

Annex 4. Student Organisations at Vilnius University

PROGRAMMES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES, AND PROJECTS COORDINATED BY THE VILNIUS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' REPRESENTATION

STUDENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:



The COINS. One of the largest student-led international life sciences conferences in Europe, running since 2004. The event promotes scientific dissemination and encourages collaboration between students, researchers, and companies.

Key achievements in 2024: 700 participants, 240 student poster presentations, and a dedicated programme for school students; publication of [The COINS 2024 Book of Abstracts](#).

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(Un)Discovered Asia. This Society focuses on promoting the history, culture, and languages of the Asian region. Join [here](#). **Key achievements in 2024:** the establishment of the Society; introducing Hindi and Urdu to the residents of Vilnius in collaboration with the open youth centre 'Žalianamis'.

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VUpsi. A society of psychology enthusiasts based at the Faculty of Philosophy of Vilnius University. VUpsi aims to promote cooperation between students and teaching staff, develop academic literacy, encourage engagement in research activities, and popularise psychology in public events. Its broader goal is to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and psychologists. **Key achievements in 2024:** the launch of the VUpsi initiative; commencement of promotion activities.

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STUDENT MOBILITY/INTERNATIONALITY:



Erasmus Student Network at Vilnius University. The oldest (established in 2003) and largest Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

section in Lithuania, promoting student mobility and supporting international students arriving through bilateral exchange programmes to integrate at Vilnius University. **Key achievements in 2024:** the implementation of the 'ESNbuddy' programme (in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Šiauliai); integration events for Erasmus and other international exchange students; participation in international events: [Erasmus Generation Meeting](#) (Seville) and 'EYE Vilnius and Northern European Platform' (Tallinn); more than 65 events organised during the spring and autumn semesters

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STUDENT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, DEMOCRATIC VALUES, AND INITIATIVE:



Student Civil Resistance Committee. Established in 2024, the Committee aims to educate students on civil resistance and strengthen their determination to defend their country. **Key achievements in 2024:** a discussion on the role of students in national defence; a hike 'On the Paths of Student Resistance' exploring students' role in the June Uprising in 1941; a lecture on civic resilience by Lieutenant Colonel Valerijus Šerelis.

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Young Journalists' Society at Vilnius University.

Since 2021, the Society has brought together youth from across Lithuania who are interested in journalism and want to develop their creative potential in practice. **Key achievements in 2024:** Journalists' Days events (leŽuDi) and the mentoring programme (132 applicants, 28 selected students, 17 mentors); the Young Journalists' Award was launched in cooperation with the Romas Sakadolskis Forum (40 candidates); contracts were concluded with the editorial offices of *15min.lt* and *bernardinai.lt*.

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Vilnius University Radio Station – [START FM](#).

START FM is Lithuania's only student-run radio station, operating since 2005. It actively promotes alternative Lithuanian and international artists and bands, conducts interviews with musicians, supports artistic and social initiatives, and offers broad opportunities for student self-expression. **Key achievements in 2024:** 531 radio shows produced, including high-profile interviews with Speaker of the Parliament Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen, and public figures Edmundas Jakilaitis and Skirmantas Malinauskas; 8,760 hours of on-air content; year-round training sessions for students from the Faculty of Communication; around 100 volunteers involved in radio activities. Instagram



Sustainability Ambassadors Network. Since 2023, the Network has been providing a space for every young person interested in sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aims to raise public awareness on sustainability issues (through various activities) and to submit proposals to Vilnius University. Join the Network [here](#). **Key achievements in 2024:** the '(Re)Think Green Sustainability Festival' organised at Vilnius University.

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Vilnius University Student Investment

Fund.

Established in 2006, this was the first student-managed investment fund in Lithuania. The Fund's mission is to become a leading student investment fund in Europe by fostering financial literacy and providing members with comprehensive knowledge and experience in investment management, finance, marketing, and communication. **Key achievements in 2024:** established partnerships with the 'HOSSA' (Poland) and 'TalTech Tudengifond' (Estonia) student funds; published articles on developments in European stock markets in 'Investuok' magazine; produced nine financial literacy videos that received nearly a quarter of a million views.

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Club of Young Energetics.

The Club began its activities in 2011. It brings together young people curious about various types of energy, uniting those eager to LEARN more about this sector and SHARE this knowledge with others. The Club aims to educate the public on energy-related topics. **Key achievements in 2024:** four public lectures on topics relevant to Lithuania's energy sector ('Lithuania's Energy Vision 2050', 'Electricity and Natural Gas Prices for Households', 'EPSO-G Strategy to 2035', 'COP29 Decisions and Lithuania's Response'); established partnership with EPSO-G Group (some members are doing internships there); contributed to the renewal of exhibits at [Antalieptė Energy Museum](#) (repaired and renewed several exhibits: a Jacob's Ladder, an electrostatic machine, and an interactive exhibit on electric current through graphite); organised four club excursions to: 'Litgrid', Kaunas Hydroelectric Power Plant, Kruonis Pumped Storage Plant, and 'SoliTek' Solar Panel Factory.

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Vilnius University Debate Society.

The aim of the Society, which has been operating since 2013, is to develop and foster high-level university debating at Vilnius University and represent both VU and Lithuania in international tournaments and at events. **Key achievements in 2024:** organised debate tournaments: 'Vilnius Cup 2024' and 'Vilnius Speakeasy'; participated in international tournaments: 'Copenhagen Open 2024', 'Vienna IV 2024', and 'Riga SSE 2024'. Facebook Instagram



Vilnius University Career Days.

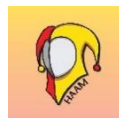
The largest event organised by the Vilnius University Students' Representation since 2008. It helps students establish themselves in the job market, explore career and internship opportunities, and become competitive professionals in their fields. **Key achievements in 2024:** the organised events and implemented initiatives attracted around 7,000 students and over 55 companies and organisations; the main week of events for Career Days featured the networking fair, speed interviews, a hackathon, various workshops, and discussions to support students' integration into the labour market.

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Students for Pupils, Pupils for Students.

Since 2009, this project has aimed to introduce secondary school students to Vilnius University, its study programmes, and extracurricular activities, as well as to foster cooperation between pupils and university students. **Key achievements in 2024:** a two-day camp for high school students; 23 students helped organise the camp, with more than 30 pupils participating. Facebook Instagram



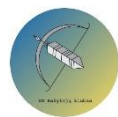
Alber aus VU HEMA.

The Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA) Club has been active since 2021. **Key achievements in 2024:** participated in various events (Days of Live Archaeology in Kernavė, Battle of Grunwald reenactment, and Medieval Day in the Bastion), festivals ('Kilkim Žaibu', 'Lituanicon', 'SMK Student Night', and 'Rapier&Dagger Crash Course HEMA'), and tournament 'Sabre & Stick Riga Open'; organised the third international tournament 'Alber's Sword' ('Alberio kalavijas'), held regular training sessions, educational events, and seminars. Facebook Instagram



Kendo Club.

Founded in 2008, the Club promotes knowledge and practice of kendo (Japanese fencing) within the Vilnius University community. **Key achievements in 2024:** Club members participated in eight international tournaments and won awards; participated in four training events; organised workshops and events in cooperation with the Lithuanian Kendo Association. Facebook Instagram



Vilnius University Writers' Club.

Since 2014, the Club has brought together writing and literature enthusiasts. Members discuss literature and the writing process with like-minded peers, review each other's works anonymously, and share helpful advice. The Club organises meetings with authors and explores various creative writing games. International students who join us are guaranteed a warm welcome! Facebook Instagram



VU FOTOKLUBAS

Vilnius University Photo Club.

Although established in 1970, the Club remained inactive for several decades. Thanks to the initiative of a group of proactive students, the Club's activities were revived at the turn of the millennium. Bringing together talented, open-minded, and creative people who want to express themselves through photography, the goal of the Club is to capture and perpetuate the stories that surround us. **Key achievements in 2024:** the Club resumed its activities; members were offered activities such as meetings with professional photographers, photowalks, and training sessions in three categories: photography basics, analogue photography, and advanced skills. The Club also provides an opportunity to gain hands-on experience by photographing University events, with selected photos later published for public viewing. Facebook Instagram



Art and Handicrafts Club 'Arti'. The Club brings together creative members of the Vilnius University community in a space where everyone can creatively express themselves and learn different techniques from one another. **Key achievements in**

2024: the Club was founded and has already gathered its first members (currently 39, including coordinators); Club members participated as guests in two events, where they led workshops – one jointly organised by the Faculty of Communication and the Faculty of Philosophy on branches of art therapy, and another during the night event at the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences. [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)



Crochet Club. Founded at the end of 2024, this Club for Vilnius University students hosts weekly sessions to teach and practice the art of crochet. [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)



Ukrainian Youth Group in Lithuania (UYGL). Founded in 2022, this is the first and only Ukrainian youth organisation in Lithuania, actively engaged in European integration, politics, and media literacy. **Key achievements in**

2024: the UYGL organised 23 events, including protest actions, discussions, and cultural evenings, attracting nearly 1,000 participants, around 800 of whom were unique participants. They raised around €3,000 in support of Ukraine through projects such as 'Run for Light' and '33United'. The group collaborates with Serhii Plokhly, the Lotus Foundation, DVIZH, the Ukrainian Embassy, LIJOT, the Association of Azovstal Defenders' Families, the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Ambassador Arnoldas Pranckevičius, and others. [Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)



VU Students' Representation Programme 'No Labels'. Since 2010, this programme has focused on educating the public about human rights and the issues that socially vulnerable groups face. **Key achievements in 2024:** a screening of the film 'Flower' and discussion

on changing gender representations in cinema; Violence Prevention Month, including two events and an awareness campaign; the fourth annual 'Culture for All' queer culture festival, featuring four events – two of which were held in Kaunas for the first time; the seventh annual Halloween event 'Halophobia', this year focusing on the topic of burnout.

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Vilnius University Legal Clinic.

Established in 1998 by Vilnius University, the VU Students' Representation, and the law firm 'Ellex Valiūnas', the Clinic provides free legal aid to socially vulnerable individuals, emerging and young businesses, NGOs, and all Vilnius city residents (as primary state-guaranteed legal assistance). It also offers internship opportunities for students from the Faculty of Law and works to improve public legal literacy. **Key achievements in 2024:** 14 Faculty of Law students provided pro bono legal services; a total of 5,922 free legal consultations were provided, bringing the total to approximately 100,000 since the Clinic was founded. [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)



Leisure Society 'Kauliukas' ('Dice').

Established in 2023, the Society organises weekly events (game nights, meme contests, and D&D sessions) to bring together students from various faculties and offer an alcohol-free space for socialising. **Key achievements in 2024:** reached 255 members; events continue to grow in attendance, with many participants returning regularly; organised around 80 game nights, five meme contests, one trivia night, and one D&D event.

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Mentoring Programme. The Mentoring Programme, implemented by the VU Students' Representation since 2000, helps first-year students integrate into the Vilnius University community. Senior students, who become mentors after completing training organised by the Students' Representation, provide guidance, organise events, and share essential information. This year, 241 mentors supported over 4,300 first-year students.

Several other organisations have also resumed their activities at Vilnius University, including the 'Sąžiningai' programme to promote academic ethics, the Anthropologists' Club 'SpeakVU', and the Military Club.

OTHER STUDENT ORGANISATIONS AND CLUBS AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY



Student Corporation 'RePublica' at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science.

Since 2001, the Corporation has aimed to foster active citizenship and prepare competent and ethical political science professionals. It also maintains strong ties among former and current students and teaching staff of the Institute of International Relations and Political Science and upholds student and corporate traditions. **Key achievements in 2024:** organised the School for Young Political Scientists – a four-session informal programme combining lectures and interactive workshops (30 high school participants); Assoc. Prof. Dr Vilius Bartninkas received the *Professoris Optimi* award.

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Open Readings.

This year marked the 67th edition of the international student conference Open Readings. The event offers a platform for students and young researchers from around the world to present their research and internship results in physics and natural sciences. The 'Café Scientifique' public lecture series is also part of the programme. **Key achievements in 2024:** the conference brought together 450 participants; keynote speakers included former NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Director Prof. Charles Elachi and former LASERLAB-EUROPE Director Prof. Jens Biegert; workshops on launching science-based start-ups were held; [seven 'Café Scientifique' lectures](#) were hosted; the [Open Readings Book of Abstracts 2024](#) was published.

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Young Geographers' Club | EGEA Vilnius. Since 1994, the Club has brought together geography enthusiasts and encouraged participation in hikes, conferences, and civic initiatives. EGEA Vilnius is a branch of the European Geography

Association for Students. **Key achievements in 2024:** organised the EGEA North & Baltic Regional Congress in Molėtai (attracting 60 geographers from ten European countries); held six hikes in collaboration with EGEA Tartu and 'Bike Ride Vilnius'. [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)



Lithuanian Association for Natural Sciences Olympiads. Founded in 2014, the Association promotes interest in natural sciences among school pupils by organising Olympiads, science popularisation events, and educational activities. The Biologists' Association (*Biologų sandrauga*, BioSa) is a related project. **Key achievements in 2024:** organised national stages of the Lithuanian Chemistry (LitChO), Physics (LitFO), and Biology (LitBO) Olympiads, engaging 328 pupils from grades 9 to 12; conducted educational activities aimed at promoting science in two schools and one scout camp; remote monitoring of tasks was carried out for the Lithuanian Natural Sciences Olympiad, which involved 1,450 students from Grades 5 to 10. [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

FiDi was held – a night-long workshop event that brought together 129 students across nine interactive stations, each dedicated to a different field; the largest-ever FiDi Christmas car ride was organised, with up to ten cars festively decorated in FiDi-style, spreading the spirit of Christmas as they paraded through the city.

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Vilnius-Lithuania iGEM. Founded in 2015, this team represents Vilnius University and Lithuania in the prestigious international synthetic biology competition, 'iGEM'. This year, the team worked on developing an environmentally-friendly bacterial glue made from polysaccharides. The young researchers used naturally occurring waterborne bacteria – *Caulobacter crescentus* and *Hirschia baltica* – which produce powerful adhesive substances called holdfasts that help them attach to various surfaces underwater. **Key achievements in 2024:** the team organised 'SynFolk' – a series of public events; it ranked among the top ten teams globally and received the award for Best Biomanufacturing Project; the student team also brought home a gold medal for Excellence in Synthetic Biology and won the award for Best Software Tool, as well as being nominated for 'Best Wiki' and Best Part Collection.

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Student Society of Naturalists. This youth organisation was founded in 2006 at the Vilnius University Life Sciences Center. Open to everyone – not only natural science specialists or students, the Society is dedicated to public science education and organises various events to promote awareness of nature and science. **Key activities in 2024:** organised six public lectures, two nature exploration hikes, three member expeditions to protected areas, two public discussions on nature conservation, one of which was in collaboration with the Vilnius Ethnic Culture Centre; established a partnership with 'Coalition Clean Baltic'; six members participated in the international course 'Our Common Baltic'; produced an educational video, now accessible via a QR code in new biology textbooks; organised an educational event for pupils at the Vytautas Magnus University Lyceum 'Sokratas'. [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

In addition to these student organisations, Vilnius University is also home to various other groups, including arts collectives and sports teams. Students also have the opportunity to volunteer at the Vilnius University Museum, Library, and Botanical Garden.



Vilnius University Hikers' Club. Since 1958, the Club has promoted the health of the Vilnius University community and the wider public by organising hikes, training sessions, and other activities, while fostering awareness and appreciation of Lithuania's natural and cultural heritage. **Key achievements in 2024:** organised 25 hikes with 974 participants in total (around 40 per hike); since the start of the autumn season, the Club has also launched free climbing sessions for VU students and travel story evenings. [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)



Lithuanian Medical Students' Association. The Association was established in 1997. It is a voluntary, non-political, non-profit youth NGO that unites medical students across Lithuania. [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)



University LGBT+ Group. Founded in 2018, the group unites LGBT+ individuals from universities and colleges in Vilnius and Kaunas. It fosters respect for each person and their perspectives, promotes societal tolerance toward LGBT+ community members, advocates for human rights protection, and supports minority integration and equality within the university environment. **Key achievements in 2024:** organised 30 events in various formats, with over 200 participants in total.

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FiDi – Physics Day. Since 1968, the Physics Day celebration (FiDi) has been organised by the FiDi Organising Committee. Due to its cultural significance, the event has been included in the Lithuanian Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory. **Key achievements in 2024:** a commemorative plaque honouring FiDi veteran Kęstutis Plankas was unveiled on Literatų Street in Vilnius, recognising his contributions to both physics and poetry; FiDi 56 took place; the daytime programme featured as many as 60 unique attractions, and the traditional parade included a 'battle' between physics and history students; Mini