranked European higher education institutions, and in Lithuania, KTU was ranked second out of the 5 ranked universities. These rankings reflect the University's efforts to implement sustainability principles and strengthen its image in the international arena.

Competing against more than 1400 best universities of the world, KTU has already been ranked in the first year in 7 categories (out of 17 SDGs), including SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 16 Peace and Justice, and SDG 17 Partnerships for Results.

The CSCI's digital twin of Kaunas City and KTU Student Campus was awarded the best city model of the year at the conference Digital Construction 2022. KTU project was also nominated in the international Bentley Systems annual awards event Going Digital 2022 in London, where it was among the top 3 projects in the world in the category of Digital Cities and

Campuses, recognising the Smart Campus ecosystem that is being developed by KTU.

In 2022, KTU Artificial Intelligence Centre won the first phase of the Teaming for Excellence (HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-01-two-stage) project under the framework of the EU's research and innovation programme European Horizon. The project aimed to create a joint artificial intelligence centre of excellence for sustainable development in Lithuania which would operate as a beacon with a significant impact on the strengthening of the research and innovation ecosystem nationally and internationally.

In 2022, a young KTU scientist and her team developed PVA hydrogel pellets for the treatment of polluted water, considered to be the innovation of the future, and won the top prize at the innovation exhibition TECHNORAMA'22 for an advanced environmental product. This product helps to improve water quality faster, more efficiently and without requiring major changes to existing infrastructure.

Meda Surdokaitė, a student of KTU GIFTed Talent Academy, who represented Lithuania at the EU Young Scientists Competition 2022 in the Netherlands, was awarded 1st place and a special prize - an invitation to the Nobel Prize ceremony in Stockholm - for her chemistry research on the optimisation of the synthesis of the fluorescent dye „Nile Red“. This is one of the best results in the history of Lithuania. The research is aimed at developing synthetic dyes that can be used to detect microplastics and dye cells without the use of toxic solvents.

In 2022, Raimundas Šiaučiūnas, KTU Professor, former KTU Rector and Head of the Department of Silicate Technology at the Faculty of Chemical Technology, was awarded the Science Prize established by Kaunas City Municipality in honour of outstanding Kaunas academics. The professor, who has written hundreds of scientific papers and several textbooks, was awarded for his significant achievements in the fields of physical, biomedical, agricultural and technological sciences, as well as for his contribution to science promotion and dissemination in the city.

In 2023, KTU Interdisciplinary Prototyping Laboratory Centre M-Lab (hereinafter - M-Lab) won 3rd place in the competition for the most beautiful façade FA-CadE, the results of which were announced during the exhibition ARCHzona held at UAB Lithuanian Exhibition and Congress Centre „Litexpo“. The project, which cost over 6 million EUR, enabled the reconstruction and adaptation of a building with an area of about 4000 square metres for research purposes. It is planned that the research centre will allow the efficient use of the existing scientific potential as well as successfully attract researchers from the international market for research.

In 2023, the IT solutions company TeleSoftas for the first time organised a competition for the patron's scholarships for the theses on the topic of sustainability of the students of KTU Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The authors of the two final degree projects on sustainability with the highest evaluations received a financial incentive of 500 EUR each.

QUALITY EDUCATION AND STUDIES



KTU is committed to providing quality education and creating an environment where every student can pursue their goals. As part of this commitment, the University has engaged all of its structural departments to participate in this process based on 4 SDGs which aim to ensure quality education without discrimination.

KTU actively integrates students from developing countries into international study programmes and research projects by providing them with additional financial support and incentives. By 2030, the University aims to prepare all students to participate in sustainable development processes, having acquired knowledge and skills on gender equality, peace, cultural diversity and other relevant aspects to create a conscious and responsible global society.

The University is constantly developing relations with international institutions, improving the quality of its study programmes and involving students in an active research process. KTU promotes creativity and innovation, enabling the University to be a leader in research and technology. KTU provides the highest quality studies, develops the community spirit in the organisation and promotes the progress of research and innovations.

In 2022-2023, 1756 study modules were taught at KTU: 943 in bachelor's studies (1069 in 2020-2021), 743 in master's studies (783 in 2020-2021), 62 in doctoral studies (58 in 2020-2021), and 8 in professional studies (8 in 2020-2021) (see Table 1). Compared to previous years, the number of study modules taught at the University in 2022-2023 has decreased by around 8%. The biggest decrease is in bachelor's studies, where the number of study modules has decreased by 126. In master's studies, the number of study modules has decreased by 40, while in doctoral studies, it has increased by 4 modules. The number of professional training courses remained unchanged at 8. Looking even further back (2018-2019) (see Table 1), there has been a slight and steady decrease in the number of study modules taught at the University (1304 in bachelor's studies, 795 in master's studies, 59 in doctoral studies, and 29 in professional studies). This is partly due to the continuous review and updating of study programmes according to student needs and the removal of irrelevant modules. This practice allows the University to focus on high-quality and relevant studies that meet the requirements of the modern labour market. The revision of study programmes allows the University to adapt its teaching methodologies and content to rapidly changing technologies. The removal of outdated and irrelevant study modules creates

a dynamic and innovative learning environment in which students can receive the best possible education and prepare for a successful career.

Table 1. Study modules taught at Kaunas University of Technology

	2022–2023	2020–2021	2018–2019
The number of provided study modules	1756	1918	2187
Bachelor's studies	943	1069	1304
Master's studies	743	783	795
Doctoral studies	62	58	59
Professional studies	8	8	29

In 2022, the University provided 50 first-cycle, 56 second-cycle and 20 third-cycle study programmes. Of the 126 study programmes taught, 68 were taught in the English language. In 2023, the indicators were not significantly different from the previous year: there were 47 first-cycle, 55 second-cycle and 20 third-cycle study programmes, while the number of programmes taught in the English language increased to 69. The number of first and second-cycle programmes decreased slightly in 2023, while the number of third-cycle programmes remained stable. The number of study programmes taught in the English language at the University has been consistently increasing. These changes are due to the University's increasing focus on the development of internationalisation and improving the quality of international studies.

In 2020, the University provided 53 first-cycle programmes (51 in 2021), 54 second-cycle programmes (56 in 2021), 19 third-cycle programmes (19 in 2021) and 66 study programmes taught in the English language (68 in 2021). In 2019, the University provided 55 first-cycle, 57 second-cycle, 19 third-cycle study programmes and 62 study programmes taught in the English language (see Table 2).

Table 2. Study programmes at Kaunas University of Technology

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
The number of study programmes	124	128	128	128	133	140
First cycle	47	50	51	53	55	58
Second cycle	55	56	56	54	57	61
Third cycle	20	20	19	19	19	19
Taught in the English language	69	68	68	68	62	67

14705 students studied at the University in 2022–2023: 7298 in 2022 and 7407 in 2023. The number of students admitted to KTU in 2023 increased by 10.6% in comparison to 2022. In comparison to 2020–2021, this indicator has slightly decreased (8060 in 2020 and 7654 in 2021), influenced by competition between universities, demographic circumstances, and maintaining a high bar for admissions, with a focus on the quality of studies.

In 2023, 278 international students were admitted to the University, 14% more than in 2022 (242). The number of applications to study at the University continued to grow, with an increase of 10.8%, as did the number of students invited to study (564 in 2022 and 615 in 2023). In comparison to previous years, the ratio between the total number of students invited and the number of students admitted has increased (43% in 2022, 45.4% in 2023).

The following first-cycle programmes are most popular among international students in 2022–2023: Business Digitalisation Management, Artificial Intelligence, Informatics, Electronic and Electrical Engineering, and Civil Engineering; the following second-cycle programmes: Industrial Engineering and Management, Artificial Intelligence in Computer Science, and International Business.

The faculties with the highest number of international students admitted to the first-cycle study programmes in 2023 are the Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (30 students, 16 in 2022), the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Design (28 students, 33 in 2022), and the Faculty of Informatics (27 students, 36 in 2022). The faculties with the highest number of international students admitted to the second-cycle study programmes in 2023 are the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Design (48 students, 23 in 2022), the School of Economics and Business (19 students, 9 in 2022), and the Faculty of Chemical Technology (16 students, 8 in 2022).

To attract and motivate prospective international students with the highest academic results to choose to study at KTU, 18 foreign nationals received a full reimbursement of tuition fees. Currently, 47 foreign citizens are studying at KTU with tuition fee reimbursement for international students. In 2023, 20 citizens of Ukraine and 5 citizens of Belarus were admitted to study at the University with state sup-

port. In addition, in 2023, an agreement with the Educational Exchanges Support Foundation provided support for 4 international students to study full-time under the second-cycle study programmes.

2023 agreement with the Educational Exchanges Support Foundation provides support for 4 international full-time students studying under the second-cycle study programmes. The support includes tuition fees and a monthly scholarship of 550 EUR.

In recent years, the number of international students has been consistently growing at the University: 901 international students studied at KTU in 2020, 1031 in 2021, 1141 in 2022, and 1143 in 2023. Comparing 2020 and 2023 the number of foreign students has increased by approximately 26.86% during this period. In 2023, 27547 holders of matriculation certificates applied for general admission to higher education institutions and registered at least one preference in LAMA BPO (26176 in 2020, 26442 in 2021, and 30282 in 2020). It is noted that the number of such applications for 2022-2023 is 5.29% lower than for 2020-2021.

The minimum indicators and the minimum admission competition score set by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania for state-funded places or study scholarships were met by 16012 persons according to the submitted applications (14038 in 2022, 15934 in 2021 and 16868 in 2020). Continuously improving the quality of studies, KTU not only focuses on the development of the fields of technology and natural sciences, thus meeting the needs of the markets that are experiencing very rapid technological development, but also seeks to break down the stereotypes in society that studies in these science fields are more suitable for men.

The University uses various campaigns to send a clear message that the choice of profession and

achievements in science should not be equated with gender. One of the successful examples of such a campaign is the exhibition KTU initiated and prepared in 2021 on one of the central streets of Kaunas (Liberty Avenue), which revealed success stories of women studying and working in the fields of technology, engineering and innovation, thus encouraging more girls to choose studies in these fields.

International student exchanges are successfully conducted at KTU and short-term student mobility is gaining momentum. Increasingly, students are turning to virtual mobility opportunities enabling them to study abroad. In 2023, 111 students participated in blended intensive programmes.

The number of teaching visits to foreign universities has increased significantly. 189 KTU teachers lectured at Erasmus+ partner higher education institutions in 2023 (107 in 2022 and 32 in 2021).

In 2023, 365 students and graduates from KTU participated in study and internship programmes abroad. This number has increased compared to the previous year, when 232 students went in 2022 and 185 in 2021.

In 2022, 329 students participated in partial studies, including Erasmus+ exchange, bilateral exchange and internships. In 2023, this number decreased to 267 students. In 2023, the number of the students of partial studies decreased by 62 students (18.8%) compared to 2022. This is due to changes in the funding of exchange programmes and the geopolitical situation. In comparison to even earlier period, these figures have fluctuated from year to year, with inconsistency caused by circumstances such as pandemics and geopolitical changes (233 in 2020, 317 in 2021, 329 in 2022 and 267 in 2023).

INTEGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES IN THE STUDY PROGRAMMES PROVIDED AT KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



The Description of the Internal Study Quality Assurance System of Kaunas University of Technology defines the responsible management principles that guide the University in the provision of its studies. Some of them are focused on sustainable development, social responsibility, equal opportunities and diversity, and inclusive education.

The University participates in the UN-sponsored initiative Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME).

The University provides 4 study programmes (Sustainable Management and Production, Environmental Engineering, Renewable Energy, Sustainable and Energy Efficient Buildings) which contribute to the implementation of the SDGs by developing relevant competencies for future members of society. Sustainable development topics are included in study programmes or individual study modules, addressing societal challenges related to the themes of sustainable development and sustainability.

The topics of sustainable development are included in all first-cycle study programmes and are analysed in greater detail in at least 3-4 study modules. For example, the bachelor's study programme Industrial Biotechnology includes such study modules as Introduction to Biotechnologies, Sustainable Development, Surface and Colloid Chemistry, Engineering Economics, and Bioproducts. Master's study programmes often discuss sustainable development topics in at least 2 study modules, for example, Macroeconomic Policy and Quality and Sustainable Development Management in the study programme Economics.

All students of bachelor's studies can choose a study module Sustainable Development. The objective of this study module is to help students acquire a global, critical and reflective understanding of the social, economic, cultural and environmental context and develop an ethical stance based on the principles of sustainable development. This study module is completed by approximately 420 students each year. The students of bachelor's studies can also choose the study module Product Development Project which brings together researchers, social partners and interdisciplinary student teams to address real-world challenges. This study module, available in 32 bachelor's study programmes, encourages the development of real products and services.

Master's students can choose MA+ competencies: deepen their knowledge in their major studies or gain knowledge in another area. The offered competencies, such as Circular Economy and Circular Design, are focused on the SDGs.

A study module Challenges and Innovations is offered to all bachelor's and master's students. In it, students from KTU and other universities tackle real-life challenges related to the SDGs, mainly the 11th SDG. The challenges are proposed by Kaunas City Municipality, Lithuanian businesses and non-governmental organisations. This study module is part of ECIU University.



INTERDISCIPLINARITY



The University undertakes to provide students with an environment adapted for quality international and interdisciplinary studies, where everyone is welcome and motivated to get knowledge and learn.

KTU has the right conditions to develop interdisciplinarity and ensure synergy between the natural sciences, technologies, social sciences, humanities and arts. This strengthens the capacities to continuously steer the processes of studies and research and experimental development in the direction dictated by the needs of industry, business and society, both nationally and internationally.

As in 2020-2021, so in 2022-2023, KTU offers about 50 interdisciplinary programmes that develop specialised as well as general competencies. To meet the needs of business, industry and science, the University is constantly reviewing and expanding the range of interdisciplinary study programmes offered to students as needed. For example, KTU students can choose the MA+ programme which allows them to focus either on deep theoretical and practical knowledge in a specific field, or on a broad range of theoretical and practical knowledge in several related fields.

Master's study programmes offer students the option to choose the pathway of MA+ competencies. They

can choose either the Field Expert pathway and deepen their knowledge in their major study field, or the Interdisciplinary Expert pathway and acquire knowledge in another field or area. The offered MA+ competencies include Circular Economy and Circular Design, which focus on the SDGs.

The students of bachelor's studies can choose the study module Sustainable Development as one of the two options. The objective of this study module is to provide graduates with a global, critical and reflective awareness and understanding of the social, economic, cultural and environmental context in which they will operate. It also aims to develop an ethical stance based on the principles of sustainable development.

The students of bachelor's studies participate in the study module Product Development Project, in which researchers, social partners and interdisciplinary student teams collaborate to solve real-world challenges and develop new product ideas for society. Real products and services are developed in this study module, and the project topics are formulated according to the initiative of the year announced by the University and reflecting the relevance of the SDGs at the EU, regional, city and University level.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY



KTU aims to ensure transparency and high ethical standards in its activities. The academic integrity programme encourages students to perform their work honestly, respect the efforts and contributions of other students, and follow academic principles. The programme develops a sense of responsibility, honesty and respect, which are essential in academic community.

Academic integrity at the University is governed by the Code of Academic Ethics of Kaunas University of Technology which all students are obliged to fol-

low under their learning agreement. After beginning of the studies, the student undertakes to observe academic discipline and perform his/her assignments honestly, including the preparation of written assignments, participation in assessments, project work and research. This is confirmed in the Declaration of Academic Integrity, which is signed by the student at the beginning of his/her studies.

The description of the procedure for the prevention of plagiarism in written works of the students of Kaunas University of Technology, approved by the Rector of

the University in 2022, establishes and applies equal standards for the verification of the originality of written works at all KTU faculties.

KTU aims to ensure high quality of students' work as well as transparency of the process; therefore, the University has updated the evaluation process of students' written work by integrating the Turnitin system of assessment of students' written work into the Moodle virtual learning environment. This tool is designed to reduce the number of plagiarism cases at KTU and prevent the possible illegal submission of written work that does not comply with the principles of academic integrity.

The University has the operating Board of Academic Misconduct which includes one student representative. This board investigates cases of academic dishonesty among students recorded during mid-term and final assessments.

To ensure the standard of the written works of the University's students and plagiarism prevention, the University's students and unclassified students undertake to prepare their written work according to the formal requirements of the methodological tool

"Methodological Guidelines for Preparation of Written Works" published by the University in 2019.

Since 2018, the University has had an operating "Report" system which allows KTU community (students and teachers) to report cases of discrimination, misconduct, corruption and academic dishonesty that they observe or encounter in the University environment.

All cases, depending on their nature, are analysed by KTU Equality and Violence Prevention Committee (for more information see the section Social Responsibility), the Board of Academic Ethics, or the Department of Student Affairs. The system ensures the confidentiality of the provided information and prevents its disclosure to persons who are not related to the potential violation or its content (unless the reporting person has already made the information public).

The University also has operating assessment monitoring groups to ensure compliance with the conditions of final assessments. Moreover, members of these groups participate in examinations to avoid academic dishonesty.

RESEARCH



The University provides education, initiates projects and integrates sustainable development principles into its various activities. It aims to ensure that knowledge and technologies serve both human and environmental welfare. The culture of sustainable development and responsibility is purposefully fostered in the University community, strengthening KTU's sustainability and responsibility to the environment, society and the region. Research integrates the SDGs, and the results of such research directly contribute to strengthening the sustainability of the region and KTU. Research (R&D, Erasmus+, etc.) related to the SDGs is conducted at KTU faculties, institutes, centres and administrative departments:

| The research conducted at the Faculty of Chemical Technology ranges from the development of alternative binding materials and geopolymer composites to the synthesis of bio

active compounds from renewable raw materials and advanced environmental technologies. Faculty scientists also study bioproducts and food bio process technologies, materials chemistry, polymers, synthetic organic compounds, electro chemistry and chemistry of chalcogens.

| The research conducted at the Faculty of Electrical and Electronics Engineering includes power and energy systems, interactive electronic systems, smart automated control systems and robotics, as well as control and optimisation of complex processes. Faculty scientists also research metrology and measurement technologies, signal technologies and numerical intelligence.

| The research conducted at the School of Economics and Business includes production methods that reduce environmental impacts and

increase efficiency, analysing consumer behaviour and community responsibility to understand changing consumption and social habits, and sustainable economic strategies promoting economic growth that also address environmental and social welfare aspects.

The research conducted at the Faculty of Informatics includes the Internet of Things, cyber security, semantic and knowledge-based information systems engineering, multimodal human-computer interfaces and smart education technologies. Faculty scientists also research computer vision, biomedical signal analysis for healthcare, explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) algorithms, and joint physical behaviour modelling methods based on PDE and AI algorithms.

The research conducted at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences includes a wide range of topics, including artificial intelligence and robotics, diagnostic technologies, functional materials and technologies, sustainable energy, financial technologies, biomedical engineering and medical technologies, applied mathematics, information and communication technologies, educational environments and technologies, and business models. This enables the faculty scientists to develop innovations in various research and technology fields and apply them in practice.

The research conducted at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Design includes micromechanical systems and structures, composites and their manufacturing technologies, biomedical engineering, customised manufacturing technologies, unmanned platforms, thermomechanical systems, non-polluting transport, integral design, strength of materials, functional textiles, manufacturing processes, and many other areas. This allows the faculty scientists to delve deeply into various areas of mechanics, engineering and design to develop innovations and solutions to practical challenges.

The research conducted at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture includes analysis of cultural and spatial environments, development of building materials, structures and technologies, and the development of sustainable energy solutions in urban environments.

At the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, the research is conducted in various areas, such as educational research, language and technology, civil society and sustainable development, digital culture, communication and media, translation and language studies, and public management research. It allows to broaden the knowledge and understanding of the social sciences, humanities and arts.

The research conducted at Panevėžys Faculty of Technologies and Business includes innovation in technologies and energy solutions for sustainable development and developing strategies for sustainable growth and sustainable socio-cultural development.

The Institute of Environmental Engineering conducts interdisciplinary research linking environmental engineering, production engineering and business, focusing on a preventive approach to environmental problems related to sustainable industrial development. Such research helps to integrate different knowledge and approaches to complex environmental problems, while a preventive approach ensures the long-term sustainability of industrial activities with minimal negative environmental impacts.

The Health Telematics Science Institute conducts research on health technologies and the application of information technologies in healthcare. This allows to improve the efficiency of healthcare systems, ensure the quality of life of patients and the accessibility of healthcare through the use of advanced information technologies.

The Institute of Mechatronics conducts research on mechanical and automated systems, energy management and sustainability, engineering and technology development, and automation technologies. Such research enables innovative solutions and technologies allow to reduce energy consumption.

The Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture actively participates in international research projects and cooperates with the business sector and public institutions to develop innovative solutions in construction, architecture and urban

planning. This contributes to the improvement of the quality of education, the advancement and practical application of research in the engineering and architecture sectors.

| The Biomedical Engineering Institute conducts research and experimental development in the fields of health monitoring, diagnostics, imaging signals and medical information processing technologies. The Institute has four laboratories, state-of-the-art infrastructure and prototyping facilities. Its activities significantly contribute to the advancement of medical technologies, improving the quality of life of patients and the efficiency of healthcare systems.

| The Food Institute conducts various research in food and technologies to develop innovations and improve the quality and safety of food products. Such research contributes to innovations and technological advances in the food sector, ensuring food safety and healthy and sustainable food production.

| The Institute of Materials Science performs research activities focusing on micro- and nano structures, microsystems, micro electromechanics, optoelectronics, nano-optics, semiconductor devices, and the development of related technologies. The research is multidirectional, interdisciplinary and relevant to modern societal developments.

| Prof. K. Baršauskas Ultrasound Research Institute implements and develops state-of-the-art ultrasound technologies and participates in the implementation of innovations in various fields, strengthening Lithuania's scientific and technological potential. Such research enables the development of new diagnostic methods and therapeutic tools that can improve the quality of life of patients.

Achieving the University's objectives and ensuring the quality of studies requires for the study process to incorporate principles related to sustainable development, thereby contributing to shaping a sustainable future. By integrating these principles, students develop theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills and comprehension, enabling them to participate actively in sustainability processes.

The University participates in national and international research projects in the field of sustainable development and develops new technologies to address regional and global environmental challenges; therefore, it is actively involved in international networks of sustainability excellence and is an active member of networks related to sustainable development:

Baltic University Programme (BUP). The objective is to search for innovative interaction ways among the universities and between universities and society to strengthen regional education and research communities and to promote greater awareness of sustainable development, environmental protection and democracy in the Baltic Sea Region.

Copernicus Alliance is a network of European universities and colleges offering a platform to share resources and co-develop innovative education for the implementation of sustainable development initiatives. The network performs and promotes the role of higher education institutions in the field of sustainable development, integrates sustainability principles into curricula, research and institutional practices, strengthens cooperation among universities, and develops innovative solutions to address global environmental and social challenges. The network is chaired by Eglė Staniškienė, Professor and Doctor of Social Sciences in the Sustainable Management Research Group at KTU School of Economics and Business whose research includes quality management, sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, education for sustainable development and interdisciplinary research. Her activities promote society's transition towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) is a platform bringing together over 800 universities and regional partners/centres from five continents to respond to the challenges of sustainable development using innovative educational methods. It is active at the regional level in Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and at the national level in Spain. The platform addresses environmental and sustainability challenges through teaching, learning and networking, with a particular focus on the UN's environmental thematic priorities (climate change, sustainable development and healthy environment, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency, protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, environmental management and air quality).

The study programmes most relevant to the implementation of the SDGs in 2022-2023 remain the same as in the previous year (2020-2021):

| At the Faculty of Chemical Technology: Environmental Engineering and Technology (bachelor's studies), Environmental Engineering (master's studies), Environmental Engineering (doctoral studies).

| At the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Design: Sustainable Management and Production (master's studies).

| At the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture: Sustainable and Energy Efficient Buildings (master's studies).

| KTU jointly provides and coordinates a double-degree doctoral study programme Environmental Engineering with the University of Bologna (Italy).

The above-mentioned study programmes are essential for the implementation of the SDGs at the University and the education of professionals capable of contributing to sustainable development in various fields.

PROJECT INITIATIVES RESPONDING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



KTU uses various methods to reduce its environmental impact and increase energy efficiency. In 2022-2023, the University was implementing projects increasing energy efficiency and actively cooperating with other organisations by joining their initiatives. Moreover, KTU has introduced innovative technologies to help save energy and reduce pollution and thus contribute to the creation of a sustainable future.

Through building renovation and modernisation projects, the University is contributing to the European Green Deal goals and the implementation of the UN Global Compact's 10 principles. Such projects reduce the impact of climate change and create more comfortable conditions for students and staff as well as students living in dormitories. Renovated buildings reduce heat and electricity consumption, while the architecture and aesthetic environment of the buildings decorate the city. This creates a more sustainable and greener environment of the University.

KTU community is encouraged to participate in and initiate various sustainable development programmes and projects in line with the SDGs. In this process, they are encouraged to follow sustainability principles and perform activities that contribute to KTU's commitment to realise and uphold the standards and values of sustainable development.

Training is organised for the University community on the topics of preparing project proposals: in 2022, in cooperation with the Agency for Science, Innovation

and Technology and international experts, 4 information and education events were organised for scientists and researchers on the EU programme European Horizon and the preparation of project proposals.

In 2023, KTU launched the project "Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development Centre" (Sus-tAI-nLiv Work, project No. 101059903) under the EU programme European Horizon. The project will last for six years and will be implemented together with Lithuanian (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences) and foreign (Tampere University and Hamburg University of Technology) partners. The project has been allocated almost 30 million EUR (15 million EUR from the European Commission and 15 million EUR from national funds). The project activities will cover industry, health, transport, energy, AI ethics and other areas, contributing to the development of Lithuanian and EU strategies.

In 2023, a funding agreement was signed for a project to establish an Excellence Centre of Technological and Physical Sciences (TiFEC) at KTU. The Centre will conduct research and experimental development at the highest international level in the fields of electrical and electronic engineering, energy and thermal engineering and chemistry. The TiFEC's activities aim to contribute to the country's sustainable economic development and enhance international competitiveness.

In 2023, KTU launched mission-based research and innovation programmes funded by EU funds, New Generation Lithuania and the state budget. The University will address challenges in two priority areas: “A Secure and Inclusive e-Society” and “Smart and Climate Neutral Lithuania”. The project will develop smart, climate-neutral production technologies and materials (SmartEcoTech) that reduce environmental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. KTU will also manage a project on digital defence to increase cyber resilience and reduce the risks of privacy breaches. Two centres of excellence in information and communication technologies are planned to be established.

In 2023, the University has focused on the modernisation of KTU buildings and facilities. Two building complexes, including one student dormitory, have been fully modernised and more than buildings managed by 10 KTU have been renovated by creating new, modern spaces for both students and staff. To ensure the consistent installation of renewable energy sources, two new solar photovoltaic power plants have been installed on the roofs of buildings on KTU Student Campus, and a remote photovoltaic solar park has been purchased and commissioned.

The University partnered in the Teaming for Excellence application of the EU’s European Horizon Programme Forest 4.0 Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Forest Bioeconomy. This six-year project has been selected for funding. The University’s share of the European Horizon funding will amount to more than 1.5 million EUR. A team from the Faculty of Informatics will implement the project at the University.

The University has launched 6 European Horizon projects, including SmartWins, coordinated by the

Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture. The project has a budget of 1.5 million EUR and is implemented by the University in cooperation with Greek, German and Italian partners.

In 2022, the University launched two Euratom Research and Training Programme (2021-2025) projects. It is the first time that KTU scientists are participating in these programmes with the projects ANSELMUS (Advanced Nuclear Safety Evaluation of Liquid Metal Systems) and iWeld (Intelligent Welding Inspection).

The University actively cooperates with the National Contact Point Network at the Research Council of Lithuania by presenting its project activities at various events, thus developing international project activities.

KTU implements various initiatives and projects that promote sustainability objectives and raise the community’s environmental awareness. The University emphasises quality and efficiency of its performance which are in line with responsible and environmentally friendly behaviour, and integrates the principles of quality and sustainable development (SDG 16 Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions) aiming to promote a culture that values quality, social responsibility and ecology (SDG 15 Life on Land).

The University’s participation in joint projects promotes cooperation between the countries and creativity while pursuing common goals and developing innovative solutions and projects. Such cooperation effectively addresses challenges as well as symbolises successful partnerships between countries seeking change and opportunities for their communities.

IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS



2022-2023 has been particularly successful for KTU in terms of project fundraising and project implementation. Implemented projects included research, technological development, social initiatives and international cooperation to promote innovation and improve academic and research activities.

In May 2023, a team of international experts visited KTU to assess the quality of the University’s perfor-

mance and make recommendations for the future. The visit was part of the external evaluation process organised by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. The experts assessed the University in four areas: management, quality assurance, study and research activities, and impact on regional and national development. The University’s strategic documents, resource management, internal quality assurance system, internationalisation and coopera-

tion with social partners were analysed. The experts highlighted a number of examples of KTU best practices, revealing the exceptional quality of the University's performance processes, clearly substantiating the ability of the University community and management to demonstrate leadership in the proper management of the organisation, the implementation of study and research activities, as well as the creation of impact on the society and partners. The assessment achieved the main objective of the process by obtaining a seven-year accreditation to continue the University's activities.

One of the most important projects implemented by the University is the opening of the M-Lab Centre at the end of 2023. This new, innovative and modern interdisciplinary laboratory centre is unique for the scientists, innovators and developers from Lithuania and other countries, as it creates a space that will provide access to experimental, prototyping and testing laboratories, and will aim to promote innovations and the emergence of future technologies, and become a dominant centre for interdisciplinary collaboration and prototyping, enabling the creation of innovative and sustainable solutions for society.

In 2022, 141 study projects were implemented, of which 68 were international (60 under the EU Erasmus+ programme, 6 under the NORDPLUS programme, 2 under other international programmes) and 73 were national (of which as many as 72 were implemented by the University students during semesters or summer internships).

Funding has been approved for the project Digital Transformation of Education (EdTech), which will be implemented using the EU Funds 2021-2027, the

Recovery and Resilience Facility and the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania. The University's share in the project is 880 760.92 EUR. The project includes the training of informatics educators, training in digital competencies for teachers, digitisation of study modules and the acquisition of equipment for hybrid teaching.

Students involved in academic mentorship submitted 67 applications for research funding, of which 21 were funded.

63 project applications project applications were submitted by student organisations. A total of 49 projects were funded, attracting more than 32 thousand EUR in funding for their implementation.

In 2022, KTU second-cycle study programme Public Administration was awarded the International Commission on Accreditation of Public Administration (ICAPA) Quality Certificate 2022-2028, which is awarded based on the study programme's compliance with the education and training competence standards in public administration of the UN/International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA).

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has become the first educational centre of the European Industrial Mathematics Consortium in the Baltic States.

The platform for recording students' non-formal competencies was reorganised and the system of the competence development plan was prepared for operation.

NUMBER OF NEWLY CREATED JOBS/NEWLY ESTABLISHED JOB POSITIONS



While analysing the integration of sustainable development at KTU, it is important to assess how the University contributes to the reduction of poverty in the country. KTU creates jobs through recruitment, cooperation with other institutions and implementing the outsourced projects.

In 2023, KTU employed 1052 academic employees, of which 6.7% were foreign specialists. In 2023, the

number of employees at the University was slightly higher at 1067, but then the share of specialists was lower at 6.2% (1103 in 2021 and 5.7% foreign specialists).

The employment data indicate the significant contribution of KTU to the development of the labour market, both locally and internationally, which promotes economic growth and social inclusion. The recruit-

ment of foreign citizens promotes cultural diversity and internationalisation within the University community, thus contributing to the wider implementation of the SDGs.

In 2023, KTU had 1754 employees; however, it had more employees in previous years (1786 in 2022 and

1841 in 2021). The gender distribution of employees also varied from year to year: 54.8% women and 45.2% men in 2023, 53.2% women and 46.8% men in 2022, and 53.3% women and 46.7% men in 2021.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Social responsibility indicators reflect the University's principles in recruiting employees, caring for the KTU community as a whole and ensuring safe working conditions and environment. These indicators also include (non)discrimination aspect, creating a positive working atmosphere, promoting student employment and ensuring academic integrity. Moreover, they indicate how the University contributes to the welfare of the community and the implementation of the principles of social responsibility in its everyday activities. The University's Equality and Violence Prevention Committee and the Head of the Human Resources Department promote work-life balance, organisational development, organisational culture, recruitment and promotion, as well as gender representation in management positions and participation in decision-making governing bodies, while aiming to become a flexible and family-friendly workplace. The actions of Kaunas University of Technology 2022-2025 Gender Equality Plan are in line with the EU requirements for the European Horizon programme.

Aiming to fully implement the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Great European Charter of Universities, KTU is creating an open environment where the individual differences, qualities, potential and contributions of all its employees and students are recognised and valued. Every employee and student has the right to work and study in an environment that promotes respect for the dignity of each individual. To promote and ensure the implementation of fundamental human rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the University has adopted Kaunas University of Technology Gender Equality Plan 2022-2025 and has established the University's Equality and Violence Prevention Committee. Efforts are made to comply with the principle of gender equality and recruit both men and women to various positions at KTU.

These principles are of particularly important to KTU, and the University has implemented a policy to promote equal opportunities and diversity since 2018. It includes gender equality, diversity and combating discrimination and harassment. The aim is to ensure that all employees and students of the University have equal opportunities regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, race, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, belief, language, origin, social status, views or opinions, citizenship, marital status, or intention to have children. The University complies with the principle of equal opportunities and diversity in all its activities.

The University's Equality and Violence Prevention Committee is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the equal opportunities and diversity policy at the University, investigating reports of equal opportunities violations or harassment by University employees and students, advising managers, employees and students on equal opportunities issues, and preventing violations of equal opportunities. Training of members of the University community on gender equality and diversity is one of the key cross-cutting elements of Kaunas University of Technology 2022-2025 Gender Equality Plan.

In 2022-2023, the University had 1934 employees, of whom 1058 were women and 876 were men. Their average age was very similar: 44.78 for women and 46.24 for men (see Table 3).

Compared to 2020, the University had a total of 2051 employees (1083 women and 968 men), with a percentage of 53% women and 47% men. In 2021, the percentage remained the same, with the only change being the number of employees, which slightly decreased (by about 3%): in 2021, the University had 1994 employees (1062 women and 932 men) (see

Table 3).

Table 3. Distribution and average age of working men and women at Kaunas University of Technology

	2022-2023	2023	2022	2021	2020
Women/(%)	1058	1044 (54,8%)	1040 (53,2%)	1053 (53,3%)	1083
Men/(%)	876	861 (45,2%)	916 (46,8%)	907 (46,7%)	968
Total number of employees	1934	1905	1956	1960	2051
Average age of women	44,78	44,8	44,4	43,9	
Average age of men	46,24	46,6	46	45,5	

The provided data indicates a slight decrease in the number of employees in 2022-2023 (around 2.6%), but the distribution of employees by age group remained fairly consistent.

In 2021, the University employed 1053 women and 907 men. The average age of women was 43.9 years and that of men was 45.5 (see Table 4).

Table 4. Distribution of employees by age groups at Kaunas University of Technology

Age of employees	Employees in 2023	Employees in 2022	Employees in 2021	Employees in 2020	Employees in 2019	Employees in 2018
35 and younger	425	463	508	558	580	631
35-45	564	591	608	629	623	628
46-55	435	423	404	378	393	396
56-65	341	346	349	368	361	361
65 and older	140	133	125	116	116	97

In 2022-2023, the largest number of employees were in the 35-45 age group, while the smallest number was in the 65+ age group.

The same trend was observed for 2020-2021 (see Table 4).

In 2022-2023, the distribution of men and women in KTU management positions (at the level of vice-deans, deans and heads of institutes) remained the same as in the previous years (2021-2022). In the category of research group leaders, the gender distribution remained very similar with 10 women, 7 men in 2022-2023, and 10 women, 11 men in 2020-2021 (see Table 5).

When analysing the indicators for the heads of offices, research groups, laboratories, departments, etc., there was a decrease in the number of such employees in 2022-2023 (92 women, 79 men), while there were 112 women and 116 men in these positions in 2020, and 133 women and 90 men in 2021 (see Table 5).

Table 5. Distribution of employees by gender at managerial level at Kaunas University of Technology

		Vice-Deans	Deans	Head of institutes	Heads of research groups	Heads of offices, research groups, departments, laboratories and other departments
2022-2023	Women	12	12	12	12	12
	Men	6	6	6	6	6
2020-2021	Women	12	12	12	12	12
	Men	6	6	6	6	6

1132 new employment contracts were signed at the University in 2022-2023 (newly created posts, employees recruited for projects). 569 employees were recruited in 2022 and 563 in 2023. During the analysed period (2022-2023), KTU employed 145 foreign employees with 43 different nationalities.

To raise public awareness of prevailing stereotypes and gender imbalances in the choice of study field, an analysis of gender distribution in study fields and academic career stages was carried out. According to the UN Global Compact LA.5 d, SDG5 (Gender Equality) and GRI 405-1 indicators, discrimination based on sex, age or other grounds is unacceptable.

KTU employees and students have the right to work and study in an environment that promotes respect for the dignity of every person, based on the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The University collects and monitors data on employees and students by gender, study cycle and job position. This data is included in an annual report highlighting key indicators of gender equality and diversity. Kaunas University of Technology 2022-2025 Gender Equality Plan allocates specific resources for the development of study programmes and support for managers, employees and students.





KTU is committed to the welfare of both staff and students and provides them with free psychological support.

Since 2016, KTU has had a psychological office open to the entire University community. The number of applicants for psychological consultations is growing every year. This increase is due to the growing trust in specialists and the growing awareness of the public as well as the University community, that psychological support and treatment is as important as the treatment of physical diseases. One of the main reasons for the increase in the number of people applying to psychologists is the pandemic that started unexpectedly and lasted for a long time. It has created a lot of uncertainty and insecurity, and has become a major challenge to the welfare of societies around the world.

Since 2022, the need for psychological services at the University has also increased due to the ongoing war in Ukraine and the prolonged uncertainty. KTU psychologists provided counselling to students and employees to ensure the emotional welfare of the whole community. At the same time, psychological support was also provided to students and staff from Ukraine who were experiencing severe stress and emotional difficulties due to the war. The University has taken into account the needs of staff and students, and two psychologists have provided psychological counselling to help them adjust and cope with these difficult life situations.

In 2022-2023, KTU psychologists provided 1268 consultations to students and employees (693 in 2022 and 575 in 2023).

During this period, 395 people addressed psychologists (239 in 2022, 156 in 2023). The applicants were 5 employees and 234 students in 2022 and 6 employees and 150 students in 2023. These consultations covered a range of topics including stress, anxiety, academic and personal difficulties, and helped to improve the emotional welfare of students and staff.

Fig. 1. Psychological support during the war in Ukraine



Psychological help during the war in Ukraine

How to help the Ukrainians fleeing the war?

- | Talk with Ukrainians not only about the war;
- | Respect when Ukrainians refuse to discuss the difficulties they face;
- | Listen and understand what specific help the person needs instead of being quick to give advice and offer your opinion;
- | Refer the person to specialists.

How to help yourself?

- | Maintain your previous routine;
- | Share your feelings and experiences with those close to you;
- | Try new activities, practice breathing exercises and meditation;
- | Seek help from specialists.

KTU provides free psychological help to all students.

If you have any questions, email us at psichologas@ktu.lt

KTU psychologists notice that the number of psychological consultations increased significantly during and immediately after the pandemic, but now the figures are returning to previous trends and numbers.

In comparison to the data of 2020-2021, the total number of psychological consultations provided to students and staff was almost halved to 735 consultations. In 2021, 254 students applied for initial psychological consultations. Compared to even earlier years, the demand for psychologists has recently increased significantly (268 consultations were provided to students and staff in 2019, of which 70 were initial psychological consultations, of which 7 were for employees and the remainder for students).

University employees are encouraged to use Mindletic, a free app for emotional health promotion and education, as a tool to help employees track and improve their emotional state as well as develop emotional intelligence and prevent emotional imbalance. The app helps people to identify and better understand their emotions, practice emotional health training, breathing and relaxation exercises, join monthly workshops on topics such as burnout, stress management, psychological safety, resilience, motivation, etc., and consult with their chosen psychologist in one-to-one remote consultations.

The Mindletic app has 102 registered users, of which 34% are active. Each month, approximately 12 consultations are provided to employees using the emotional welfare monitoring app. This helps to ensure that employees have the tools to maintain a good emotional state.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Besides the academic activities, KTU encourages its community members to take an interest in various options of extracurricular activities. This allows them to develop their creative skills, relax, improve their academic and social skills and take care of their emotional and physical health. The University invites to participate in sports activities, join folk art societies, the Students' Association and other initiatives.

Various studies indicate that in the modern world, the stress levels of students are constantly increasing. The rising quality of education is leading to ever higher expectations of student achievement, while the rapidly changing environment is driving increasing employment and the need to combine study and work.

One of the objectives of the SDGs is good health and well-being. It states that an organisation should care for the welfare of its community. The University places particular emphasis on promoting healthy community lifestyles. In 2017, KTU Activated Sports Club was opened, where students, staff and their families can attend sports and training activities of their choice free of charge. It is just one of many activities organised to promote healthy lifestyles, including hiking club events and summer festivals.

KTU Sports and Wellness Centre offers recreational sports training, group training sessions and KTU ACTIVATED Gym, which offers individual fitness sessions for students and staff, personal training and consultations with trainers. Basketball, football, badminton, volleyball, athletics, rock climbing, cricket, tennis and table tennis are available for free training with trainers. There are also group training sessions (Pilates, calanetics, body design, TRX belts, tabata, strength training, training with balls, exercises with balls) available several times a week.

In 2022-2023, 2431 students attended KTU ACTIVATED Gym. In 2022, 1220 students (921 men and 299 women) and in 2023, 1211 students (895 men and 316 women) attended training sessions there. It is observed that in 2020-2021, a lower number of students

(by about 28%) attended the gym - 1877 (413 women and 1464 men).

The data shows that there are fewer University employees than students attending the sports club. In 2022, 114 employees (59 women and 55 men) attended KTU ACTIVATED Gym, while in 2023, this number increased to 195 (122 women and 73 men). An even higher number of employees, 225 (127 women, 98 men), was observed in 2020-2021. The increase in numbers could be due to quarantine and various related restrictions.

Among students, men are more likely than women to take part in sports, and the rate is almost three times higher. And among employees, almost equal numbers of men and women went to the gym in 2022, with almost twice as many women as men in 2023.

In 2023, the University hosted 8 recreational sports activities with 1409 individual participants and 5 sports events with 570 individual participants. In total, these events (ACTIVATED Month, spring recreational sports tournaments, "Come and Conquer", WAL'15, Christmas recreational sports tournaments) attracted 1979 sports enthusiasts.

Compared to 2020-2021, KTU Sports and Wellness Centre organised 12 sports events for the University community. It is noticeable that this number does not reach the pre-pandemic level, when 50 different sports events were organised in 2018-2019 (see Table 6).

Table 6. Gym attendance at Kaunas University of Technology

	Personal attendance rates in 2022 (KTU Gym)		Personal attendance rates in 2023 (KTU Gym)	
	Students	Employees	Students	Employees
Men	921	55	895	73
Women	299	59	316	122
Total	1220	114	1211	195

In 2023, the University had 6 art societies with 259 active members, which organised more than 113 events per year. There were also 19 organisations with 818 members, 789 of whom were KTU students. In 2023, 96% of the members of the organisations were KTU students (85% in 2022).

KTU student organisations organised 153 events for KTU community, students, pupils and city residents, which took place at the University, on the Student Campus and in Kaunas City. 51 student organisations applied for funding from KTU, of which 48 projects received funding and were awarded 35 100 EUR.



ADAPTATION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



Aiming for comprehensive social inclusion and improvement of the daily experience of disabled people at the University, the infrastructure is being consistently improved to allow disabled students and staff to move freely and safely within the University territory.

In 2022-2023, part of the University's buildings were renovated with disability infrastructure elements, including lifts, ramps and specialised sanitary facilities. Moreover, additional information signs have been installed to ensure that all members of the community, regardless of their ability, can easily and safely access the University's infrastructure. These upgrades increase the accessibility of the buildings, promote equality and inclusion (SDG10 Reduce Inequalities) and help to create an inclusive environment for students and staff. In comparison to the

previous years (2020-2021), certain elements of the infrastructure for people with disabilities have also been upgraded in some buildings: the signage has been changed, blind strips have been installed on the stairs, the ramp at KTU IV Chamber (Radvilėnų St. 19) has been repaired and maintenance works performed for the lift at KTU Central Administration (K. Doneičio St. 73).

The M-Lab Centre is accessible to people with disabilities (step-free (ramped) entrances, wide doorways and corridors, elevators with low-located buttons, special sanitary facilities, tactile pathways and signs, etc.). This need is also met by the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Design (Studentų St. 56), Dormitory No. 10 (Gričiupio St. 13) and Dormitory No. 11 (Pašilės St. 37), where the entrance is partially accessible for people with disabilities.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



KTU organises annual occupational safety training for its employees. The basic principles of safe work are introduced to every new employee on the first day of work. The University does not keep accident statistics, which are collected by the State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (Sodra).

Moreover, KTU continuously updates its safety training programmes in line with the latest legislative requirements and best practices to ensure the occupational safety and health of employees. This contributes to creating a safe and healthy working environment that reduces the risk of accidents.

ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY



In 2023, 1471 students were admitted to first-cycle and integrated studies, an increase of 8.1% compared to 2022 (1361). The number of students admitted to state-funded (SF) places is 1233, 12.2% more than in 2022 (1099). 238 students were admitted to state-non-funded places, 9.2% less than in 2022 (262).

academies) in terms of the share of those who have signed learning agreements from all those invited (93.8%) and the share of those who have concluded learning agreements under the study programme indicated as their first priority (about 86%).

The number of SF students in first and second-cycle studies at the University in 2022 was 5518 (3872 in bachelor's studies, 1564 in master's studies, 50 in integrated studies and 32 in professional studies). In 2023, this number increased to 5612 (3906 in bachelor's studies, 1612 in master's studies, 38 in integrated studies and 56 in professional studies).

Admission to 54 study programmes took place, with the highest number of students enrolled in Public Administration (72), Management (52) and Artificial Intelligence Informatics (47). 19 students were admitted to the new study programme Business Administration KTU MBA.

The number of SF students in third-cycle studies was 334 in 2022 and 325 in 2023. In 2020, the total number of SF students in first and second-cycle studies was 5 998 (4 348 in bachelor's studies, 1 596 in master's studies, 38 in integrated studies and 16 in professional studies). In 2021, the total number of students was 5 839 (4 118 in bachelor's studies, 1 675 in master's studies, 30 in integrated studies, and 16 in professional studies). The number of SF students in third-cycle studies was 331 in 2020 and 328 in 2021.

In 2022-2023, KTU had 14 705 students (7 298 in 2022 and 7 407 in 2023), while in 2020-2021, the University had more full-time students - 15 714 (8 060 in 2020 and 7 654 in 2021).

In 2023, KTU remained in the second place among Lithuanian universities in terms of admissions to SF places (14.8% of the market share of university studies) and the number of admitted graduates who obtained at least one 100-point grade in the state matriculation examinations (156): 100-point achievers accounted for 10.6% of the total number of admitted students. KTU remained in the first place among the major Lithuanian universities (excluding specialised

The University encourages students to be proactive during their studies and socially active. Students who demonstrate excellent academic performance and are actively involved in social activities are eligible for scholarships. This includes not only academic achievements, but also volunteering, leadership in student organisations, and participation in community projects that actively contribute to the welfare and development of the community. The Talent Scholarship is awarded based on the academic grade-point average of the last semester, and additional points are awarded for significant extracurricular activities such as participation in scientific conferences, writing scientific papers, promoting the University's name at social events, etc.

Twice per year, KTU announces the Patron and Alumni Scholarship competitions, which provide students with even more opportunities to receive financial support for their achievements and contributions to community activities. These scholarships motivate students to achieve high academic results and encourage them to be actively involved in the life of the University, contributing to the welfare of the community and the prestige of the University.

Moreover, KTU organises various training sessions, seminars and workshops to develop students' skills and knowledge necessary for their personal and professional development. The University's support also includes mentorship programmes to help students find the best suited career paths and successfully integrate into the labour market. All of this contributes to the comprehensive development of students and their preparation for future challenges.

The standard scholarship awarding procedure encourages KTU students to cooperate more actively with both local and international communities. This increases the involvement of students in various projects, events and initiatives that promote academic achievement as well as intercultural understanding and international cooperation. These activities enrich the students' experience, encourage their personal development, and contribute to improving the University's image in the international arena and increasing its influence on a global scale.

It is important to mention that KTU awards scholarships to the most talented and outstanding students who demonstrate excellent academic achievements and active participation in the University community, thus encouraging their further development and motivating them to strive for even higher results.

During the period 2022-2023, scholarships awarded to KTU students amounted to 2 829 184.2 EUR. In 2022, scholarships were awarded to 1943 students and in 2023, this number increased to 2017 students. In 2020, 2 498 students were awarded scholarships and in 2021, 2 650 students received them. The total amount of scholarships awarded to KTU students in 2020-2021 was 7 372 443.87 EUR (3 563 662.89 in 2020 and 3 808 780.98 EUR in 2021).

The Report includes the students of the first, second-cycle and integrated studies who have been

awarded various scholarships, including University Talent, Freshman Talent, GIFTed, one-off (incentive, social, targeted) and mobility scholarships. In addition, the Report indicates the number of third-level students who receive study support such as a doctoral scholarship. These data are important not only for the assessment of financial support for students but also for the analysis of the University's efforts to promote students' academic and research potential and ensure their financial stability during their studies.

In terms of KTU economic responsibility, it is important to emphasise that the University not only provides high-quality educational services but is also actively involved in social activities. To reduce economic and social exclusion, it provides financial support to disadvantaged and disabled students. This incentive encourages students to pursue their academic goals as well as creates a favourable environment for their development and inclusion in society. Moreover, this initiative promotes long-term economic growth by enabling more people to access higher education, which is inseparable from the improving indicators of the country's economic performance. This responds to the needs of students and contributes to building a more equitable and stable economic basis for society.

Analysis of the data reveals that the number of disadvantaged students at the University has increased to 548 in 2022-2023 (261 in 2022 and 287 in 2023), compared to 457 in the previous years (2020-2021) (225 in 2021 and 232 in 2020). The increasing demand for social assistance reflects the general economic situation and the rising cost of living. For such students, the University offers scholarships and discounts on accommodation aiming to encourage students to continue their studies despite the economic challenges and to provide them with equal opportunities.

309 students (136 in 2022 and 173 in 2023) received social scholarships. In the same period, 53 students received the targeted allowance (22 in 2022 and 31 in 2023), all of whom also received social scholarships. 20 students (9 in 2022 and 11 in 2023) received the expatriate support. 219 students received a one-off KTU social scholarship in 2022-2023 (116 in 2022 and 103 in 2023).

State budget appropriations for scholarships are a

key indicator that demonstrates the state's commitment to supporting higher education and ensuring financial support for students. The amount of the state's appropriations to the University increases each year. The state budget appropriations for the University amounted to 64 559 727 EUR in 2023 and 46 929 806 EUR in 2022 (38 537 116 EUR in 2021 and 36 524 399 EUR in 2020) (see Table 7).

Table 7. Funding received for Kaunas University of Technology (EUR/year)

Funding source	2023	2022	2021	2020
State	64559727 €	46929806 €	38537116 €	36524399 €
Private institutions	412035 €	441111 €	216933 €	127226 €
Outsourced research	3613000 €	4780000 €	4572000 €	3575000 €
Other	13246 €	41475 €	17631 €	14765 €

The scholarship fund allocated 237.59 EUR to one SF student in 2022, but this amount decreased by 15.39% to 201.01 EUR in 2023. This change reflects a redistribution of financing funds which may affect students' financial support and their access to additional scholarships.

In 2022, the amount of support from social partners, including alumni, for each KTU student was 23.75 EUR, while in 2023, this amount increased to 30.45 EUR.

This growth indicates the University's growing community support and commitment to investing in the welfare of students. Increasing support reduces financial barriers and encourages students' academic and professional development in pursuit of higher education. At the same time, it strengthens the relationship between the University, its alumni and the social partners who actively contribute to the education of students and their preparation for the labour market.

The number of students with disabilities receiving financial support at the University was 53 in 2022-2023 (22 in 2022 and 31 in 2023). The financial support for these students amounted to 29.8 thousand EUR in 2022 and increased to 45.8 thousand EUR in 2023. The amount increased compared to the previous years because the number of such students receiving financial support in 2020-2021 was 21 each year and they received less support (16.8 thousand EUR in 2020 and 16.3 thousand EUR in 2021). The indicators reveal that the University is committed to supporting students with disabilities by ensuring

equal access to higher education for all students. The consistent support demonstrates that the University's policy to support students with disabilities is effective and meets their needs.

The support provided by the Department for the Affairs of Disabled/Agency for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (since 2024) for one disabled student amounted to 112.92 EUR per month in 2022 and this amount increased to 123.11 EUR in 2023. In addition, the allowance for partial reimbursement of tuition fees is paid once per month in the sum of 134.4 EUR in 2022 and increased to 156.8 EUR in 2023. Analysing the data for the last years, it can be noticed that the support has consistently increased each year. This increase in financial support is an important step towards reducing social exclusion and ensuring equal access to higher education for all students. The monthly support from the Department for the Affairs of Disabled for one disabled student amounted to 90.48 EUR in 2020 and 99.15 EUR in 2021.

KTU economic responsibility reflects the financial management of the University's activities, including revenues, expenditures and created value, which can be assessed in the context of long-term sustainable development. These financial management practices have a direct impact on the University's financial stability and environmental and social aspects.

Each year, the University submits activity reports including detailed analysis of the aspects of its economic activities. KTU divides its funding into several main categories: national funding, EU funds, and involvement in projects funded by foreign countries or international organisations. All these funding sources enable the development and implementation of various projects and programmes that contribute to the development of the University and the growth of the research field.

According to the latest financial data, KTU financing revenue amounted to 70 985 901 EUR in 2022, and this figure increased to 77 508 897 EUR in 2023. During the analysed period, the largest share of funding was accounted for by state appropriations: 53 158 584 EUR in 2022 and 61 138 740 EUR in 2023. In 2020, KTU financing revenue amounted to 57 588 042 EUR and in 2021, to 60 226 818 EUR, while the state budget provided 41 274 520 EUR in 2020 and 42 199 626 EUR in 2021.

One of the key indicators in the UN Global Compact benchmarks (indicators LA.3 b, c, d, e), in SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and GRI 201-1 indicator (Economic Value Created and Distributed) is the remunerations of employees. According to the provided data, the wages of KTU employees increased in 2022 and 2023 (see Tables 8 and 9). This increase reflects the University's efforts to ensure adequate remuneration for its employees as well as contribute to the country's overall economic growth and social welfare. Moreover, it reflects KTU's commitment to international standards and guidelines that promote fair work and economic prosperity. Rising wages also help attract and retain highly qualified professionals, improve working conditions and motivate employees to pursue higher results, thus contributing to the success and long-term development of the University.

Table 8. Average pre-tax salary of teachers and researchers at Kaunas University of Technology (gross EUR/month) in 2022–2023

Job positions	2022	2023
Professors	5442	5749
Chief Researcher	3622	4750
Senior Researcher	2979	4079
Researcher	2503	3260
Junior Researcher	2221	2906
Associate Professor	3237	3657
Lecturer	2600	2938

Table 9. Average salary of administrative employees at Kaunas University of Technology in 2022–2023

Job positions	2022	2023
Administrative personnel	2510	2963
Project administration and service employees	2765	2930
Service employees	1642	1837

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Over the past few years, the University has also received funding from EU funds and international organisations. In 2022, this income amounted to 17 334 799 EUR, decreasing to 15 883 538 EUR in 2023.

Compared to previous years, funding from EU funds was also unstable (16 176 675 EUR in 2020 and 17 715 168 EUR in 2021).

GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT



Green procurement is procurement in which the entity procures goods, services or works that have the least possible negative impact on the environment at one, several or all stages of the life cycle of those goods, services or works. The Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania seeks to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs and has therefore regulated green procurement through legislation, which facilitates green procurement and enables it to achieve its ambitious goal. The legislation obliges that from 2023, all public procurement must be green; therefore, KTU also aims to meet the needs of the 12th SDG (Responsible Consumption and Production)

and commits to green procurement.

In 2022, KTU performed 3.3% (out of 100%) green procurement in all four quarters, representing 5.3% of the total procurement value. The purchases made through VšĮ CPO LT included office supplies (stationery), communication equipment, furniture, construction works, postal services, etc. (in 2020-2021, KTU made green purchases for a total of 1 488 501.22 EUR, acquiring stationery, office paper and solar energy generation equipment). It is noticeable that since 2020-2021, the percentage of green purchases at the University increased by almost 11%.

However, by 2023, the situation in the area of green procurement was already changing: 85% of green purchases were implemented, representing 50.7% of the total value of purchases. Green procurement

continued to be carried out through VŠĮ CPO LT, with purchases of furniture, repair and maintenance services, medical, pharmaceutical, hygiene products, hotel and insurance services, etc.





KTU Strategy 2021-2025 emphasises the University's responsibility to society and the country. It aims to improve the quality of life and promote the development of statehood (SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities), with an emphasis on the principles of sustainability and cooperation with business and public institutions. The strategy promotes sustainability, social responsibility and technological progress as methods to contribute to an equitable and sustainable society.

The University aims to become a leader in sustainable development and contributes to the community's efforts to reduce negative environmental impacts. KTU consistently reduces the use of natural resources, promotes energy saving and increases the use of energy from renewable sources. The implementation of this strategy reduces emissions that contribute to climate change and promotes waste separation. To further improve energy efficiency, the University is investing in innovative technologies and upgrading its infrastructure.

Advanced energy management systems are being installed on the University's Student Campus to monitor and optimise energy consumption in real time. Moreover, the University cooperates with Kaunas City Municipality and other non-governmental organisations to develop and implement environmental initiatives.

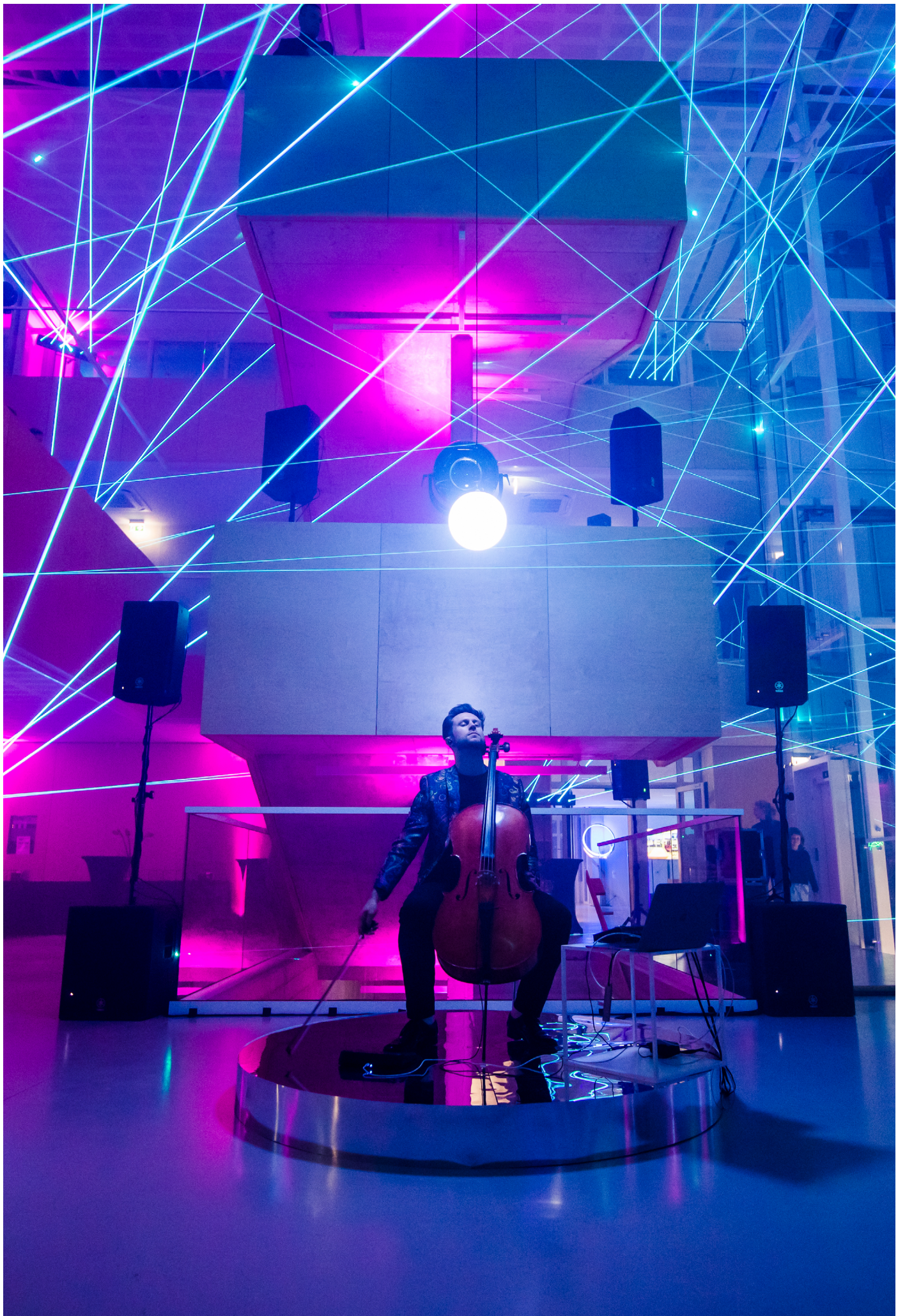
The University buildings are being renovated to make them more energy-efficient by installing energy-efficient lighting and heating systems, solar panels and geothermal energy systems. The use of electric vehicles is also being promoted through the installation of charging stations for electric vehicles close to the University. In 2022-2023, 5635 connections to charging stations were recorded and 79382 kWh of energy was consumed during charging.

The University organises training on sustainability topics, engaging students and academic staff in active discussions on climate change and sustainable lifestyles.

Waste sorting is one of the main actions that KTU undertakes to reduce the negative impact of waste on the environment. As in previous years, so in the analysed years (2020-2023), waste at the University is sorted responsibly. The University cooperates with recycling companies and takes responsible care of the sorting of hazardous waste, such as waste electrical and electronic equipment and waste batteries, ensuring their safe collection and proper recycling. The aim is to reduce the environmental impact of waste and promote the sustainable use of resources.

KTU's projects on sustainable infrastructure development demonstrate the University's commitment to addressing the issues of climate change and the use of natural resources. It responds to SDG 13 Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change and SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, as well as significantly contributes to reducing environmental impacts through green energy (green energy is discussed further in the section Infrastructure/Energy Efficiency).

Various projects are being implemented to promote sustainable infrastructure at the University. These projects include the introduction of energy-efficient technologies and the use of eco-friendly building materials. Moreover, the University initiates research and community engagement programmes to promote ecological lifestyles and reduce negative environmental impacts. The amount of investment in sustainable infrastructure projects implemented by KTU in 2022-2023 amounted to 5.5 million EUR.





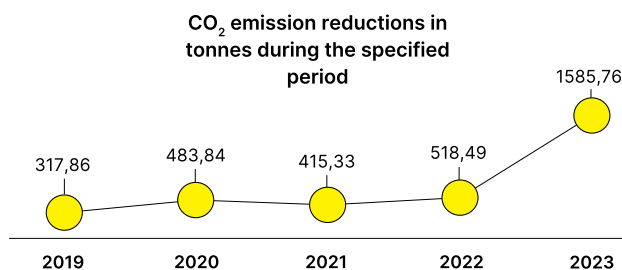
KTU energy and resource use policy is in line with the commitments outlined in the SDGs, including environmental sustainability and long-term environmental responsibility. The aim is to promote environmental awareness and efficient use of resources.

The University emphasises a clean energy transition model, based on SDGs 7, 9, 12, 13 and 11. This means that KTU focuses on affordable and clean energy, promotes industry, innovations and infrastructure, responsible consumption and production, mitigates the impact of climate change, and works towards sustainable cities and communities.

KTU continuously invests in renewable energy projects and innovative technologies to reduce its ecological footprint and promote sustainability. For example, the University's buildings are being equipped with solar energy systems and other energy-saving solutions that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.

Through its infrastructure projects, the University aims to actively contribute to the EU's green transformation. Therefore, the implemented energy efficiency solutions have a lower negative impact on the environment and reduce CO₂ emissions. Monitoring the data of the last four years, the reduction in CO₂ emissions is directly related to infrastructure improvements and consistent investment in sustainable energy systems.

Fig. 2. CO₂ emission reductions in tonnes



Systematic improvements to infrastructure improve physical conditions and provide multiple added value: the implementation of such projects creates new jobs, attracts investment and supports local businesses. Moreover, KTU actively cooperates with local and international partners to implement innovative

solutions in the area of infrastructure. This helps the University become more sustainable and encourages the involvement of students, teachers and researchers in sustainability projects, and develops their awareness and responsible attitude towards the environment. These initiatives contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

KTU aims to ensure that its infrastructure projects focus on reducing environmental impact, saving resources and efficient use of renewable resources. Projects completed in 2022-2023 have directly contributed to improving energy efficiency:

- | The project "Implementation of Renewable Energy Sources in the Buildings of Kaunas University of Technology" was launched in 2021 and implemented in 2022. This project was for the installation of photovoltaic solar power plants at Studentų St. 50, Studentų St. 67, Studentų St. 69 and Studentų St. 71, Kaunas. The total capacity of these plants is 464.82 kW.
- | In 2022, solar photovoltaic power plants were purchased from solar parks for KTU buildings at the following addresses: Radvilėnų St. 19, Studentų St. 56 and K. Baršausko St. 59, Kaunas. The total capacity of the purchased solar photovoltaic plants is 1199.80 kW.
- | In 2022, construction contract works for the 12-storey dormitory No. 10 (Gričiupio St. 13, Kaunas) were completed (complete renovation of the dormitory's exterior and interior, providing modern accommodation services that meet the students' needs).

As part of a consistent building modernisation programme, the University has fully renovated two of its buildings during 2023. The works included not only upgrading the infrastructure of the buildings but also improving their energy efficiency, introducing modern technologies and aesthetic redesign of the interior and exterior. The modernisation aimed to create more comfortable and efficient learning and working conditions for students and staff. Moreover, these investments reflect the University's commitment to sustainability and innovation:

The 4873 m² KTU dormitory No. 11 at Pašilės St. 37, Kaunas, has been modernised by insulating it and renovating the façade, roof and other external elements of the dormitory. The exterior of dormitory No. 11 has been renovated together with dormitory No. 10 to substantially improve the appearance and environment of the building. This modernisation included the expansion and reconstruction of parking areas, the renovation of pedestrian walkways and other elements necessary for the students' welfare. These upgrades have contributed to better living conditions for the residents of the dormitories and have created a more attractive and functional infrastructure for the University. After the implementation of the project, the building was awarded a Class B energy efficiency rating. In addition, the building has been adapted for people with disabilities, ensuring full accessibility and comfort.

The 10123 m² building of KTU Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Design at Studentų St. 56, Kaunas, was completely renovated in 2023. Following the recommendations of an energy audit, the

building's exterior and internal structures have been completely renovated and efficient LED lighting has been installed. After these changes, the building was awarded a Class C energy efficiency. The modernisation of the building included the redesign of the common areas, creating a more comfortable and welcoming environment for students and staff. These improvements increased the energy efficiency of the building and improved the working conditions for the staff. To implement the University's equal opportunities policy and the principles of the UN Global Compact 10, the building has been adapted for people with disabilities. It is equipped with tactile surfaces to facilitate movement and a lift to ensure accessibility for all residents.

In 2023, a 122.85 kW solar photovoltaic power plant was installed on the roof of KTU building at Studentų St. 54, Kaunas. Another new solar PV plant of 37 kW is installed on the roof of a building at Studentų St. 63A, Kaunas. A remote solar park photovoltaic power plant with a capacity of over 190 kW has been purchased and commissioned in Kurkliai Village, Lazdijai District Municipality, and will supply electricity to KTU building at K. Donelaičio St. 73, Kaunas.

M-LAB CENTRE – A SPACE FOR INNOVATIONS AND PROTOTYPING



In 2023, reconstruction works were completed in the building at Studentų g. 63A, Kaunas, which houses the M-Lab Centre. The M-Lab Centre is home to 12 different thematic laboratories combining various research, experimental development and innovation (R&D&I) fields and competencies, with the main activities focused on experimental research and prototyping in an efficient collaboration between science and business. At the same time, the centre focuses on the development and strengthening of students' practical skills, aiming to bring together and integrate R&D&I and study activities. This will help to promote the early involvement of young researchers in research activities and R&D&I projects implemented at the research laboratories of the M-Lab Centre and develop practical R&D&I skills. The research conducted at the centre mainly focuses on people, their health, well-being and the entire environment surrounding them. Researchers from various laboratories of the

M-Lab will collaborate to test and validate solutions in a near real-life setting to create value-added innovations in electronics, biomedical engineering, sustainable energy, chemistry, digital health technologies, telemedicine and other areas. The renovated building of the M-Lab Centre features modern, compatible energy and architectural solutions, which together enable the University to comply with sustainability principles and implement the SDGs. The building is equipped with geothermal borehole heat pumps and a solar power plant installed on the roof of the building, the roof of the building is landscaped and the building includes two cantilevers and indoor and outdoor amphitheatres. The building has a fully automated building management system that enables the control of the building's engineering systems according to the building's operating cycles, thus ensuring optimal and efficient use of the resources required for its operation.

The implementation of this project included the use of sustainable solutions by adopting environmentally sustainable construction practices, using the existing building structures and recycled plastic polycarbonate panels for the facade. A modern architectural composition was also implemented to minimise solar energy absorption and heat storage inside the building. To reduce CO₂ emissions, a combined heating system with renewable energy sources such as geothermal heat pumps with a variable capacity of 21-88 kW was installed.

This system is also used for partial cooling of the building: the energy is supplied by a photovoltaic solar power plant with a capacity of 37 kW mounted on the roof through intermediate heat exchangers. A state-of-the-art building management system Siemens Scada Desigo has been installed to efficiently manage the engineering systems and reduce energy costs. This is used to control lighting, air supply and heating only where needed. Variable timetables and sensor-controlled engineering systems help maximise energy savings and maintain the sustainability of the building. Thanks to these modern solutions, the building's energy rating has been raised to A++.

The solar power plants installed on the University's roofs generated over 840 MWh of energy in 2023, which is much higher than forecast (439 310 kWh/y and about 305 t/y. reduction of CO₂ emissions). Such results prove that efficient solutions can contribute to a sustainable environment and that every generated MWh encourages KTU to reduce its CO₂ footprint.

In 2022, the project "Implementation of Renewable Energy Sources in the Buildings of Kaunas University of Technology" was implemented, during which photovoltaic solar power plants were installed at Studentų St. 50, Studentų St. 67, Studentų St. 69 and Studentų St. 71, Kaunas. The total capacity of these plants is 464.82 kW, and it is estimated that the plants will generate about 439 310 kWh/y of electricity, while CO₂ emissions will be reduced by about 305 t/y.

The University's rooftop and remote solar power plants generate around 30% of the electricity needed to power the University's buildings each year, aiming to increase this indicator to 50%. The energy generated by the solar power plants saves the University around 400 000 EUR each year. These funds will be allocated for the development of renewable energy

sources or other energy-saving measures. This is expected to reinforce the added value created by the University in sustainable energy production, reduce its dependence on traditional energy sources and ensure its financial stability in the long term.

The University has fully automated the management of KTU Santaka Valley (K. Baršausko St. 59, Kaunas), M-Lab (Studentų St. 63A, Kaunas) and dormitory No. 10 (Gričiupio St. 13, Kaunas). Continuous investments are also being made in the automation of the engineering systems of other buildings. These systems allow monitoring the condition of the building, detecting faults and efficiently responding to problems, thus improving operational efficiency and reducing maintenance costs. Heating, cooling and lighting systems can be adjusted according to demand, reducing electricity consumption and ensuring building comfort through stable temperatures, adequate humidity and ventilation.

The University actively participates in the funding programmes of the Environmental Project Management Agency. Currently, dormitory modernisation projects have been prepared and are planned to be implemented at Vydūno Al. 25 and Vydūno Al. 25A, Kaunas. Modernisation projects are also planned for the buildings located at K. Donelaičio St. 73, A. Mickevičiaus St. 37, Gedimino St. 50 and Pašilės St. 39, Kaunas, providing sustainable and modern solutions.

Creating better conditions for research infrastructure to increase sustainability and energy use in the University's buildings and dormitory infrastructure enables the effective reduction of the University's energy costs.

The project on digital twins, which is being developed by the CSCI, is of great importance for the energy optimisation of KTU buildings. Digital twins are one of the latest areas of construction, involving the digitisation of the building during its design as well as the monitoring of the required parameters during its operation. They allow real-time mapping of energy consumption or infrastructure in need of repair. Digital twins have been developed for KTU Student Campus, including the M-Lab building, and part of Kaunas. Due to its uniqueness, KTU Student Campus, digitised by the KTU team in 2023, together with part of Kaunas City, made it to the final of the competition organised by Bentley Systems.

The renovated buildings of the University significantly reduce energy costs, improve the layout of the buildings and make optimal use of useful and use-less space. Modern engineering systems have been installed to operate the dormitory buildings more efficiently.

The University has the potential to develop solar power plants by installing solar panels on the roofs of the dormitories and other buildings (Studentų St. 56, K. Donelaičio St. 73, A. Mickevičiaus St. 37, Laisvės Av. 13, Kaunas, etc.). The expansion of the solar park is planned to be subject to subsidies and budget appropriations, as it requires additional investments.

Furthermore, KTU promotes responsible use and production of resources by integrating sustainability principles into its study programmes and research activities. The University also works with industry and business partners to develop and implement innovations that contribute to sustainable industrial development and infrastructure improvement. All of this helps KTU to be a greener university as well as raises awareness among students and the community about the importance of sustainability, promotes responsible management of natural resources and contributes to climate change mitigation.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES



Between 2014 and 2024, 9 electric vehicle charging stations were installed in the vicinity of KTU. The opportunity to receive 1050.80 EUR support from the joint project “Installation of Private Charging Points for Electric Vehicles” after submitting an application to the Lithuanian Energy Agency under the call “Installation of Private Charging Points for Electric Vehicles at Workplaces of Legal Entities” encouraged KTU to install electric vehicle charging points. The received support was used to install an EV charging point at KTU Santaka Valley (K. Baršausko St. 59, Kaunas), and four more have been installed near dormitory No. 11 (Pašilės St. 37, Kaunas).

In 2022-2023, 5635 connections were registered at KTU charging stations, and approximately 79 382 kWh of electricity was consumed. Compared to previous years, energy consumption has increased due to the growing number of charging stations (7 121 kWh in 2020 and 10 330 kWh in 2021). The electricity consumption in 2022-2023 increased by 354.91%, or 3.55 times more than in 2020-2021. Each year, different amounts of electricity were used to charge

the electric vehicles on KTU Student Campus. For example, in 2018-2019, only 10 MWh of electricity was used to charge electric vehicles, while in 2022-2023, this figure increased to 79 382 kWh (see Table 10). All electricity was generated from biofuel and supplied by AB Kauno Energija.

The amount of electricity used to charge electric vehicles at the charging stations on KTU Student Campus varies from year to year. In 2018-2019, only 10 MWh of electricity was used to charge electric vehicles. All the energy used to charge electric vehicles comes from Kaunas City grid, which states that currently all energy is produced from biofuels.

Table 10. Number of charging stations for electric vehicles in the vicinity of KTU and the electricity consumed at these stations

	2022/2023	2023	2022	2021	2020
Number of charging stations for electric vehicles	9	9	7	3	2
Consumed kWh	79 382	48 882	30 500	10 330	7 121

WASTE



Members of the University community are constantly encouraged to sort secondary raw materials, and a waste sorting system has been introduced for this purpose: waste bins for paper, plastic and mixed waste are present in buildings. Discarded batteries are collected and discarded IT equipment, smartphones and various accessories are sold to Kaunas Regional Waste Management Centre. Moreover, educational events and campaigns are organised to raise community awareness of the importance of waste sorting. Exchanges of items that are no longer needed but are still useful are also carried out to reduce environmental pollution and contribute to a sustainable environment.

In 2022-2023, there were 8 plastic, 26 paper, 8 glass, 24 battery and 2 bulky waste sorting containers on the territory of KTU. The number of these containers remained unchanged compared to 2020-2021

as there was no such need. The University does not have containers for metal and green waste, which is collected and disposed of centrally under contract, as well as the waste of electrical and electronic equipment.

The University is actively sorting secondary raw materials and waste and developing a modern waste management system. In 2020-2021, aiming to efficiently manage household waste (paper, glass and bulky waste), KTU committed to cooperation with one of the leading waste management companies in Lithuania, UAB Kauno Švara, which has a strong track record of work in environmental improvement. All waste in Kaunas City is managed following the Municipal Waste Management Regulations of Kaunas City Municipality and other waste management legislation of the Republic of Lithuania.

KTU also implements education and awareness programmes to encourage students and the community to participate in environmental protection activities. This consistent set of actions emphasises KTU's commitment to implementing sustainable and environmentally friendly practices that contribute to sustainable development, raise the awareness of the community and encourage responsible behaviour towards nature.

KTU community is successfully sorting secondary raw materials. During the analysed period (2022-2023), the amount of plastic and bulky waste at the University has decreased significantly, but the amount of glass, discarded batteries and electrical and electronic equipment has increased (see Table 11).

Table 11. Bulky waste at Kaunas University of Technology

	2022-2023	2020-2021	2018-2019
Plastics	22 t	24 t	24 t
Paper	67 t	39 t	96 t
Glass	6 t	1,5 t	7 t
Electrical and electronic equipment	0,6 t	0,6 t	3 t
Cells (batteries)	0,8 t	0,2 t	0,0025 t
Bulky waste	72 t	158 t	327 t
Metal	7 t	9 t	10 t

The provided data indicates the efforts of KTU to reduce its negative environmental impact. The University supports initiatives promoting the use of recycled materials in everyday activities and thus contributes to sustainable and environmentally friendly lifestyles.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022-2023 ACHIEVEMENTS IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



In 2022, the Lithuanian Science Prize in Technological Sciences was awarded to Prof. Dr. S. Grigalevičius for his work "New Structure Electroactive Derivatives for Optoelectronics Technologies".

In 2022, the prize of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Baltic Young Talent Programme "For Women in Science" was awarded to Dr. G. Kručaitė.

In 2022, Prof. Dr. R. Maskeliūnas and Assoc. Prof. M. Odusami received the award in the TV3 TV National Awards "Honour of Lithuania" in the nomination "Discovery of the Year".

In 2022, student M. Surdokaitė received the award of LRT Television LRT Awards of the Year in the nomination "Future of the Year" for her achievements in the EU Young Scientists Competition.

In 2022, both Kaunas City Science Prizes were awarded to the University scientists: Prof. Dr. P. R. Venskutonis for his achievements in the fields of physical, biomedical, agricultural and technological sciences, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Petrusis for his achievements in the fields of humanities and social sciences.

The winner of the 2022 Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers competition "Best Dissertations 2021" was Dr. E. Kasparavičius (in chemistry).

The 2022 Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Young Scientists and Doctoral Students Competition Prize was awarded to Dr. L. Jūrienė, the Higher Education Students' Research Competition winners were U. Orinaitė, A. Šermukšnytė, L. Dvylys, M. Dagilis, J. Mykolaitis, and the letter of commendation was awarded to M. Ilickas.

2022-2023 Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Young Scientist Scholarships were awarded to Dr. K. Rakštys and Dr. D. Tavgenienė.

In 2022, the University's Most Innovative Scientist Prize was awarded to Prof. Dr. V. Getautis.

The winners of the 2022 competition for the University's most active young scientists (no more than 7 years after obtaining their doctoral degree) were Dr. D. Čiužas, Dr. V. Samaitis, Dr. K. Rakštys, Dr. T. Dambrauskas and Dr. A. Grybauskas.

The winners of the 2022 Best Monographs of the University competition were: 1st prize - Habil. Dr. V.

Ostaševičius, 2nd prize - Dr. E. Staniškienė, Dr. E. Stankevičiūtė, Dr. Asta Daunorienė, Dr. J. Ramanauskaitė, 3rd prize - Dr. A. Veilentienė.

The 2023 prize of L'Oréal-UNESCO Baltic Young Talent Programme "For Women in Science" was awarded to doctoral student A. Drevilkauskaitė.

In 2023, Prof. Dr. P. R. Venskutonis was elected as a member of the ISEKI Food Association Academy for outstanding achievements in scientific and technical excellence.

Prof. Dr. A. Telešienė has been invited by the UN Environment Programme to join nearly 100 scientists from around the world to prepare the Global Environment Survey by 2026.

In the 2023 Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT) Awards, Prof. Dr. R. Maskeliūnas and his team were awarded in the "Discovery of the Year" category for the development of practical technologies and their application in medicine.

In the AI Awards 2023 of the Lithuanian Artificial Intelligence Association former University Prof. Habil. Dr. A. Verikas was awarded for his lifetime achievements in the field of artificial intelligence, and the Rising Star nomination was won by doctoral student M. Lukauskas.

Prof. Dr. D. Viržonis and his team, who have developed an air quality monitoring technology, have won the nomination "For Investing in Innovation in Business" in the competition European Sails 2023, which evaluates the highest value-creating EU-funded projects in Lithuania.

In 2023, at the 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, Kaunas modernist architecture was included in the World Heritage List. Dr. V. Petrulis, a member of the expert working group and a KTU researcher, was actively involved in the preparation of the application "Modern Kaunas: The Architecture of Optimism, 1919-1939".

The winner of the 2023 Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers competition "The Best 2022 Dissertations" in the category of humanities and social sciences and arts was Dr. J. Radzevičė (in management), and in the category of the best dissertations of the

Lithuanian citizens defended in foreign research and academic institutions, the winner was Dr. V. Petrulis, a researcher of the University. R. Petkutė-Budrė (in education), who defended her doctoral dissertation at Tallinn University, Estonia, and Dr. K. Norvaiša (in chemistry), who started his scientific career at KTU, defended his doctoral dissertation at Trinity College (University of Dublin), Ireland, were the winners.

The 2023 Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Young Scientists and Doctoral Students Competition Prize was awarded to doctoral student D. Blaževičius, and letters of commendation were awarded to Dr. F. Mubarak, doctoral student Š. Daškevičiūtė-Gegežienė, Dr. N. Maqsood, the letter of commendation in the competition of scientific works of students of higher education institutions was awarded to doctoral student U. Jurkutė.

In 2023-2024, Dr. T. Dambrauskas has been awarded a Young Scientist Scholarship of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

The 2023 University's Most Innovative Scientist Prizes were awarded to Prof. Dr. D. Leskauskaitė and Prof. Dr. A. Ragauskas. The winners of the 2023 University's Most Active Young Scientists (no more than 7 years after obtaining their doctoral degree) competition were Dr. D. Tavgenienė, Dr. T. Dambrauskas, Dr. R. Keruckienė, Dr. A. Grybauskas, and Dr. N. Gerulaitienė.

The winners of the 2023 Best Monographs of the University competition were: 1st prize - Dr. F. C. Rabbitz, 2nd prize - Dr. M. Vilkas, Dr. J. Duobienė, Dr. R. Rauleckas, Dr. A. Rūtelionė, Dr. B. Šeinauskienė, 3rd prize - Dr. B. Tranavičiūtė, Dr. V. Petrulis and Dr. P. T. Laurinaitis.

The digital twin of Kaunas city and KTU Student Campus, created by CSCI, was awarded at the conference "Digital Construction 2022" as the best city model of the year. The KTU project was also nominated at the annual awards event "Going Digital 2022" of the international company Bentley Systems in London, where it was among the top 3 projects in the world in the category of Digital Cities and Campuses, thus appreciating the Smart Campus ecosystem being developed by KTU.





KTU community consistently develops and fosters the identity of a responsible university focused on sustainable operational processes and solutions in various fields of activities: studies, research and infrastructure management. The University is guided by a long-term strategy and the accompanying KTU Sustainable Development Guidelines (2025), which include various initiatives to strengthen academic quality, promote research and innovation, ensure energy efficiency and reduce environmental pollution.

KTU also aims to integrate sustainability principles into individual areas of its activities to promote a sustainable economy and social responsibility. In cooperation with local and international organisations, the University develops projects that contribute to reducing climate change, using renewable energy sources and developing smart infrastructure.

Moreover, the University is actively involved in public education and awareness-raising on the importance of sustainable development, involving students, staff and members of the public in various educational and practical activities. KTU aims to become a role model for other universities and institutions by demonstrating how higher education can contribute to the creation of a sustainable future.

KTU operates aiming to integrate and respond to the 17 SDGs and educate responsible future leaders and specialists in their field, striving for coherence among people, environment and long-term welfare. Educational activities and sustainability projects are initiated following the guidelines for social responsibility activities. KTU consistently fosters a culture of sustainable development and responsibility within the University community, contributes to ensuring sustainability and enhances its responsibility to the environment, society and the region. The University's strategy is aimed at strengthening its responsibility to society and the country, combining activities to improve the quality of human life and accelerate the development of statehood.

KTU is committed to realising responsible and sustainable development at the University, performing educational activities, and initiating projects that contribute to the sustainability of the University, the

region and the world. Moreover, KTU aims to integrate the principles of sustainable development into the processes of studies, research and administration seeking to increase community awareness and involvement, as well as to improve its infrastructure. KTU operates based on common university values: social responsibility, cooperation and constant improvement.

One of the University's priorities is to further increase the University's energy independence using sustainable solutions to improve its environmental performance indicators. By consistently implementing infrastructure projects, the University is becoming more modern and innovative, while at the same time, it manages to reduce its environmental impact by adopting technological solutions based on renewable energy sources. The University continues to actively reduce its energy consumption and invest in measures to reduce energy costs.

The University is committed to providing quality education, collaborating with various organisations, sustainable urban development, promoting innovation, responsible consumption, combating climate change, and maintaining human well-being and equality. Interdisciplinary partnerships and engagement in urban development promote innovation, sustainable economic growth and equality.

The list of KTU priorities focuses on academic integrity, quality of studies, cooperation with business and public sector organisations, introduction of sustainability principles and social responsibility. Students are encouraged to get involved in projects with business for integration and practical experience.

One of the main objectives of the University is to provide quality education, because studies, research and proper management of infrastructure contribute to a culture of sustainable development and a responsible approach to decisions that are important for society, business, the region and the environment. Targeted partnerships with business, research and non-governmental organisations create value for Kaunas Region and Lithuania, while international partnerships address regional and global challenges.

The University is actively involved in creating sustainable and smart cities, working with the public sector and businesses to create a more convenient and sustainable environment. It responsibly develops new and upgrades existing infrastructure, promotes sustainable industrialisation and innovation, ensures responsible consumption and production, and actively combats climate change and its consequences.

KTU aims to ensure healthy lives and well-being for people of all ages, promotes sustainable economic growth, productive employment and decent work, and pursues gender equality. By strengthening international cooperation, the University provides the highest quality studies, develops the community spirit of the organisation, and promotes progress in research and innovation.

KTU strives to be responsible to society; therefore, it promotes sustainable, climate-friendly urbanisation, uses renewable energy and increases community involvement in the implementation of the SDGs. At the same time, KTU seeks cooperation; therefore, it promotes sustainable industrialisation and the devel-

opment of sustainable innovations, develops international and national partnerships with higher education institutions, and cooperates with businesses and public sector organisations. Through continuous development, KTU promotes the digitisation of processes, ensures quality education, increases the number of SDG topics in study programmes and performs systematic educational activities.

To demonstrate its success and achieve its sustainability goals, KTU has modernised around 45% of all buildings managed by the University since 2021, self-generated around 30% of its electricity, reduced CO2 emissions by 938 tonnes per year, and implemented around 70% of its projects responding to the SDGs, organised at least 40 real-life challenges for students related to the SDGs, reduced paper consumption by 15%, fully integrated sustainable development topics into the curricula, developed 2 science-business and science-science infrastructure projects and increased the dissemination of University-related messages through external communication channels by 20%.

