

# Challenge EU

European University Alliance



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# CULTURAL AND CULINARY WORLD TOUR WITH DISTINCTION



At the **international Evening** 2024 at Hochschule Offenburg from Spain, Germany, Thailand, Mexico, Syria and Ethiopia presented their home regions to the guests. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) also honored Bhagyashree Shailesh Dalvi for her special social and societal commitment with a 1000 Euro award.

The Indian student is in the student committee, supports other students in their studies, helps new international students, is involved in the Schwarzwald Indo-German Association, is a founder in the field of social and impact entrepreneurship and founded a club for the mental health of students. At the end an international buffet gave the opportunity to discover the countries of the evening through culinary delights.





# Great interest in the study information day



Several hundred pupils visited Hochschule Offenburg on **Study Info Day**, a measure organized by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts. The young people took the opportunity to get to know the various degree programs of Hochschule Offenburg in the fields of **electrical engineering** and **mechatronics**, **computer science**, **life sciences**, **mechanical engineering** and **environment**, **media** and **business**.

After information, lab tours and taster lectures on the various courses and the startING and StudiumPLUS study models, the pupils were able to get to know some of the student projects of Hochschule Offenburg at a marketplace. The student advisory service also offered individual one-to-one discussions.



# New research institute at Hochschule Offenburg



**Circular Bioeconomy** is the future of economy and makes a significant contribution to solving the challenges of climate change and resource scarcity at a technological and societal level.

This is why the Institute for **Circular Bioeconomy (ICB)** has been founded at Hochschule Offenburg. ICB employees are researching how fossil raw materials can be replaced by renewable and even more recyclable and recycled raw materials and want to develop market-ready solutions.

They work together with other researchers and partners from business and politics and want to build up a network as large as possible. The results of their work will be passed on to industry and students. At the same time, the IBC is also open to orders from industry.



# Forum Enterprises 2024



On October 22, the Forum Entreprises, a must-attend event at **ECAM LaSalle**, brought together engineering students and the school's partner companies for a moment of exchange and discovery of various professions and sectors.

This new edition set a record with the participation of 700 engineering students. Nearly **50 companies** took part, all from diverse sectors such as transportation, energy, insurance, military, telecommunications, consulting firms, watchmaking, luxury, fashion, automation, robotics, public works, construction, metallurgy, and more.

The students had the opportunity to expand their professional network: while most students attended to explore the professions and sectors of partner companies, a few took advantage of the event to meet with companies for potential career opportunities.

A new feature of this edition: the participation of start-ups supported by the **TECH360** incubator at ECAM LaSalle, as well as student entrepreneurs. This was a great opportunity for our engineering students to explore new possibilities for their professional careers!





# Engineering Students in Work-Study and International Mobility



ECAM LaSalle's work-study engineering programs include a mandatory international mobility component in the form of a 12-week internship. This immersion in a company fosters an understanding of cultural differences, improves language skills, and exposes students to new work methods and technologies. During their international assignments, future engineers from ECAM LaSalle have the opportunity to **acquire specific technical skills and innovative working methods** unique to other countries. This experience allows them to familiarize themselves with international standards, develop a global understanding of industrial issues, and expand their professional networks.

"My work-study program helped me during my internship in the USA. I had previous company experience, so it was easier to adapt to a new work environment," says Maxime, who interned at Constellium in the USA. Axel, who interned at the Slovakian branch of Courbis Smart Polymers SRO, shares the same sentiment: "The work-study program requires a lot of resilience and adaptability. These qualities had a significant positive impact on my integration in Slovakia."

Meetings with locals, international meals, breathtaking landscapes... these are the memories our engineering students will carry with them as they return to their work-study program in France to complete their **engineering degree** by the end of the year.



# Fruitful Exchanges Between Chiang Mai University and ECAM LaSalle



Between international cooperation and entrepreneurship, Chiang Mai University (Thailand) and ECAM LaSalle are strengthening their ties through an ambitious exchange program.

At the end of September 2024, a delegation from ECAM LaSalle, led by Erin Monaghan, head of the Society, Management, and Entrepreneurship (SME) department, visited the Science and Technology Park (STeP). Accompanied by three entrepreneurs from ECAM LaSalle's **TECH360 incubator**, the delegation explored **Thailand's entrepreneurial ecosystems and participated in key events.**

In November, **a Thai delegation, consisting of 7 entrepreneurial project leaders, visited ECAM LaSalle.** The program included visits to inspiring locations and meetings with entrepreneurial networks at ECAM LaSalle and in Lyon (French Tech, Waoup, TECH360...)

This bilateral exchange has paved the way for ambitious projects, including a co-incubation program that may soon come to fruition. This initiative perfectly reflects the mission of ECAM LaSalle and STeP **to promote international entrepreneurship and connect their incubators to global opportunities.**

# FHNW Start-up Challenge: students' start-up projects honoured



Fachhochschule  
Nordwestschweiz



As part of the **Aargau Start-up Forum 2024**, over 100 guests gathered at the **CAMPUSSAAL** Brugg-Windisch to experience the innovative power of the region and the entrepreneurial spirit of FHNW students.

The event provided a platform where experienced founders gave valuable insights into their own start-up journey and shared practical advice for young entrepreneurs.

The forum also included the award ceremony for the **eleventh edition** of the FHNW **Start-up Challenge**. This competition, organized in collaboration with UBS and the Canton of Aargau Economic Development Agency, supports FHNW students and employees in the realization of their own start-up projects. Over 200 students took part in various entrepreneurship programs at the university, generating business ideas and developing business models. Five teams were awarded prize money. All participating students were also able to benefit from coaching if needed.

More information: [FHNW Startup Challenge](#)



# FHNW School of Engineering is involved in ESA's Euclid mission



Euclid launched into space in 2023 and is expected to complete its mission by 2030. It has been sending data back to Earth since 14 February 2024.

FHNW School of Engineering is playing a key role in enabling scientists across Europe to work with huge amounts of data. The Institute of Data Sciences developed the data analysis software for the space telescope. Simon Marcin, researcher at the Institute for Data Science, describes the status of the project.

## **What exactly is the FHNW doing in this project?**

All Euclid data and calculations run on software that we are developing here at FHNW. This data is processed in nine different data centres in Europe and the USA. Each data centre works slightly differently, and our software ensures that the data is processed equally well everywhere. Scientists can also use it to write programs on their computers to analyze the Euclid data. We make sure that these programs run optimally on the supercomputers.

Overall, it's going well, but it's different from what we thought before. Since Euclid started sending data, we must solve new challenges every day.

You have been working on Euclid for eight years. How does it feel to be in the hot phase now?

It's incredibly exciting! We've planned a lot, but everything has changed since it really got going. And at the end of the project in six years everything will be different again. There are a lot of surprises. And we are having a lot of fun: We share great pictures of Euclid in our team chat. It motivates us every day.

**[Read the whole interview \(in German\): «Wir sind von A bis Z verantwortlich» | FHNW Euclid Space Telescope – dark energy and dark matter | FHNW](#)**

# FHNW School of Social Work: Practice Forum 2024



This year's annual event for dialogue and exchange of experience once again focused on a topical issue: **the health of professionals in social work organizations**.

More than 180 participants from practice and academia at the **Practice Forum** therefore discussed the many interrelationships and key issues relating to team and organizational resilience, the importance of self-care and the psychosocial factors that contribute to health in social work organizations:

- How do social workers stay healthy despite heavy workloads and increasing pressure?
- What makes teams resilient in times of crisis?
- How do resilient social work organizations mobilize resources to prepare for challenging times?

The annual **Practice Forum** is a laboratory of ideas, providing an inspiring space for dialogue between academia and social work practice. New trends are analyzed from different perspectives and current issues are discussed between academics and practitioners. The forum provides a framework for making new contacts, networking and exchanging experiences.

More information (in German): [Praxisforum 2024 - Zwischen Selbst\(für\)sorge und organisationaler Resilienz: Gesundheit in Organisationen der Sozialen Arbeit](#)



# LATVIA UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES LAUNCHES INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY HUB



## SUSTAINABLE CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY HUB

To foster innovation development and collaboration in bioeconomy on an international level, the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU) has established a **Sustainable Circular Bioeconomy HUB**. This is the first initiative of its kind in Latvia, aiming to significantly boost the collective efforts of Central and Eastern European, and Baltic states in developing the sector and ensuring a sustainable future. The HUB's launch is part of the BOOST4BIOEAST project.

The international bioeconomy **HUB** is designed as a collaboration centre for various stakeholders committed to sustainable, innovation-driven development and a circular bioeconomy. These stakeholders include policymakers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and members of society across a broad European region. The joint goals include fostering strategic partnerships, developing action plans, and supporting policies necessary for the resilience and development of the bioeconomy sector, both in Latvia and beyond.



# EIT Food HUB Latvia



Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies represents **EIT Food in Latvia**, showcasing its commitment to advancing research and innovation in the bioeconomy. The creation of the EIT Food HUB involves collaboration with key partners – Latvian Rural Consultation and Education Center and Investment and Development Agency of Latvia.

Together, we aim to drive impactful progress in Latvia's agricultural and food sectors by leveraging a strong network of local innovation. EIT Food is a global leader in food innovation, uniting stakeholders across Europe to enhance sustainability and address key industry challenges. As the representative of EIT **Food HUB** Latvia, LBTU plays a crucial role in promoting initiatives, organizing local events, and fostering innovation within Latvia's dynamic food industry.



# Christmas Events at LBTU



In December, the Latvian University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LBTU) traditionally organizes several Christmas events. At the largest Baroque gem in the Baltics—the **restored Jelgava Palace** with its 286-year history—the annual Christmas Ball takes place. This year marks its 36th edition, offering a magical festive atmosphere in the beautifully decorated palace and its multiple dance halls. The ball is steeped in historical charm and brings together Latvia’s academic elite, entrepreneurs, university alumni, Jelgava residents, and guests.

Adding to the festive spirit, the LBTU Christmas Market will take place at Jelgava Palace, showcasing the craftsmanship and culinary creations of students and staff. The market features unique handmade goods and delicious products, each crafted with care and heartfelt dedication.

Additionally, the LBTU Student Council organizes the **"Angel Mail: Santa’s Workshop"** initiative to brighten the holiday season for residents of a local social care center, spreading light and joy during the Christmas season.



Former Prime Minister **Magdalena Andersson** visited Mid Sweden University in Sundsvall on Wednesday. The programme included a lecture for students and staff at the Communication and PR programme.

Under the headline "To lead", the Social Democrats' party leader met a packed lecture hall early Wednesday morning. In the lecture, Magdalena Andersson shared nine thoughts on leadership from her years as Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Leader of the Opposition – spiced up with nine tips to keep in mind. After the lecture, she also agreed to an interview with a couple of the students and then elaborated on her thoughts about **being a communicative leader**:

"Being able to clearly state where you want to take the organization, or to be able to calm down in tough times, is incredibly important to know where you are going, but also to know what to do here and now. When it comes to crisis communication, leadership is really put to the test," says Magdalena Andersson.

She was also offered a short guided tour of the campus area under the guidance of **Hans-Erik Nilsson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Innovation and Business Affairs**, who summarizes her impressions of the visit as follows:

"It was great that she showed up with us and I was struck by how personal she was in the meeting with the students. She kept a very good tone. In our short conversations, she was particularly curious about teacher education and how it can be affected by future changes. She also raised the ever-present issue of the relationship between campus and distance education and how we at Mid Sweden University view it," says Hans-Erik Nilsson.

"I sum up a great visit here on campus and am impressed by all the good questions I got from the students in connection with my lecture. The business community and the public sector are crying out for educated workers, and in times like these, Mid Sweden University and other universities in the country have an important task to fulfill," concludes Magdalena Andersson.



# When social media becomes part of warfare



"Through the war in Ukraine, we clearly see how social media platforms are used for many purposes: for strategic information about the course of the war, to mobilize resistance, to report and warn of airstrikes, to search for relatives, to report and document abuses and war crimes, and to identify and inform about fake news and disinformation," says Minna Lundgren, Ph.D. in sociology at Mid Sweden University.

The results of the studies show that there has been a **clear shift from previous mass communication**, where the population was primarily the recipient and the information was largely controlled by the military and authorities. Now we have a situation where the population, civil society and authorities are all actors who create, share and disseminate information.

"But in war, the big difference is that there is also an antagonistic actor that affects both physical and digital communication environments. In addition to the threat and destruction of critical communication infrastructure, the information landscape is characterized by large amounts of disinformation and the digital environment is an extended battlefield," says Maja Klinga, PhD student in sociology at Mid Sweden University.

Russia's annexation of Crimea and the war in Donbas since 2014, as well as the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, have changed the security situation in Europe. This has also left its mark on the latest research literature, where the Ukrainian experience largely characterizes research on war-related communication. In the literature review of current research that has been examined, you also find gaps – and areas where more research is needed.

"There are gaps in terms of knowledge about communication with specific groups that may not be reached through digital channels, such as the elderly and people with disabilities," says Minna Lundgren.

Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine has also affected **preventive risk communication** to the population in Sweden's neighbouring countries. While the Baltic countries inform their respective citizens about war situations, the specific conditions that prevail during wars and how the population can prepare for war, Finnish information on crisis preparedness is more general. There are also significant differences between countries in making information accessible and adaptable for people with different disabilities, for children and in different languages.

"We believe that there are experiences from Ukraine that can be useful for Swedish authorities, for example in situations that are characterized by disruptions in important infrastructure and where it is important to reach different groups of the population with information. More research is needed on how the local population and civil society can play **an important role as disseminators** of knowledge, and such research could advantageously be conducted in collaboration with Ukrainian universities and research institutes," says Minna Lundgren.

# Leading in the country in research on how students best learn maths and science



In one of the projects at Mid Sweden University, where Magnus Oskarsson is the project manager, the aim is to develop teaching in science by including students' experiences and the surrounding society to a greater extent.

– Students' interest and commitment to science subjects needs to be strengthened. In our previous studies, we see that pupils in primary school appreciate the science subjects and think that they learn a lot. In secondary school, on the other hand, many students think that physics and chemistry in particular are difficult and boring, says Magnus Oskarsson, associate professor of science education at Mid Sweden University.

These subjects are also, together with mathematics, the subjects where most students do not get passing grades in year 9. This means that grades 4-6 become an important bridge between the concrete science the younger students encounter with the more theoretical science in secondary school. In the project, the researchers will follow a school for three years to develop teaching together with the teachers, especially during middle school.

## Research for high-achieving students

The second project at Mid Sweden University that has been awarded a grant aims to clarify how mathematical problems can be designed to support high-achieving students' development in mathematics.

– There is a need to understand more about how mathematics tasks can be designed and modified to benefit all students' mathematical knowledge development. In particular, there is a need for more knowledge about which specific characteristics in the design of assignments affect students' learning in mathematics, says Helena Johansson, associate professor of mathematics education at Mid Sweden University.

Creating tasks that are challenging for the high-achieving students can be complex. It is easy for even "difficult" tasks to be reduced to routine tasks. According to the Swedish Schools Inspectorate, Swedish schools are failing to offer high-achieving students challenging tasks.

– These students are particularly relevant to focus on in order to deepen our knowledge of how mathematical problems can be designed to benefit students' knowledge development, says Helena Johansson.

The project uses a method where researchers and teachers collaborate to create and test mathematical problems with high-achieving students in secondary school, by repeating the process several times, the problems can be adapted and improved step by step.

Full article: [Leading in the country in research on how students best learn maths and science](#)



# Celebrating 23 Years of Excellence at South East European University



UNIVERSITETI I EVROPËS JUGLINDORE  
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ НА ЈУГОИСТОЧНА ЕВРОПА  
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



On November 21, 2024, South East European University (SEEU) marked its **23rd anniversary** with a grand ceremony attended by members of the diplomatic corps, local government representatives, rectors of public universities, accreditation board members, staff, and students.

In his keynote address, SEEU Rector Acad. Prof. Dr. Abdylmenaf Bexheti highlighted the University's achievements and ongoing development: "This year, SEEU celebrates 23 years of academic excellence during a month of significant milestones for our community, including the anniversaries of the Albanian Alphabet Day, the Independence of the Albanian State, and our National Flag Day," **said Rector Bexheti.**

He emphasized the University's successful academic expansion aligned with labor market needs. Notable achievements include a **65% growth** in enrollment in the **Faculty of Health Sciences'** third-generation bachelor's programs and the establishment of the Therapeutic Center (SEEU-Life), which will provide students with hands-on training and community services. The Architecture and Design program, now part of the newly established Faculty of Technical Sciences, has grown to over 300 students. Meanwhile, the Faculty of Business Economics saw an impressive 40% increase in student enrollment compared to the previous year.

"SEEU continues its journey as a unique trilingual university, offering 45 undergraduate and master's programs, two specialist programs, and 12 doctoral programs. With over 4,500 active students and a focus on program restructuring, we aim to address labor market demands while ensuring deep, quality learning over mere program breadth," said Rector Bexheti. Prof. Dr. Klaus Tochtermann, President of the SEEU Board, praised the University's dynamic approach: "SEEU embodies a spirit of continuous evolution, balancing academic rigor with practical application. This ensures our graduates are not only well-educated but also prepared to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world."

During the ceremony, staff members with **10 and 20 years of service** were honored, and recognition was given to contributors to the University's internationalization and development. Additionally, doctoral graduates from the 2023–2024 academic year were officially awarded their diplomas. South East European University continues to uphold its commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and academic excellence as it looks toward a bright future.

# SEEUTechPark and ProCredit Bank Macedonia Empower Young Women to Succeed



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SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



**SEEUTechPark**, in collaboration with **ProCredit** Bank Macedonia, recently organized an event focused on inspiring and empowering young women to invest in their personal and professional growth. The event aimed to motivate students and equip them with the tools needed to navigate their careers with confidence and resilience.

The session delved into essential themes such as establishing a solid foundation for career success, overcoming challenges with self-assurance, and maintaining a balance between work and personal life. Esteemed speakers, including Maja Mihajlova from ProCredit Bank, Blerina Zendeli of SEEUTechPark, architect and entrepreneur Fitore Ilazi, senior data engineer Meri Rushiti, and Dobrinka Stefanova from ProCredit Bank, shared their valuable insights and experiences.

Through their **powerful stories**, the speakers inspired attendees to embrace opportunities, overcome obstacles, and pursue a well-rounded approach to life and work. Their experiences underscored the importance of resilience, determination, and adaptability in achieving success.

SEEUTechPark remains dedicated to fostering an environment that supports young women in reaching their full potential, partnering with organizations and individuals who share this vision of **inclusivity** and **empowerment**.



# Clinical Teaching in the Forensic Laboratory



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On November 21 and 25, students from the Faculty of Law at both campuses participated in clinical teaching sessions in the **Forensic Laboratory**, focusing on the topic of Crime Scene Investigation.

This practical lesson was part of the courses "Introduction to Forensic Science" and "Fundamentals of Forensic Science," taught by Professors Blerta Ahmedi and Vedije Ratkoceri.

During the session, the tactical and procedural actions involved in crime scene investigation were demonstrated by Xhevat Beqiri, a crime technician and inspector with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Tetovo.

Students learned about the critical rules that must be followed during a crime scene investigation, including how to properly collect evidence and document various traces found at the scene. They also participated in role-playing exercises, taking on the roles of different members of the professional team responsible for the **crime scene investigation**—in this case, simulating a homicide investigation.

Practical activities like these are regularly conducted in the Forensic Laboratory, complementing the theoretical units, such as suspect registration and fingerprinting at police stations, criminal photography, recording of fingerprint traces, and questioning tactics.

# The Turia Campus of the Universidad Europea de Valencia hosts the International Congress on Business Tourism and Sustainability



The International Association ATLAS (Association for Tourism and Leisure Education and Research), in collaboration with Visit Valencia, organised an international congress at the **Turia Campus** of the **European University of Valencia**. Under the theme Business Tourism, Sustainability, Health and Wellness, the event brought together academics and business tourism professionals from around the world to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the sector in the context of sustainability and wellness.

This annual congress has established itself as the leading global forum in the field of business tourism, facilitating the exchange of innovative ideas and the development of best practices in teaching and research. The highlight of this edition was the participation of Rob Davison, recognised expert in MICE Knowledge and Visiting Fellow at the University of Greenwich, who shared his vision on the emerging trends that will shape the future of the sector.

The event, entirely managed by the fourth year students of the Degree in Tourism and Leisure Management at the European University of Valencia, underlines the importance of practical training in the academic environment. The collaboration between institutions and professionals reaffirms Valencia as a benchmark in the research and development of business tourism at an international level.

In the framework of this international congress, focused on business tourism, several experts shared their views on how events can transform cities, boost economies and promote sustainability in the sector. The experts discussed how events can transform cities and promote sustainability. Jorge Treceño Pachón, Legacy Manager at the Madrid Convention Bureau, highlighted the economic and social impact of events, emphasising the importance of sustainability and a long-term vision. Rob Davidson, academic and consultant, analysed the trends that influence conference attendees and underlined the value of return on investment (ROI). Adem Braco Suljic, co-founder of MEETEX, presented strategies for connecting local markets to global networks and strengthening emerging destinations.

These interventions offered a comprehensive view on the opportunities and challenges facing business tourism in the current global context.



# THE IV EDITION OF 'LOOKING FOR VOCATIONS' BRINGS TOGETHER MORE THAN 40 HEADS OF EDUCATIONAL CENTRES



The Turia campus of the European University of Valencia was the setting for the 4th edition of the event 'Looking for Vocations', aimed at guidance counsellors and educational directors. During this event, participants had the opportunity to learn about the latest trends in education and professional development, with a special focus on the professions of the future and the job opportunities that are opening up in various disciplines.

Heads from the faculties of Engineering and Science, Social Sciences and Health shared their perspectives on emerging fields and the skills required in key sectors. In addition, practical tools were discussed to help Bachelor students manage stress, frustrations and anxiety, crucial issues in their academic and career decision-making process.

The event concluded with a tour of the university's facilities, where attendees were able to see first-hand how the Universidad Europea de Valencia promotes practical and innovative learning. Looking for Vocations was consolidated as a meeting point to guide young people towards a solid professional future, adapted to the needs and challenges of today's society. The conference also offered a comprehensive vision of the impact of higher education on the training of future leaders.

# IADE Students Create Innovative Board Games in IADE'24 Creative Challenge



IADE - Institute of Visual Arts, Design and Marketing, an faculty of Universidade Europeia, in partnership with MAJORA, has launched the IADE'24 Creative Challenge, a celebration of creativity and innovation.

Held between October 28 and November 8, 2024, the event offered eight days of intense collaboration and development at IADE's facilities (Fábrica), where students and teachers gathered for an immersive creative experience.

The challenge consisted of designing a new board game, from developing the concept to defining a communication strategy, in a practical and collaborative experience. The initiative brought together students from different courses, providing a dynamic environment for exchanging ideas and learning, where creativity was the main driving force.

The awards ceremony took place on November 8, recognizing the students who stood out for the talent and originality of their creations. The IADE'24 Creative Challenge offered a unique opportunity for participants to apply the knowledge they had acquired during their courses, strengthening their creativity and teamwork skills in a project with relevance to the market.

In the end, only one of the groups won. However, the quality and dedication of the participants was not indifferent to the board game company and it awarded two honorable mentions.

**ChallengeEU**



# UNIVERSIDADE EUROPEIA PROMOTE THE 19TH INTERNATIONAL WEEK



From February 24 to 28, 2025, the 19th edition of International Week will bring together, over five days, around 50 to 60 participants from universities around the world, including professors, researchers and representatives of International Mobility Offices.

The event, organized by the Universidade Europeia, in partnership with IPAM, aims to promote international mobility programmes, offer networking opportunities and share best practices between the local academic community and representatives of partner institutions, as well as boosting international research projects.

To achieve these objectives, the International Week will feature two main programs:

- Lecture Program: speakers will have the opportunity to give two international seminars and participate in research meetings.
- Staff Program: will include Study Abroad Fairs, presentations from partner universities and discussion forums focused on international mobility.

This year's edition will be dedicated to the theme "Education with impact: how to reinvent learning to prepare students for an ever-changing future?". The debate will address the challenges that educational institutions face in adapting teaching methodologies to rapid social change and the new expectations of students.

With a diverse program and participants from all over the world, the International Week promises to be a privileged space for reflection, innovation and collaboration in higher education.





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# UWM participation in Baltic University Program



In October Head of the Office for International Cooperation Agnieszka Domańska took part in an event organised by **Baltic University Programme** (BUP). We joined the initiative this year and the meeting was a perfect opportunity to get acquainted with partners. As a part of the BUP Presidency in Czechia in cooperation with and co-financed by the University of Ostrava the BUP hosted this meeting.

The program of the meeting focused on discussing and sharing experiences of being a part of the BUP, and the universities' involvement in BUP activities as well as experiences from working in other networks like EHEA (e.g. European Universities Alliances). Also, discussing synergies in the internationalisation strategies of BUP participating universities, opportunities for financing joint activities, as well as concrete activities on how to cooperate, communicate, and promote at various levels.

Since regular communication will be crucial to make this network work successfully, there is a plan to host regular BUP IROs online meetings. These sessions will provide participants with the opportunity to raise relevant topics, discuss areas of concern, and explore ways to further collaborate with each other and within the BUP.

The Baltic University Programme is one of the largest university cooperation's in the world, with more than 110 participating universities in the Baltic Sea Region, cooperating for education and research in Sustainable Development and Democracy.

BUP fosters knowledge and cooperation in the field of sustainable development and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).





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IN OLSZTYN

# Unique Christmas tree can be admired at the University Library of UWM



Standing approximately 3.5 meters tall and made of nearly 200 file folders, this year's **unique Christmas tree** can be admired at the University Library of UWM from December 5.

Each year around St. Nicholas' Day, the Library Promotion Section surprises students and staff with a creative take on a Christmas tree. Despite the team's growing concern over running out of ideas, they've once again managed to design a tree that not only stands out but also reflects the character of the library itself.

"This year's **tree is made from file folders**—almost 200 of them," jokes Elżbieta Stawska from the Library Promotion Section. "To stabilize the structure, we used spacers cut from old discs and our favorite building material: zip ties."

Since 2011, the library has displayed unconventional trees made from books, catalog drawers, origami, CDs, water bottles, and even floppy disks. "Every year, we wonder if we can come up with something new, but somehow, we always do," the team says. What will they surprise us with next year? Time will tell.

# CULTURE UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE



One stage, five diverse groups, over 200 artists, and an audience celebrating student culture—this was the latest edition of "Culture Under the Christmas Tree." The **Academic Culture Center** and the **Artistic Initiatives Center** once again invited the community and friends of the University of Warmia and Mazury on a musical journey, this time with a festive, pre-Christmas theme.

For the organizers, there is no better gift than a touch of beauty, a sentiment that has turned this event into a cherished December tradition at UWM. On December 11, the university's artistic groups—affiliated with the Academic Culture Center and the Artistic Initiatives Center of the Faculty of Arts—presented a festive repertoire to guests visiting the campus.

The concert was opened by the "Kortowo" Song and Dance Ensemble, which performed a lively program including Christmas carols, holiday songs, and traditional Polish dances such as the mazur, oberek, and kujawiak.

One of the evening's biggest surprises was the expanded lineup of the UWM Vocal Studio, which had previously performed in much smaller numbers. According to its leader, Urszula Borejszo, the overwhelming interest in this year's auditions was remarkable.

Thanks to the collaboration between the Academic Culture Center and the Artistic Initiatives Center, the evening also featured performances by the UWM Academic Orchestra under the direction of Rafał Krauze, the Choir of Prof. Wiktor Wawrzyczek led by Prof. Katarzyna Bojaruniec, and the UWM Musical Theater, prepared by Dr. Grzegorz Lewandowski and Aleksandra Pulińska. Each group crafted a program designed to immerse the audience in the holiday spirit.