VYTAUTAS KAVOLIS TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2025-2030[1]

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY

Vytautas Kavolis Transdisciplinary Research Institute

VISION

The forefront of transdisciplinary research that contributes to sustainable socio-economic development at individual, national, regional, and global levels.

MISSION

Advance fundamental and applied research by fostering transdisciplinarity in the Humanities and Social Sciences that address scientific, societal, and state needs; to enhance the relevance and impact of the Humanities and Social Sciences by promoting an open, inclusive academic culture, strengthening their role in society, and actively disseminating knowledge to promote informed public dialogue and public policy.

VALUES

Excellence in research	Academic freedom
Creativity and innovation	Safety and dignity
World-Class research culture	Human rights advocacy
Scientific leadership	Ethical integrity
Gender equality and inclusivity	Peer support and collaboration
Continuous learning and professionalization	Transdisciplinary and cross-boundary collaboration

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

SO 1. Advance excellence in transdisciplinary research and promote a post-disciplinary approach in social sciences and humanities.

2. SOCIETAL IMPACT

SO 2. Increase societal impact beyond academia and national boundaries.

3. NETWORKING

SO 3. Build and engage in strategic networks that enhance research excellence and social impact.

4. COMMUNITY BUILDING

SO 4. Foster a collaborative environment that empowers individuals and nurtures innovative ideas.

5. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

SO 5. Ensure the efficient allocation of research resources and promote a sustainable, innovative research environment through effective management and support systems.

[1] In compliance with Vytautas Magnus University strategy for 2021–2027 approved by VMU Council on November 25, 2020, and leading documents; VMU Statute, VMU Code of Ethics, approved by Senate on May 17, 2023 No. SEN-N-15; VMU Plan for Gender Equality 2024-2025. Available online: https://www.vdu.lt/lt/apie-vdu-kaune/svarbiausi-vdu-dokumentai/

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

1. RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1. **Advance excellence in transdisciplinary research and promote a post-disciplinary approach** **in social sciences and humanities**	
Tasks	**Measures**
1.1. Produce leading research outputs with a focus on transdisciplinary fundamental and applied research that generates significant national, regional, and societal impact.	1.1.1. Map the Institute's research capabilities and capacities to thematic areas to enable and facilitate transdisciplinary collaborations.
	1.1.2 Target top level scientific fundamental and applied production and research outcomes.
1.2. Develop and promote internationally recognized leading research groups by fostering innovative research capacities, competences and skills in the social sciences and humanities.	1.2.1. Identify, support, and expand internationally recognized leading research groups and their outputs.
1.3. Initiate and institutionalize a post-disciplinary research approach that transcends traditional and interdisciplinary boundaries, fostering bold scientific ideas and projects.	1.3.1. Develop a dedicated platform or center for post-disciplinary collaboration, providing researchers with mentorship, and networking opportunities to facilitate the creation and implementation of groundbreaking scientific ideas.
2. SOCIETAL IMPACT	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2. **Increase societal impact beyond academia and national boundaries**	
Tasks	**Measures**
2.1. Make impact for social, economic and policy-making fields by connecting research expert knowledge with evidence-based approach.	2.1.1. Encourage the participation of researchers to make the impact to the public policy at the different governmental levels.
	2.1.2. Encourage the participation of researchers to make the impact to the private and public and civil society organizations, professional associations and other stakeholders.

2.2. Implement various communication measures to increase the dissemination of scientific knowledge in society.	2.2.1. Enhance and support external communication and public outreach measures to ensure effective communication track with the public.
2.3. Advance society and the state by prioritizing research impact—fostering policy influence, community well-being, economic growth, cultural enrichment, and environmental sustainability.	2.3.1. Promote the societal impact of research by prioritizing transdisciplinary approaches and practical applications that address real-world challenges.
	2.3.2. Engage with policymakers and stakeholders to disseminate knowledge and academic know-how to the public at national and international levels.
	2.3.3. Encourage open science policy approach in peer-reviewed journals and publicly accessible platforms.
2.4. Contribute to the university study process by enabling the synergy of scientific knowledge and the study process.	2.4.1. Develop and enhance opportunities for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers by organizing summer schools, courses, and seminars with transdisciplinary focus.
	2.4.2. Establish mentorship program where institute and students collaborate on research projects.
	2.4.3. Ensure the accessibility of institute resources for the students for internships or practical learning experiences.

3. NETWORKING

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3. Build and engage in strategic networks that enhance research excellence and social impact.

Tasks	Measures
3.1. Encourage the research community to collaborate globally with research and relevant academic stakeholders, maintaining an agile approach to individual and research group partnerships.	3.1.1. Promote active networking with leading academic, regional, national, and international stakeholders to advance transdisciplinary fundamental and applied research initiatives.
	3.1.2. Promote active networking with leading academic, regional, national, and international stakeholders to foster co-authorship in top-level international publications.
3.2. Establish and maintain strategic international partnerships with leading academic institutions.	3.2.1. Developing strategic research collaborations with leading national, regional and global research institutions.

3.3. Develop strategic partnerships with appropriate public, business and civic partners and / or professional organisations to support of applied research and impact making.	3.3.1. Developing strategic and targeted academic alliances with leading research universities and centres of excellence, academic associations and research networks in Europe and beyond.

4. COMMUNITY BUILDING

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4.
Foster a collaborative environment that empowers individuals and nurtures innovative ideas.

Tasks	Measures
4.1. Building the capacity of researchers to conduct research, developing leadership and research supervision, investing in the growth of research teams that are sustainable in the long term.	4.1.1. Ensure the development of the competences and skills of researchers in the social sciences and humanities, including young researchers.
	4.1.2. Organise post-doctoral fellowships and affiliations for foreign researchers and encourage peer learning and exchange of experiences among members of the academic community.
4.2 Implement strategic approach for recruitment and establish a dedicated talent lab to nurture research talent, focusing on skill development and career growth at every stage of the academic career.	4.2.1. Attract and retain highly qualified and motivated staff.
	4.2.2. Establish a competitive recruitment system for early-career researchers.
4.3. Promote ethical approach to open science and open access culture and practices, and the use of generative AI and LLM (large language models).	4.3.1. Conduct research in a manner that is honest, moral, ethical and responsible and that upholds the integrity of the research.
	4.3.2. Promote the ethical use and application of new technologies such as generative AI and/or LLM (large language models) and other advanced tools.

5. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5.
Ensure the efficient allocation of research resources and promote a sustainable, innovative research environment through effective management and support systems.

Tasks	Measures
5.1. Enhance the capacity to secure diverse funding by developing strategic partnerships and frameworks for accessing public and private funds.	5.1.1. Organize capacity building workshops on funding and grant competition and other core skills and competencies required for high level research.
	5.1.2. Create a project fundraising and development team.

5.2. Investing in and supporting human resources to ensure their professional development.	5.2.1. Implement professional development and skills training programs.
	5.2.3. Introduce performance-based incentives.
5.3. Strengthen administrative support by fostering collaboration with the university system, ensuring efficient management, resource allocation, and operational integration of the research activities.	5.3.1. Organize regular coordination meetings between institute and university management.
5.4. Developing and enhancing research and physical infrastructure while ensuring access to high quality data resources.	5.4.1. Upgrade and expand physical infrastructure for research.
	5.4.2. Develop and maintain high-quality data resources and access to data repositories.
	5.4.3. Invest in advanced technology and digital tools for research.
5.5. Encourage digitalization, data analysis practices of technological advancement and innovations in the social sciences and humanities.	5.5.1. Promote the use of innovative data analysis methods in the social sciences and humanities.
5.6. Promote a collaborative and entrepreneurial research culture by creating research infrastructure and an environment conducive to research activities.	5.6.1. Establish collaborative research space and peer networks.