

APPROVED AT THE SENATE MEETING
December 28, 2015

Minutes No.12

amendments approved at the Senate meeting
January 25, 2016

Minutes No. 1

amendments approved at the Senate meeting

November 7, 2016

Minutes No. 12

with decision No. 6/1 of Minutes No. 1
of the Senate session on January 25, 2021

To extend the term of operation of the Development Strategy of Daugavpils University for 2015-2020
until the start of operation of a new approved strategy.



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF DAUGAVPILS UNIVERSITY 2015-2020

Daugavpils

2015

Daugavpils University development strategy 2015 – 2020 is developed within the framework of the implementation of the project “Improved Efficiency of Daugavpils University Administration and Resource Management”, agreement No. 2015/0026/2DP/2.1.1.3.3/15/IPIA/VIAA/008, financed by the European Regional Development Fund

1. SUMMARY

The origins of Daugavpils University dates back to November of 1921 when Daugavpils Pedagogical Secondary School was opened in independent Latvia. Pedagogical Secondary School was later renamed Teachers' Seminary, then Teachers' Institute, which was reorganized into a higher education establishment – Daugavpils Pedagogical Institute - in 1952, but in 1993 it became Daugavpils Pedagogical University. On March 5, 2001 the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of Daugavpils University. Daugavpils University was registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions on January 23, 2006, registration No. 172040.

The mission of Daugavpils University is to promote the development of sustainable future society, implementing scientific research of international level and providing quality education in 17 study and programme directions: pedagogy, sport; arts; history and philosophy; language and culture studies, native language studies and language programmes; translation, psychology; sociology, political science and anthropology; economics; management, administration and real estate management; law; life science; chemistry, chemistry technologies and biotechnologies; physics, materials science, mathematics and statistics; information technology, computer technology, electronics, telecommunication, computer management and computer science; health care; environment protection; internal security and civil defence.

Daugavpils University is situated in Latgale region and that determines its aims and activities to a large extent.

DU offers the opportunity to acquire higher education in the fields of environment, humanities, engineering, education and social sciences, which are implemented in 5 faculties: Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (henceforth FNSM), Faculty of Humanities (henceforth FH), Faculty of Education and Management (henceforth FEM), Faculty of Music and Arts (FMA) and Faculty of Social Sciences (henceforth FSS) and in 3 scientific institutes: Institute of Life Sciences and Technologies (henceforth ILST), Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (henceforth IHSS) and Institute of Art Sciences (henceforth IAS).

Taking into account already existing developments and cooperation in scientific research in the implementation of NRP and EU fund projects, and joint potential in educating students, the Senate of DU and the Scientific Council of the Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology (hereinafter LIAE) have agreed on the inclusion of LIAE in DU. LIAE joining with DU was also supported by the Latvian Council of Science. Consolidation measures will increase the research and innovation capacity, the ability to attract external financing, develop human resources and infrastructure. Consolidation is taking place through the establishment of DU Institute of

Latvian Hydro-Ecology, the aim of which is to achieve excellence in water research promoting the development of smart specialization area “Bioeconomics”.

To strengthen the capacity of DU, to develop science and studies, and to ensure the efficient use of resources, it is planned to start work on the consolidation of existing colleges in the region.

The main operational document of Daugavpils University is the DU Constitution, which determines DU basic development directions and tasks, its activity principles and competence, DU representation, administration institutions and authorities. Principal authorities are the Constituent Assembly, Senate, Rector, Audit Commission and Academic Arbitration.

Administrative functions are carried out by several departments, which were founded on the basis of Daugavpils University Constitution and decision of DU Senate: the Administrative Department, Department of Finance and Accounting, Department of Studies, Department of Sciences, International and Public Relations Office, Household Department, etc.

Departments and scientific centres operate within the framework of faculties and ensure study and scientific work. Faculty councils make decisions related to studies and science. On December 1, 2014, the DU Senate made a decision No. 3/1/1 and No. 3/1/2 to create two scientific institutions: ILST and IHSS. In the institutes decisions are adopted by scientific councils. IAS is subordinate to FMA. Professor and Promotion Boards, Student Council and other units have a significant role in the development of DU.

Daugavpils University has entered Latvian Universities Association, European Universities Association – EUA and European Science Events Association – EUSEA.

1.1. DU Values

The mission of Daugavpils University is based on its values. The values determine the way how the mission is fulfilled, taking into consideration certain principles of mutual relationship in the University and interaction of the University with the surrounding world.

Basic values of Daugavpils University:

- **People.** People are the basic resource and the main value of Daugavpils University. The University provides the environment for personal and career growth.
- **Affiliation.** In DU everybody – students, academic, administrative and technical employees – feels needed, appreciated and has a stable sense of belonging to the University.
- **Academic spirit and freedom.** The University ensures academic spirit and freedom in mutual relationship that is based on professionalism and mutual respect. The academic

freedom contributes to the growth of self-awareness, development of scientific discussions and creation of innovations.

- **Equal opportunities and diversity.** Daugavpils University provides equal opportunities to everybody. The University offers democratic and appropriate environment where no discrimination of any type – nationality, racial, religious, gender or other properties – is possible.
- **Knowledge.** In DU knowledge is the basis of new intellectual, cultural, social and economic values.
- **Influence of public thought.** The University influences public understanding and knowledge of education and science, actions and politics in order to make positive changes and promote the development.
- **Environmental preservation and development.** The University carries out actions aimed to the preservation and prudent use of natural resources, and ensures its preservation for future generations.
- **Regional belonging.** The University is situated in the Eastern region of Latvia - in Latgale and in Daugavpils - respectively, its efforts are aimed at the development of educational, cultural, scientific and business environment in the region, thus contributing to the improvement of people's life quality in the region.
- **Strategy.** The strategy includes general and medium-term goals, justification for the goal choice, performance indicators of achievement and advisable actions.

1.2. Mission

The mission of Daugavpils University is to contribute to the development of sustainable future society by implementing scientific research on an international level and ensuring quality education in the fields of nature, engineering, education, health, humanities and social sciences, thus promoting the sustainable development of Latgale region and the whole country.

1.3. Overall objective

To develop Daugavpils University as a modern and competitive study, scientific and innovation centre based on academic traditions.

Medium-time goals till 2020, their achievement strategies and assessment indicators.

Medium-term goals are set for the period of time till 2020 on the basis of the long-term development target, the analysis of the current situation in the University and external factors, which contribute to or hinder the achievement of goals, and the assessment of the development potential.

The strategy defines five medium-term goals:

1. To provide quality education that corresponds to future challenges and is based on theoretical knowledge and acquiring of research skills, preparing internationally competitive specialists, developing their abilities and encouraging life-long learning.
2. To develop scientific and creative work on an international level, deepening integration of scientific research in the study process, facilitating technology transfer and development of innovations and contributing to public understanding of the science.
3. To increase the role of Daugavpils University as a consolidator of scientific educational institutions in Eastern Latvia and a driving force of the development, as well as to promote the reputation of the University in Latvia and all over the world.
4. To ensure united and efficient work of organisational structure and to introduce a quality management system.
5. To develop a modern, environmentally-friendly infrastructure, safe and appropriate working environment.

1.4. Development vision for the period of time till 2030

In 2030 Daugavpils University is a modern scientific university that offers high quality education and conducts important scientific work. The quality of the University work and its reputation in Latvia and all over the world has provided the basis for its growth and stability. DU has become a driving force of the educational, scientific, innovation and business development in Eastern Latvia.

Daugavpils University works as an excellence centre in the fields of mathematics, physics, nanomaterials, material engineering, biology, regional studies, literature, and art and education science.

Daugavpils University is a driving force of the development in Eastern Latvia and adjacent regions and it possesses intellectual and technical resources of the region. The University accumulates, preserves and maintains regional knowledge and contributes greatly to the regional development.

DU has an important role in the strengthening of the civil society and Daugavpils as a polycultural, polyethnic and multi-functional city, centre of cross-border economic development and services.

The partners of the University are the higher education and scientific institutions in Europe and other countries of the world. Contribution to the understanding of principles of the democratic society, common European, Latvian and Latgalian national values, attraction of high-class scientists and teaching staff to Latvia, is one of the tasks of Daugavpils University by developing cooperation with higher education and scientific institutions in Europe and other countries, attracting students and the academic staff, promoting international scientific communication events and implementing common projects.

The university provides bachelor, master, doctorate and professional study programmes in the fields of nature, humanities, social and education sciences, health care and engineering. It also offers a large range of adjoining science study programmes. DU study programmes successfully implement their main task – preparation of qualified, competent, responsible specialists for the labour market who can advance the economic growth both in Latvia and the European Union, and who can encourage international competitiveness, simultaneously maintaining public moral values and balancing economic growth with the preservation of cultural and natural values. The principle of sustainable development and balance and interaction of social, economic and natural environment are integrated in all study programmes of the University. Students have internship possibilities in different institutions according to their study profile.

The University study programmes are aimed at providing a large range of opportunities for further education and creation of equal opportunities for different social groups. The flexibility of study programmes allows to combine studies and work, child care, health care and other aspects of personal life. All university premises are accessible for people with functional disabilities, as there are ramps and a lift for people in wheelchair, inscriptions in Braille, reference points in contrasting colours and other aids.

The university teaching staff upskill themselves on a regular basis, acquire new methods of lecturing and apply them to their work. On the basis of the high competence in the field of pedagogical science, the university elaborates and appropates new teaching methods, serves as a support centre for further training and as a resource centre for pedagogues.

The university possesses high quality research equipment for scientific work and implementation of studies. The scientific infrastructure corresponds to conduction of high-level research in the research fields determined by DU research programme, which are coordinated with European and Latvian priority scientific branches. The use of information and communication technologies has an essential role in ensuring study and research work in the university administration. Comfortable, attractive and creativity-generating living conditions are available for students, guest lecturers and guest scientists. The university has a modern digital library and modernly equipped conference centres.

Daugavpils University implements active scientific work in the fields of nature, engineering, social and education science; it ensures the integration of study and research work. Students take an active part in the scientific work at scientific institutes and laboratories, as well as use the opportunity to do scientific work in foreign partner universities under the guidance of well-known scientists. The scientists of the university, in turn, contribute to the training of new scientists and preparation of a new generation of scientists. Scientific journals indexed in international data bases (including Scopus, WOS) are issued in all fields of DU scientific work. An important place in the university work is dedicated not only to fundamental, but also to applied research and commercialisation of the research results, including successfully developed technologies of strengthening material surfaces, nanotechnologies etc. that create new products in cooperation with entrepreneurs and contribute to the development of science-intensive production in Latvia. The Centre for Scientific Communication operates in Daugavpils University, which enhances the range of scientific communication events, improves their quality by carrying out collaboration projects, informs entrepreneurs on the newest research, carries out an active information circulation between region's scientists and entrepreneurs and ensures training of scientific communication for students and university staff. Science communication issues are included in different study courses of bachelor, master and doctoral study programmes. The Centre for Scientific Cooperation collaborates with the best European scientific institutions and associations and uses the acquired experience in organising activities in DU and the Latgale region. The most popular DU science communication event - Daugavpils Science Festival has become the biggest, internationally recognizable science communication event in Latvia and the other Baltic States. It attracts participants and visitors from the entire world. The Science Festival ensures the improvement of public competence of the science, as well as contributing to the information transfer and development of science-based economics.

The university is proud of its international atmosphere and multicultural environment – at least 5% of students come from foreign countries. Several (at least 17) bachelor, master and doctoral

study programmes are conducted in English or other foreign languages. Guest lecturers and scientists from Europe and other world countries account for 5% and work on a regular basis in the university. The scientists of Daugavpils University actively cooperate with foreign scientists in common research projects, including Horizon 2020, and use the infrastructure offered by cooperation institutions for carrying out research. The scientific environment of the university has an international atmosphere; the scientists of Daugavpils have entered the international circulation and participate in the development of the global science together with foreign scientists.

University graduates have a high level of working skills provided by professional study programmes. The university has close contacts with employers and their organisations; it knows the labour market demands, elaborates and implements education programmes appropriate to the needs of Latvian economics. Simultaneously with the implementation of current public needs, DU predicts social and economic development tendencies, revises and defines its goals and develops the perspective branches of activity.

The university administration, faculties, departments, institutes and other structural units are led by professional, appropriately-qualified specialists, who have acquired the newest management methods and other knowledge and skills necessary for work.

The University has a creative environment and supports new ideas, innovations and development.