

APPLICATION

Study field "Economics" for assessment

Study field	<i>Economics</i>
Title of the higher education institution	<i>Daugavpils Universitāte</i>
Registration code	<i>2741000222</i>
Legal address	<i>VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5400</i>
Phone number	<i>65422180</i>
E-mail	<i>du@du.lv</i>

Self-evaluation report

Study field "Economics"

University of Daugavpils

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I - Information on the Higher Education Institution/College

1.1. Basic information on the higher education institution/ college and its strategic development directions, including the following information:

Brief characteristics of Daugavpils University

Daugavpils University (henceforth - DU) is a significant centre of science and education in Daugavpils and East Latvia. DU is a modern science based university that offers high quality education, prepares highly qualified specialists and professionals, greatly contributes to science innovation and transfer of scientific ideas to broader public and national economy. DU is the only university in Latgale that performs the functions of the driving force for the development of the region of East Latvia and its adjacent territories, it concentrates major intellectual and technical resources in the region.

In the period of time from 1921 to 2001, DU has developed by harmonizing its functions of institutional status with the needs of the region and state: in 1921 Daugavpils Pedagogical School was founded that in 1944 was reorganized into Teacher Training Institute, in 1952 - Daugavpils Pedagogical Institute, in 1993 - Daugavpils Pedagogical University. In 2001 pedagogical higher education establishment - Daugavpils Pedagogical University - after international accreditation qualified for the status of full university becoming Daugavpils University - the largest regional university in Latvia that prepares highly qualified specialists for the needs of the region as well as unique branches of national economy of Latvia. DU was registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions on 23 January 2006 (registration No. 172040). DU has gained international recognition by joining the European University Association, European International Studies Association, European Union Universities of Small States Association, and European Science Events Association.

The necessity for founding DU in the region at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries was conditioned by changes in recruiting young professionals to work places. The previous system of delegating professionals after graduation from a higher education establishment to work places having placed demands to the higher education establishment had been cancelled. There was acute shortage of young professionals with up-to-date knowledge and practical skills in Latgale due to the fact that alumni from the capital city or abroad very seldom applied for jobs in Latgale. However, owing to its rapid and well-rounded development, DU adjusted to providing for the needs of the region in line with the prognoses of labour market development and offer of new innovations, and grew into the largest regional university of Latvia and a significant and competitive research and academic centre on the border of the European Union.

DU offers the opportunity to acquire higher education in the fields of natural sciences, 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), Faculty of Social Sciences (henceforth FSS), and 2 scientific institutes: Institute of Life Sciences and Technologies (henceforth ILST) and Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (henceforth IHSS). The research and academic work at DU proceeds in 5 buildings.

Daugavpils University mission and vision

DU mission: to contribute to the development of sustainable future society by implementing scientific research on an international level and ensuring high quality education in the fields of

natural, engineering, education, health, humanities and social sciences, thus promoting the sustainable development of Latgale region and the whole country.

DU vision: In 2030 DU 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. DU functions as an excellence centre in the fields of mathematics, physics, nano-materials, material engineering, biology, regional studies, literature, art, and education science. DU accumulates, preserves, and maintains regional knowledge and contributes greatly to the regional development.

Main objectives of DU activity:

1. to act as a regional university in the spheres of natural sciences, humanities, education and social sciences creating opportunities for diversified high quality studies and research;
2. to provide high quality study programmes and conduct research in compliance with the dynamics of labour market demands and needs of the community;
3. to create opportunities for enhancing the professional mobility of the population by developing further education;
4. to develop personality capable of analytical thinking, critical perception, and creative processing of information, who can, due to the acquired education, contribute to the development of the state and region of Latvia and the welfare of the population;
5. to preserve and develop Latvian national identity and culture legacy, simultaneously entering international integration;
6. to implement interior quality provision systems that build policy and procedures for the provision of the higher education quality, elaborate mechanisms for study programme development, interior approving, monitoring, and periodical control, form and release such criteria, conditions, and procedures of students' academic progress assessment that make it possible to verify reaching the envisaged study outcomes, establish inner regulations and mechanisms for the provision of the academic staff qualification and work quality, provide for collecting and analyzing the information on students' academic performance, employment of alumni, students' satisfaction with their study programme, the efficiency of the work of the academic staff, available study aids and their costs, major indicators of the work of Daugavpils University.

Implemented study directions and the number of study programmes within them

Study process at DU is implemented in 16 study directions: "Education, pedagogy, and sports" (5 study programmes), "Art" (5 study programmes), "History and philosophy " (3 study programmes), "Language and culture studies, native language studies and language programmes " (6 study programmes), "Translation" (1 study programme), "Psychology" (3 study programmes), "Economics" (3 study programmes), "Management, administration, and real estate management" (2 study programmes), "Law" (3 study programmes), "Life sciences" (4 study programmes), "Chemistry, Chemical Technologies and Biotechnologies" (2 study programmes), "Physics, material science, mathematics, and statistics" (6 study programmes), "Information technologies, computer technology, electronics, telecommunications, computer management, and computer science" (3 study programmes), "Health care" (1 study programme), "Environment protection" (2 study programmes); " Internal Security and Civil Protection " (2 study programmes).

General information on Daugavpils University branches

DU has branches in Balvi, Jelgava, Limbaži, and Riga, where at present the study process is not implemented. In case of demand, DU has sufficient capacity for implementing part-time study

programmes in branches.

The dynamics of student number at Daugavpils University in the period of assessment

In accordance with the Ministry of Education and Science "Survey of higher education in Latvia in 2018"[1], DU occupies 5th place among Latvian higher education institutions as to the number of students, that attests to a stable position of DU in the space of higher education in Latvia. DU provides higher education not only to East Latvia region represented by the majority of DU students but to other regions of Latvia and labour market of foreign countries.

Assessment of the dynamics of the student number in the time period from 2013 to 2019 leads to a conclusion that the number of students has been reduced for approximately 25%. Main reasons are durable depopulation of Latgale and Latvia and emigration of the population.[2] According to the informative material "Demographical prognoses for Latvia: 1998 - 2025", in next years the number of the population of Latvia will keep diminishing.[3] Main reasons of this process are aging of the society, durably low birth rate and emigration of the population.[4] Due to economic reasons, more and more secondary school leavers choose to study or get employed outside Latvia, therefore state funded budget places are not filled and the fall of the number of students concerns almost all higher education institutions.[5]

Enlarging of the number of foreign students is one of the priority goals of DU. For the purpose of internationalization of studies, 20 study programmes are offered in English. In the time period from 2013 to 2019, there were 621 students from abroad at DU. Most of foreign students at DU are citizens of Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Belarus, China, USA, Lithuania, and Poland. 3 - 4 times a year DU representative participate in higher education exhibitions in Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, as well as cooperate with higher education institutions and education institutions in foreign countries to inform of the current offer of study programmes, establish contacts with foreign universities for elaboration of joint programmes, to facilitate the attracting of foreign students and the academic staff.

Dynamics of student number see in "Other Annexes", Annex Nr. 1.

[1] https://www.izm.gov.lv/images/statistika/augst_izgl/Augstakas_izglitibas_LV_parskats_2018.pdf [accessible in Latvian, viewed 03.01.2020.]

[2] *EM Darba tirgus vidēja un ilgtermiņa prognozes.* https://www.em.gov.lv/files/tautsaimniecibas_attistiba/dsp/EMZino_06072018_full.pdf [accessible in Latvian, viewed 03.01.2020.]

[3] <https://www.vestnesis.lv/ta/id/14411> [viewed 10.01.2020.]

[4] *EM Darba tirgus vidēja un ilgtermiņa prognozes.* https://www.em.gov.lv/files/tautsaimniecibas_attistiba/dsp/EMZino_06072018_full.pdf [accessible in Latvian, viewed 03.01.2020.]

[5] Vasiļevska, Daina. *Sociāli ekonomiskie faktori augstākās izglītības pieejamības nodrošinājumam Latvijā. Promocijas darbs*, Latvijas Universitāte, 2014.

Daugavpils University development strategy major goals and activity directions

DU development goals are envisaged by "Daugavpils University development strategy for 2015-2020" (henceforth - Strategy). *Strategy summary in English see in "Other Annexes", Annex Nr. 3.*

Its general goal is developing Daugavpils University as academic traditions based, modern, and competitive study, scientific, and innovation centre.

Strategy determines the medium-term goals:

1. To provide high quality education that corresponds with 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, environmental friendly infrastructure, safe and supporting working environment.

1.2. Description of the management of the higher education institution/ college, the main institutions involved in the decision-making process, their composition (percentage depending on the position, for instance, the academic staff, administrative staff members, students), and the powers of these institutions.

DU is a derived public person. DU is state founded and acts as an autonomous self-governing institution. Decision about reorganization or liquidation of DU is made by the Cabinet of Ministers on the proposal of the Minister of education and science.

DU self-governing is based on the rights and opportunities of the staff to engage in academic and scientific, administrative, and economic decision-making. DU acts on the basis of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia, Law on Education, Law on Scientific Activity, Law on Higher Education Institutions, DU Constitution, and other laws and regulations.

DU major decision-making institutions are: Constitutional Assembly, Senate, rector, Academic Court of Arbitration.

DU staff top representation and administration institution and decision-making institution in academic and scientific issues is the **Constitutional Assembly** – an authorized top collegiate representation, administration, and decision-making institution that is elected for three years by secret ballot: from professors and other academic staff – 70 representatives (70%), from students – 20 representatives (20%), and from general staff – 10 representatives (10%). Constitutional Assembly decides on passing, amending, or repealing the Constitution; Constitutional Assembly passes and makes amendments in Senate Regulation, elects Senate, revokes Senate members; elects and dismisses rector, hears rector's report; approves the Regulation on the Academic Court of Arbitration, elects the Academic Court of Arbitration; passes the Regulation on DU Constitutional Assembly. Constitutional Assembly is entitled to accept for consideration and deciding other conceptual issues concerning the activity and development of Daugavpils University.

Senate is a collegiate administrative and decision-making institution of DU staff. Senate approves the order and rules for all the spheres of academic activity, participates in the implementation of strategic goals of DU activity approved by the Constitutional Assembly and performs other functions. Senate is elected by the Constitutional Assembly for three years: 21 representatives from

DU academic staff (including 5 representatives from deans, heads of departments and scientific institutes), 6 representatives from students, and 1 representative from the administrative staff upon the rector's recommendation. Representatives of the academic staff are delegated to Senate by meetings of the representatives of the academic staff. Representatives of students are delegated to Senate by Student Council. Students represented at DU Senate have veto rights in issues concerning students' interests. Senate activity is governed by Regulation approved by the Constitutional Assembly.

The highest official of DU is **rector**. Rector bears responsibility for the general administrative management of DU and without special authorization represents DU. Rector is elected by the Constitutional Assembly and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. Rector facilitates the development of DU, bears responsibility for the implementation of DU strategy, secures the observance of the academic liberty of the academic staff and students, bears responsibility for the compliance of the activity of DU with the legislation of the Republic of Latvia, other laws and regulations and DU Constitution, bears responsibility for the quality of education, scientific research, and artistic creative activity executed at DU, secures lawful, economical, and purposeful use of state budget funds allotted to DU and DU property.

Academic Court of Arbitration maintains disputes between DU officials, structural unit administrative institutions that are in relations of subordination as well as applications of students and academic staff concerning the limitations and violations of their academic liberties and rights stated in the Constitution. Constitutional Assembly elects four representatives of the academic staff to the Academic Court of Arbitration by secret ballot for three years. No representatives of the administrative staff may be among them. Three representatives of students are elected by Student Council.

Council of Studies is a management authority that supervises issues of study planning, organizing, and coordinating, provides the necessary conditions for the academic work at faculties and departments. Council of Studies includes vice rector for studies, faculty deans, and the head of the Department of Studies. Main duties of the Council of Studies are coordinating the elaboration and execution of bachelor, master, and professional study programmes, elaboration of the scheme of studies, its analysis and determining the main directions of its improvement and development, organizing the investigation and implementation of foreign countries' experience.

Council of Science is an institution of representation of branches and sub-branches of science that coordinates the scientific work at the university. Main functions of DU Council of Science are supervising the elaboration and implementation of DU strategy, science development process, allocation of funds for science, execution of promotion, and the work of professor councils. DU Council of Science consists of vice rector for science, head of the Department of Science, representatives delegated from each scientific institute council, a representative from professors delegated by faculty in case the faculty has no institute or no institute council, DU Young Scientist Association representative.

Faculty council supervises the study, scientific and/or artistic work and economic activity of the faculty. The configuration of council corresponds to the requirements of the promotion council in the respective branch or sub-branch of science and no less than a half of its members must be professors, associate professors, senior researchers, and experts approved by Latvian Council of Science. The council is formed of the chairperson of the council, deputy chairperson of the council, and council members. The council includes the dean; deputy dean/s and/or education methodologist; heads of departments, institutes, centres and other faculty structural units; it may include study programme directors, representatives of the academic staff from the structural units; student representatives that are delegated by the faculty student self-governance (20% of the

council members).

Study direction council is formed upon the recommendation of DU Council of Studies and approved by DU Senate. The members of the Study direction council are approved by DU Council of Studies. Study direction council includes study direction programme directors, the academic staff, students (at least one representative from 1st level professional education programme, bachelor, master, and doctoral study programmes) and representatives of employers. Functions of the council are: to elaborate the study programme/s of the study direction; execute the direction study programme self-assessment and implementation analysis; analyze students' academic performance; analyze the academic work of the academic staff involved in the study direction; facilitate the integration of scientific work in the study programme.

1.3. Description of the mechanism for the implementation of the quality policy and the procedures for the assurance of the quality of higher education, as well as the stakeholders involved in the development and improvement of the quality assurance system and their role in these processes.

Study quality provision is a continuous cycle of improvement. Quality is the result of interacting among the academic staff, students, and the study environment. For the ensuring of high quality of studies, DU offers the study environment where the study programme content, study opportunities, material and technical base and infrastructure correspond with the goal of providing competitive higher education. Quality ensuring basis comprises related measures of control and improvement, thus creating trust for DU activity and higher education in general. Quality ensuring policy is part of Daugavpils University development strategy for 2015-2020. Study quality is a characteristic indicator of the excellence of the system of studies that reflects the correspondence of the procedure of students' academic activity to the goals of education.

DU study quality management system observes the compliance with ISO 9001:2017 quality standard. Compliance with this standard testifies to the fact that DU tends for the quality of its education services by maintaining the quality management system (QMS), periodically passing accreditation and verifying the efficiency of the system. QMS testifies that DU makes an effort to make out the preferences of the potential students, tends to maintain constantly good quality of studies and governance and ensure systematic and transparent processes as well as incessantly improve cooperation with cooperation partners and community.

The envisaged outcomes of DU implemented ESF project "Daugavpils University governance and management competence improvement" (No. 8.2.3.0/18/A/010) are - adjust DU study and governance quality systems and receive ISO 9001 certificate that is an internationally recognized organization quality mark.

DU Council of Studies and DU Centre of Study Quality Assessment (henceforth - CSQA) introduces quality provision systems on the basis of "DU study internal quality ensuring policy"^[1] and "Daugavpils University manual for ensuring quality"^[2]. The policy and the manual have been elaborated in accordance with *The Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area* (ESG) and observing legal acts of the Republic of Latvia (Law on Higher Education Institutions, Higher education standards, etc.), DU normative acts and "Daugavpils University development strategy for 2015 - 2020".

To ensure the improvement of the existing normative documents and procedures at DU and

compliance with the student centered and sustainable higher education, especially assessing and updating quality policy implementation mechanisms, the study quality system is being updated within ESF project “Daugavpils University governance and management competence improvement” (No. 8.2.3.0/18/A/010). The project envisages elaboration of DU study quality policy and study quality monitoring strategy and DU study internal quality system efficiency provision procedure. The project envisages supplementing and improving the existing DU normative acts and their international peer-review. The deadline for completing the project activities is the 2nd quarter of 2021.

Mechanisms of the study process quality provision

Study quality maintaining aims at monitoring and improving the study programme implementation and facilitating prerequisites for reaching study programme outcomes. Quality monitoring is constant: during enrolment, recruiting the academic staff, improving the study programmes, reviewing the activity of structural units and their heads according to the academic and research work outcomes.

Higher education internal and external quality provision proceeds in cooperation between DU and the Ministry of Education and Science (in distribution of State budget funded places, execution of conceptual decisions), Higher Education Council (dealing with strategic issues, drawing statements), and Academic Information Centre (study programme licensing, study direction assessment, recognition of students’ prior education).

The main forms of quality assessment are as follows:

External assessment – licencing, accreditation, and assessment of independent experts. It is ensured by the quality ensuring agency listed in the European higher education quality ensuring register (in Latvia – Higher Education Quality Agency). It is coordinated by heads of study directions along with CSQA and vice-rector for studies.

Internal assessment – constantly performed by DU study direction councils elaborating self-assessment reports. Internal assessment is implemented and coordinated by DU CSQA approved by the Senate. In accordance with DU study internal quality ensuring policy there is systematic assessment of study directions and programmes in order to make sure how the programme objectives and study outcomes are reached, the compliance of the programme with the current developments of national economy and labour market demands. Study internal quality ensuring is constantly performed by the study direction councils, involved departments and structural units, decisions compulsive to the study process are taken by the Council of Studies and the Senate.

The internal quality of studies is ensured by the following measures:

Quality ensuring instrument	Implementation procedure
Strategic planning of the process of studies	Implemented by the study programme director in cooperation with the academic staff and members of the study direction council; Analyzing the shortcomings, risks, development opportunities of the study direction and study programmes wherein.

Examining the issues related to the process of studies

Study direction councils assess the process of studies within a programme, its outcomes, and proposes to the head of the study direction and study programme directors measures for the programme improvement and integration of recent ideas in the study content and process. The respective structural units discuss the submitted proposals and initiate changes in the study course amount, their content and calendar arrangements in semesters. Each semester, departments, taking into consideration the results of student surveys, formal indicators of students' academic performance as well as the professional indicators of the academic staff members in respective spheres (participation in conferences, research and other projects, applied projects, publications, etc.), analyze in detail the content of each course and the quality of its delivery. After that proposals as to changes in the study courses or study programme are discussed in faculty councils and after their support are addressed to DU Council of Studies that examines the justification of changes proposed. In case of a positive decision taken by the Council of Studies, the changes are implemented.

Surveys

At the end of each academic year surveys of students, employers^[3], and alumni^[4] are carried out. Based on the survey results, the study programme content is reviewed and improved within study direction councils executed by study programme directors. All justified opinions, proposals, and reprimands are examined by the study programme director, in case of necessity discussing the issues in study direction councils. CSQA upon necessity carry out express surveys in order to clarify students' opinion on current issues concerning the process of studies.

Self-assessment of the study direction and preparation of the self-assessment report

The head of the study direction organizes meetings of the study direction council in order to discuss the main trends of programme development and management. For examining debatable issues (assessment of examinations, ignoring the regulations of DU by students and/or academic staff members, etc.) student representatives are invited.

Once a year the head of the study direction along with programme directors prepare the self-assessment report of the study direction on the previous academic year that is examined by CSQA and approved by the Council of Studies and the Senate.

E-study environment improvement

DU e-study environment *Moodle* is used to provide information on the courses acquired during the semester. For each course students have access to the following information: study course description, criteria of assessment, materials for student independent work, etc.

Characteristics of the parties involved in the elaboration and improvement of quality ensuring system and their role.

Efficient results are reached by means of understanding and support of the administration, purposeful DU strategy and policy implemented by successful participation of the academic staff as well as full partnership, resource saving approach, and process governance.

Party involved	Characteristics of the role
DU administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- elaborates DU development strategy and implements its objectives;- facilitates the development and professional growth of the staff, elaborates and implements various motivation and support mechanisms (e.g. research activity facilitation, involvement in ERASMUS+ programmes for experience exchange and good practice);- cooperates with deans, heads of study directions, provides support for the solution of governance and financial issues.
Academic and research staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- ensures high quality studies;- performs scientific research and integrates it into the study content;- participates in professional updating events, international mobility and experience exchange activities;- cooperates with external experts, employers, alumni, facilitates their involvement in the study direction improvement.
Administrative staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- ensures high quality study programme governance;- provides support for students and the academic staff involved in study programmes;- tends to the updating of the material and technical base for studies.
Employers, social partners, and external experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- provide the expertise for the study programme content and proposals for the improvement of the study content and methods;- provide opportunities for practical placement and internship, facilitating working environment based study principles in professional study programmes.

Alumni	- use the acquired knowledge, skills, and competences in their professional activity; - provide proposals for the improvement of the study content.
Students	- Provide feedback for the study quality improvement.

[1] <https://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Kvalit%C4%81tes-politika.pdf> [accessible in Latvian, viewed 17.06.2019.]

[2] http://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2DU_rokasgramata_2011-09-26_v2.doc [accessible in Latvian, viewed 17.06.2019.]

[3] https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rkrIKtz4BfOmJS9Kccqz_PoCdDO5LCj_V2MRU5N-Ly/edit [accessible in Latvian, viewed 10.07.2019.]

[4] <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqCwHx3peZ8dE-ff1exziYSZu13T-Sh33UN9kyB-XQ1PRrIA/viewform> [accessible in Latvian, viewed 10.07.2019.]

1.4. Fill in the table on the compliance of the internal quality assurance system of the higher education institution/ college with the provisions of Section 5, Paragraph 21 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education by providing a justification for the given statement. In addition, it is also possible to refer to the respective chapter of the Self-Assessment Report, where the provided information serves as evidence for the full compliance, partial compliance or non-compliance.

1.	The higher education institution/ college has established a policy and procedures for assuring the quality of higher education.	Complies
		DU has elaborated “DU study internal quality ensuring policy” and “Daugavpils University manual for ensuring quality”, other normative acts that facilitate and ensure the quality of higher education.
2.	A mechanism for the creation and internal approval of the study programmes of the higher education institution/ college, as well as the supervision of their performance and periodic inspection thereof has been developed.	Complies
		In accordance with the “Regulation on Studies at Daugavpils University” and “Regulation on Study Direction and Programme at Daugavpils University” there are established mechanisms for the development, internal approving of study programmes, their monitoring and periodic examination.

3.	The criteria, conditions, and procedures for the evaluation of students' results, which enable reassurance of the achievement of the intended learning outcomes, have been developed and made public.	<p>Complies</p> <p>“Regulation on Studies at Daugavpils University” and study course descriptions of each study programme state the criteria, conditions, and procedures of the assessment of students’ academic performance that attests to reaching the envisaged outcomes of studies. The Regulation and study course descriptions are freely available to students. Students have an opportunity of giving proposals for the criteria, conditions, and procedures of the assessment of students’ academic performance in surveys.</p>
4.	Internal procedures and mechanisms for assuring the qualifications of the academic staff and the work quality have been developed.	<p>Complies</p> <p>DU has elaborated internal normative acts and mechanisms that regulate the ensuring of the qualification and work quality of the academic staff: “Regulation on elections to academic positions in Daugavpils University” and “Procedure of assessing the scientific activity of Daugavpils University academic staff”. Self-assessment reports include the results of surveys and measures of implementing students’ proposals and averting criticism.</p>
5.	The higher education institution/ college ensures the collection and analysis of the information on the study achievements of the students, employment of the graduates, satisfaction of the students with the study programme, efficiency of the work of the academic staff, the study funds available, and the disbursements thereof, as well as the key performance indicators of the higher education institution/ college.	<p>Complies</p> <p>Surveys of students, alumni, and employers are organized every year. CSQA carries out express surveys to learn students’ opinion on current issues related to the process of studies. There is regular cooperation with the Student Council, exchange of opinions, examination of proposals.</p>

6.	The higher education institution/ college shall ensure continuous improvement, development, and efficient performance of the study direction whilst implementing their quality assurance systems.	<p>Complies</p> <p>DU study quality management system observes the compliance with ISO 9001:2017 quality standard. Compliance with this standard testifies to the fact that DU tends for the quality of its education services by maintaining the quality management system (QMS), periodically passing accreditation and verifying the efficiency of the system. QMS testifies that DU makes an effort to make out the preferences of the potential students, tends to maintain constantly good quality of studies and governance and ensure systematic and transparent processes as well as incessantly improve cooperation with cooperation partners and community.</p>
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II - Description of the Study Direction (1. Management of the Study Direction)

1.1. Economic and/or social grounds for the creation of the study direction and the relevant study programmes, the assessment of the interrelation among the study programmes, as well as the analysis of the significance (singularity) of the study programmes in comparison with other similar study programmes in Latvia and abroad.

The study direction “Economics” corresponds to the challenges of the future and is based on the emphasis on students’ independent work, synergy of study research work, through training specialists competitive in the international labour market, developing their abilities and encouraging lifelong learning. “Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030”^[1], “Smart Specialisation Strategy of Latvia”^[2] also include the values incorporated in the programme, e.g. the development of human capital in the region, increasing productivity through the involvement of qualified human resources and the wider dissemination of innovations, int.al. by intensifying the cooperation of DU staff and students with employers’ representatives. The joint synergy of the priorities “Knowledge and skills for personal and national growth” and “Competitiveness and material well-being of enterprises” emphasized in the Latvian National Development Plan for 2021-2027 and the directions of action provided therein confirm the importance of study programmes in the region and the impact on the national socio-economic development. The need for close interaction between the academic and the private sector (i.e. better knowledge transfer between companies and universities, as well as between the public and private sectors) is also emphasized in European Commission documents^[3]. On the other hand, professional education programmes, in contrast to academic ones, provide a close link between theoretical knowledge and innovation, wider involvement of private sector professionals in the academic environment, as well as emphasis on applied studies and deeper integration into the traditional theoretical model, thus ensuring implementation of these recommendations.

For further EU development there will be need for even closer ties between the higher education

and the labour market and for a flexible approach (transformation) in order to ensure the development of a smart Europe^[4]. These general principles are the basis of professional higher education, which is also reflected in the specially built mechanisms of the PBSP “Management of Economic Processes”: intensive use of independent work, research of topics offered to students, promoting flexibility and faster adaptation to business environment processes and changes.

The implementation of the content of the study direction programme takes place in close interaction with the priorities of the Smart Specialisation Strategy^[5], ensuring the improvement of the innovation system (priority 2), development of new industries and dissemination of innovations to the general public and rise of the knowledge base in the region, country and EU (priority 6); modernisation and adaptation of the education system to the needs of the labour market (priority 5) through training of specialists in the relevant field, using modern approaches and innovative methods and technologies.

The European Union strategy (The Europe 2020 strategy^[6]) prioritises smart growth, which implies the development of an economics based on knowledge and innovation. Thus, there is a need to prepare human resources oriented towards the smart growth, thus ensuring the smartness of long-term social, economic and financial processes. Based on the priorities of the smart specialisation strategy, it is important to improve the study process, establish new, modern study programmes to ensure the preparation of human resources ready and able to use and implement innovations and technological opportunities, find new market niches and adapt types and forms of economic activities.

The study direction “Economics” includes an interdisciplinary approach in the study content and integrity being based on the development priorities of the economic sector. The DU study direction “Economics” provides an opportunity for the graduates of secondary schools of the region to obtain higher education in economics at all levels of study. The study direction “Economics” includes 3 study programmes of the Faculty of Social Sciences:

- PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” (42311);
- PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” (47311);
- Doctoral study programme “Economics” (51311).

The implementation of the study programmes of the direction “Economics” is mutually consecutive, ensuring the supply of professional education demanded by the labour market at the Bachelor’s and Master’s levels, as well as the final stage – the Doctoral level. The practical orientation of the study programmes included in the study direction is based on the current demand of the labour market^[7] and the results of Latvian and international evaluations^[8], which confirms the need for human resources with higher education able to establish and/or work in companies and organisations, as well as to understand financial market development trends and prospects. The study programmes have been prepared in accordance with the relevant professional standards and other regulatory enactments, taking into account the recommendations of employers and other experts.

Evaluation of interconnection between study programmes

The implementation of the study direction “Economics” programmes is mutually consecutive. All three study programmes are interconnected. This connection is determined by several factors:

(1) PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” implies the acquisition of the professional qualification “Financier” or “Business manager”. The complexity of business processes and the integration of financial and management competences determine the need for specialists who will solve economic problems using the approaches and methods offered by both economics and management science, thus promoting regional development and interregional cooperation in both Latvian and cross-

border context. However, after graduating from this programme, the development of competences (*developing the innovation potential and smartness of organisations*) should be continued in the successive PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation”.

(2) PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” ensures the consecution of study levels by logically linking Bachelor’s and Doctoral level programmes, giving the direction a business orientation in both studies and research. The implementation objective of DU PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” corresponds to the fifth-level professional qualification standard of a financial analyst (profession code - PS-118) or the fifth-level professional qualification standard of an economist (profession code - PS-113, senior specialists).

(3) DSP “Economics”, which concludes the DU economics education cycle, forms the methodological and scientific research base of the study direction “Economics”, at the same time ensuring the renewal of the academic staff. As a result of the studies, a Doctoral degree in economics and entrepreneurship with specializations in regional economics and finance is awarded.

Significance (uniqueness) of the study programmes in comparison to other similar study programmes in Latvia and foreign countries

In the study direction, the content of the study programmes is purposefully elaborated so as to combine economics, finance and entrepreneurship, management and marketing, and IT and foreign language study courses, which altogether promotes the cognitive process (critical thinking, decision making, planning, resource allocation), development of management and social skills (*soft skills*) to address current economic, business and financial issues, building successful careers in professions in companies of various sectors, state and municipal institutions, non-governmental sector, to continue more effective company management or starting one’s own business. The content of the study programmes includes international and interregional aspects and in-depth language acquisition in theoretical learning, in the content of visiting lecturers’ materials and by integrating the CLIL method in the acquirement of specialization study courses. During the elaboration of the programmes, the recommendations of specialists from Latgale companies and institutions, including providers of practical placement, interns, were taken into account, as a result of which the structure of the study programme and the content and methods of implementation of the study courses were elaborated having adapted it to the requirements of the local labour market:

- with an orientation towards the prevention of socio-economic challenges of Latgale region (e.g., ensuring to develop skills necessary for entrepreneurship, self-employment during the acquirement of the programme);
- taking into account the geopolitical specificity of the region and the context of the EU border area with third countries, which affects labour market requirements, such as specialization in cross-border cooperation;
- the need to attract international investment for developing products for the global market (development of export capacity of local companies).

[1] *Latvijas ilgtspējīgas attīstības stratēģijas līdz 2030.gadam.* LR VARAM, 2010. <http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/pol/ppd/?doc=13857>

[2] *Viedās specializācijas stratēģijas monitorings.* Informatīvais ziņojums. LR, EM, 2017 https://www.izm.gov.lv/images/zinatne/RIS3_pirmais-monitoringa-ziojums_2018.pdf; [accessed 26.07.2019.]

Viedās specializācijas stratēģija. LR, IZM, 2013.

<https://www.izm.gov.lv > normativie-akti > zinatne>[accessed 26.07.2019.]

[3] Modernisation of Higher Education in Europe: Funding and the Social Dimension. Brussels: Eurydice; EACEA/Eurydice, 2012.

The European Higher Education Area in 2012. Bologna Process Implementation Report. Brussels: Eurydice;

A European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice, 2013. Education and Training in Europe 2020: Responses from the EU Member States. Eurydice Report. Brussels: Eurydice [accessed 27.08.2019.]

[3] Jaunā kohēzijas politika. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/lv/2021_2027/[accessed 27.08.2019.]

[4] Eiropas Komisijas jaunā kohēzijas politika. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/lv/2021_2027/ [accessed 27.08.2019.]

[5] Europe2020 strategy. Eiropa 2020: stratēģija gudrai, ilgtspējīgai un integrējošai izaugsmei. Eiropas Komisija, Briselē, 2010. http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/1_lv_act_part1_v1.pdf

[6] Europe2020 strategy. Eiropa 2020: stratēģija gudrai, ilgtspējīgai un integrējošai izaugsmei. Eiropas Komisija, Briselē, 2010. http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/1_LV_ACT_part1_v1.pdf

[7] Regulāras Daugavpils un Latgales reģiona uzņēmēju aptaujas.

[8] Piem., OECD Employment Outlook 2019 *The Future of Work*. OECD, 2019. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/oecd-employment-outlook-2019_9ee00155-en [accessed 23.08.2019.]

Education and Training in Europe 2020: Responses from the EU Member States. Eurydice Report EU, 2013. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/education-and-training-europe-2020-responses-eu-member-states_en

Eiropas Komisijas priekšlikumos Jaunajai kohēzijas politikai 2021.- 2027.gadam ES investīcijām. EU, 2018 https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/lv/2021_2027/ [accessed 23.08.2019.]

1.2. Aims of the study direction and their compliance with the scope of activities of the higher education institution/ college, the strategic development directions, as well as the needs and the development trends of the society and the national economy.

The aim and development strategy of the study direction are coordinated with the objectives set in “Daugavpils University Development Strategy for 2015 - 2020” (The term of “Daugavpils University Development Strategy 2015-2020” has been extended until the commencement of a new approved

strategy (provisionally in the year 2023), Minutes No. 1 of the DU Senate meeting of January 25, 2021). The aim of the study direction “Economics” is to provide integrated and comprehensive practice-based theoretical knowledge in the field of economics and a set of practical skills in order to train students to be professionals in their field, promoting students’ competitiveness in today’s labour market, developing their abilities and encouraging lifelong learning. The study direction was founded 30 years ago (October 1, 1991) and since then the traditions of economic education at DU have been strengthened, but the direction has been constantly developed. In 1991, students were admitted to the Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Economics, where they were offered to obtain the profession of an economist, and this programme was very popular. On February 22, 1993, Daugavpils Pedagogical Institute was granted the status of a university in view of its study and scientific potential, and the Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Economics was transformed into the Department of Economics, where, in accordance with the requirements of the Bologna Process, the implementation of economics study programmes at the Bachelor’s and Master’s level was started. On March 5, 2001, the Constitutional Assembly approved the change of the name of Daugavpils Pedagogical University to Daugavpils University. On October 1, 2001, the Faculty of Social Sciences was established, but the Institute of Social Research established in 2003 actively implemented economic research, which strengthened and developed study programmes in economics. In 2004, the Doctoral study programme “Economics” was started.

The tasks of the study direction are as follows:

- to ensure the acquirement of knowledge and skills necessary for the professions of an economist, business manager, financier and financial analyst by offering study programmes in the field of economics in three levels (Bachelor’s (BSP), Master’s (MSP) and Doctoral (DSP));
- to promote the development of attitudes that ensure the acquisition of qualifications and promote the competitiveness of graduates in the changing socio-economic conditions;
- to facilitate improvement of students’ intellectual abilities and personal and social skills (*soft skills*), creative growth, entrepreneurship, initiative, conscientiousness, encouraging further education and lifelong learning;
- to promote students’ self-education in the study process, to develop research competences in accordance with the requirements of the labour market and public demand;
- to strengthen socio-economic development in Eastern Latvia and interregionally;
- to promote the successful integration of society into the intellectual, economic and cultural environment of Latvia by using study and research work opportunities.

The content of the study programmes of the direction corresponds to the current findings in the relevant field of science, which are integrated in the descriptions of the study courses. One of the tasks of the programme is to develop students’ practical skills and improve their scientific potential, having involved employers, professional organisations, foreign university lecturers and students in this process.

Study direction aims and their compliance with the public and national economy development needs and trends of development

The systematic implementation of the content of the study programme, purposeful planning of the study process, diversification and improvement of study forms and methods, provision of independent learning, as well as regular assessment of study quality and improvement of culture quality contribute to the achievement of the aim and tasks of the study direction. The structure of the study programme and the content of the study courses, their implementation methods and forms are adapted to the requirements of the local labour market with an orientation to the socio-economic aspects of Latgale region. The achievement of the aim and tasks of the study direction is

determined by the content and organisation of the study programmes, while the assessment (examination) is reflected in the learning outcomes, which are formulated as the acquired knowledge, skills and competences. The overall development strategy of the study direction is aimed at developing DU as an interregional center of economic science and studies based on academic and professional traditions, responding to contemporary challenges in the labour market, societal needs and development topicalities in Latvia and the European Union.

The interconnection and consecution of the study direction "Economics" and the study programmes are determined by the demand of the modern labour market, as well as the students' desire for such study programmes in the Eastern Latvia region. Employers have long emphasized the need for high-level economic specialists with professional qualifications (including financial analysts and economists) to improve the development and capacity of local companies. As a result of all the programmes implemented in the study direction, the specialists demanded by employers are being trained[1].

Employers in the Eastern Latvia region are constantly interested in promising students. Some students start working being the third- and fourth-year students of the Bachelor's study programme. Almost all students in the Master's study programme already work in professions related to the field of economics. Taking into account the professional development of the students and the research of graduates' career, sub-programmes with relevant qualifications have been integrated into the content of the study programmes of the study direction "Economics".

Specialists involved in the elaboration, improvement and implementation of study programmes in the study direction "Economics" have evaluated the concepts included in the study courses and pointed out that within the programme it is important to acquire new economic solutions and innovative entrepreneurship tools: business planning strategies, start-ups, acquaintance with the work of business incubators, etc. The study programmes are aimed at developing the professional competences of specialists, which will contribute to the long-term improvement of the economic potential of the region.

Within the study direction "Economics", the field of academic and professional economic education and science is being developed, which implements the training of competitive specialists necessary for the region and the international labour market. Within the framework of the study direction programmes, important, topical research in the field of economics and interdisciplinary research are being implemented, the results of which are approbated in international scientific conferences and in publications. Scientific communication events organized within the study direction "Economics" (Science Festival, Scientists' Night, School of Young Entrepreneurs, Days of Young Entrepreneurs in cooperation with the organisation Junior Achievement Latvia, etc.) promote public awareness and interest in economics, promote entrepreneurship and highlight its importance in economic development.

The study programmes of the study direction "Economics" have been elaborated taking into account the content of study programmes of Latvian regional university consortium partners and opportunities to create joint modules, study courses and blocks and cooperate in teaching study courses with the respective study directions of Latvia University of Agriculture and Liepaja University. For example, lecturer I. Gudele, who is a Doctoral student at Latvia University of Agriculture delivers the study course "E-commerce and export capacity" in PBSP "Business and financial processes", as well as works on the implementation of a joint digital economics module in the study programmes of all three universities.

[1]DU studiju virziena „Ekonomika” darba devēju aptauju, potenciālo prakses devēju aptauju rezultāti 2014. – 2019. g.; ikgadējo studējošo aptauju rezultāti 2014. – 2020. g.

1.3. SWOT analysis of the study direction with regard to the set aims by providing explanations on how the higher education institution/ college expects to eliminate/ improve weaknesses, prevent threats, and avail themselves of the given opportunities, etc. The assessment of the plan for the development of the study direction for the next six years and the procedure of the elaboration thereof. In case there is no development plan elaborated or the aims/ objectives are set for a shorter period of time, information on the elaboration of the plan for the development of the study direction for the next assessment period shall be provided.

Having evaluated the development of the study direction “Economics”, the current situation and programme prospects, the study direction council assesses both the content of the study programmes in general and the content and provision of individual study courses, analyzes the organisation of the study process and solves issues related to planning the programme development.

In the annual self-evaluation process, based on the analysis of formal indicators of the study direction implementation and taking into account the results of surveys of students and graduates (2013 - 2019), as well as having evaluated the development direction and dynamics of external factors, the management of the study field has performed SWOT analysis and marked the study strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and potential threats of the direction in order to forecast the further development of the study direction and ensure its improvement.

SWOT analysis of the study direction “Economics”

Strengths

Weaknesses

- Clear aim and tasks of the study direction, as well as appropriate material and technical base.
- Study content is oriented towards modern achievements and is continuously being improved.
- The university and the study direction have had a stable positive reputation for a long time.
- The complexity of the directions, offering all three levels of higher education.
- The study direction corresponds to the DU strategy, which provides opportunities for purposeful use of the university's internal intellectual and material resources.
- There is a Promotion Council in Economics and entrepreneurship
- Coordination of the content of the study programmes of the direction and orientation to the requirements of the labour market on an interregional level.
- Provision with highly qualified teaching staff - visiting lecturers, industry practitioners.
- A large proportion of lecturers with a Doctoral degree, most of the lecturers are experienced industry professionals.
- The scientific qualification, experience and professionalism of the involved teaching staff are constantly improved.
- The acquired education is modern and practically applicable.
- Opportunities to study in two languages (Latvian and English) and to improve foreign language competences.
- Cooperation between the teaching staff and students, regular evaluation of the study programme development.
- Extensive cooperation with employers (as visiting lecturers and interns, in programme management).
- Involvement of industry professionals in the study process and cooperation with state and local government institutions, business structures and other organisations, which promotes the harmonization of the study programme content with the interests of employers and labour market requirements, purposefully linking academic and research tasks with practice.
- Use of innovative study methods and forms.
- Continuous improvement of the study content, search for and introduction of new forms.
- Extensive opportunities to get involved in scientific work - to participate in DU scientific activities (conferences) and publish one's research in DU article collections, journals.
- Cooperation with foreign HEIs and other Latvian HEIs, incl. opportunities for students and teachers to take advantage of ERASMUS + mobility.
- Integration of studies and research work.
- Close cooperation between directions of economics, psychology and law, which allows lecturers to participate effectively in interdisciplinary and cross-border research.
- Active work of lecturers in promoting the study direction "Economics", organizing and participating in scientific communication and events aimed at youth involvement.
- Innovative specialization of Bachelor's and Master's level study programmes.

Opportunities

- Insufficient engagement in projects and other funding from the business sector.
- Differences in the prior knowledge of the enrolled students, as well as the low level of English language skills of potential students.
- Insufficient co-responsibility of students in the issues related to quality and management of the study process.
- Insufficient integration of foreign students in the learning environment.
- Difficulties in attracting foreign visiting lecturers due to uncompetitive salaries and high requirements for knowledge of the state language.
- Insufficient mobility of students in Master's and Doctoral study programmes.

Threats

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation agreements and common projects with foreign higher education institutions. • Organizing inter-disciplinary research in cooperation with other structural units of DU. • Interest of potential students from EU and CIS countries in studies at DU. • Enlarging the rate of teaching study courses in English and opportunities to attract foreign students. • Attracting visiting lecturers and student exchange programme development. • Improvement of the material base with contemporary literature and technical equipment. • More active involvement of the academic staff in business led research projects. • Improvement of study courses and their provision in foreign languages and e-study environment Moodle. • Involving students in research projects of the academic staff. • Interest of potential students from EU and CIS countries in studies at DU. • More active involvement of the academic staff in business led research projects. • Improvement of study courses and their provision in foreign languages and e-study environment Moodle. • E-study environment development and integration in the study process. • High level specialist demand on labour market. • Enhancing and intensifying cooperation with foreign higher education institutions. • Informing the public of the study opportunities promoting the study direction "Economics" programmes (incl. in social networks). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of the number of study places funded from the State budget. • Insufficient financing for involving new professionals in the implementation of the programmes and adequate remuneration for the practical placement supervisors' work. • Demographical situation (fall of the number of secondary school learners), that in long term affects the number of potential students. • Financial opportunities of the region population that directly affect their opportunity of studying (especially in paid study places). • String competition among higher education institutions in the sphere of the study direction "Economics" and respective level study programme implementation. • Changes in laws and regulations in the sphere of higher education. • Unsuitableness of laws and regulations of Latvia to the integration of education in the international business environment. |
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Having conducted SWOT analysis, it can be concluded that strengths of the DU study direction "Economics" outweigh weaknesses, which testifies to both the need for this programme and its future prospects. The weaknesses, in turn, can be eliminated or reduced by implementing study programme development measures (e.g., intensifying foreign cooperation in research, regularly improving the study process according to the needs of the economy). In addition, the work experience in providing and improving the study direction "Economics", students' surveys, show that all study programmes are topical among students, moreover, study forms are modern and significant, with wide development opportunities.

The opportunities listed in the analysis outweigh the potential threats, so the impact of the external environment is evaluated as positive. Having analyzed the drawbacks of the direction, they can be grouped into two main groups. One group of drawbacks is related to the lack of motivation and initiative of students and teachers (for example, to get involved in outgoing mobility programmes, to introduce innovative ideas). In order to eliminate these drawbacks and improve the situation, a set of organisational activities has been elaborated, which is aimed at more purposeful and systematic informing of students and teachers, organisation of teachers, delegation of tasks and control of their implementation in order to promote initiative and responsibility. The second group is related to heavy workloads and the insufficient remuneration of highly qualified specialists in Latvia. This group of these drawbacks is mostly related to global processes in the Latvian economics.

The study direction development plan is estimated as appropriate for the aims of the direction development and is realistic. The process of the elaboration of the study direction development plan may be assessed as efficient and appropriate for DU development strategy and current normative documents.

Having summarized all the above, it should be emphasized that the basic ways of development of the study direction "Economics" are as follows:

regular evaluation and improvement of the quality of the study process;

regular improvement and adjustment of the study environment and material base and study

environment to the topicalities of the study process;

active participation of lecturers and students of the programme in attracting internal and external research grants and projects;

intensification and integration of staff and students' research activities in the research areas of the direction and the faculty;

organisation of regional and international scientific conferences, seminars and scientific communication events;

regular supplementation of library resources with the latest teaching and scientific literature, periodicals;

participation in cooperation projects and trainings promoting the professional development of the lecturers of the programme;

improvement of lecturers' competences in the Doctoral programme, staff renewal;

more active involvement in the international cooperation (attraction of foreign guest lecturers and students, elaboration, implementation and attraction of interregional projects);

adaptation of cooperation mechanisms to the needs of the parties (lecturers, labour market representatives and students) and more active use;

elaboration of teaching aids and study support materials, including e-learning environment for organizing students' independent work;

more active involvement in professional organisations, thus promoting synergies between the academic and professional environment.

The strengths of the study direction outweigh the weaknesses, and the weaknesses can be eliminated by implementing the development plan of the direction.

It may be concluded that study direction programmes are regularly reviewed, verified in accordance with recent legislation requirements and in compliance with the labour market demand, involving employers in the assessment of the study content. The guidelines of developing and improving the study direction are actualized in the study direction development plan.

The study direction development plan, on the basis of the aims of the study direction development, is elaborated by the head of the study direction "Economics" together with programme directors and the academic staff of the Department of Economics and approved at the meeting of the council of the study direction "Economics". The study direction development plan is generally reviewed along with the aims of the direction development at the beginning of each academic year. The execution of the study direction development plan is controlled also by meetings of the study direction council that, on the basis of programme director proposals, formulates adjustments and corrections.

1.4. The structure of the management of the study direction and the relevant study programmes, and the analysis and assessment of the efficiency thereof, including the assessment of the role of the director of the study direction and the heads of the study programmes, their responsibilities, and the cooperation with other heads of the study programmes, as well as the assessment of the support by the administrative and technical staff of the higher education institution/ college provided within the study direction.

The study direction governance structure (see in appendix) fits in the overall DU and FSS governance framework. The study process is organized in accordance with the DU Constitution, the Law on Higher Education Institutions (http://aic.lv/Rp/Latv/LIK/augs_likums.htm), Cabinet Regulation No. 512 “Regulations on the state standard of the second level professional higher education” (26.08.2014), and other regulatory documents, which are in force in the Republic of Latvia, as well as in accordance with the documents regulating studies approved by the DU Senate matriculation takes place in accordance with the DU Admission regulations, which are approved annually by the DU Senate.

The overall management of the study direction is ensured by DU Council for Studies, the solution of certain issues is the responsibility of the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Economics, as well as the Council of the Study Direction “Economics”. Study direction implementation on regular basis is organized in accordance with DU administration and FSS council decisions, strategy of the study direction development. Council of the study direction “Economics” assesses the process and outcomes of studies and proposes measures for programme improvement and integration of recent ideas into the content and process of studies; these proposals are discussed in respective structural units and changes in the amount, content, distribution across semesters are made, taking into consideration the results of student surveys, formal indicators of student academic performance and scientific work as well as indicators of the academic staff members’ professional activity in respective spheres (participation in scientific conferences, research and other projects, involvement in applied research, publications, etc.), detailed analysis of each study course content and quality of its teaching is produced. Proposals concerning changes in study courses or study programmes are discussed at FSS council meetings and forwarded to DU Council of Studies. See in appendix the scheme of the study direction governance.

The Department of Economics of the Faculty of Social Sciences is a structural unit of the profiling study direction “Economics” and the programme is implemented in cooperation with the Foreign Language Centre of the Faculty of Humanities, as well as the Social Research Centre of DU Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sustainable Education Centre, Technology Transfer Office, Career and Initiative Support Centre and other DU structural units. The Department of Economics of the Faculty of Social Sciences coordinates work related to studies, promotes feedback between lecturers and students. The integrity of practice and science is ensured by their cooperation with the Social Research Centre and other DU research centres. Within the framework of cooperation, study projects and Bachelor’s theses, applied research, students’ independent work are being developed, implementing interdisciplinary (economic, sociological, psychological, legal) research, participating in the international scientific conference *Social science for Regional development* organized by these two institutions, publishing research data in the scientific databases in cited scientific journals - the *Social Sciences Bulletin* and the *Regional Report*.

The role, responsibility of the head of the study direction and study programme directors and cooperation with other study programme directors

Head of the study direction, in cooperation with programme directors, organizes and coordinates high quality study process in the study programmes within the study direction. Head of the study direction is responsible for conceptual changes in the study direction, in case of necessity announces meetings of the study direction council, in cooperation with study programme directors prepares annual study direction self-assessment report, summarizes and analyzes information included in it.

The head of the study direction and the directors of the study programmes coordinate cooperation with specialists and professional associations in the fields of economics and finance, involving their representatives in the study programme council, as well as in the work of commissions on the defense of Master's theses and practical placement reports. The director of the study programme cooperates with the directors of other programmes, specialization managers and academic staff to ensure the interdisciplinarity of the study content.

Programme directors at the end of each academic year plan the work loads for the next academic year and send inquiries to structural units. Heads of departments are responsible for assigning academic staff members for respective study course delivery. In case an academic staff member for some reason cannot teach the study course assigned, programme directors in cooperation with heads of departments and other structural units find the solution. In case of necessity, the option of recruiting a visiting lecturer is considered by the faculty dean, DU vice rectors, and rector. Study programme directors communicate with students, make improvements in the study programmes coordinating them with the head of the study direction. If needed, current issues are examined by the study direction council and faculty council.

Studies are carried out in classrooms of the Faculty of Social Sciences and other premises of DU structural units. The study programmes of the study direction "Economics" are inter-faculty study programmes implemented by the Department of Economics of the faculty of Social Sciences and the *Social Research Centre* in cooperation with the Department of Computer Science and Department of Physics and Mathematics, as well as *Sustainable Education Centre, DU Technology Transfer Office, Career and Initiative Support Centre* and other DU units.

Assessment of the support by DU administrative and technical staff within the study direction

In each profile department and faculties there are secretaries who are responsible for the execution and circulation of documentation binding for the study programme, participate in final examinations, take minutes in them. The administrative staff of departments and faculties provide the information on students, their academic performance, study programmes, academic staff members in DUIS, prepare diplomas and diploma supplements. Secretaries provide the informative support to students, academic staff members and study programme directors. Information and communication technology centre computer network administrators and technical experts support academic staff members in utilizing IT in the process of studies, during conferences, science communication events. Administrative and technical staff executes also other duties within their competence.

The assessment of the support by DU administrative and technical staff within the study direction is positive. In FSS there is efficient communication and regular information circulation. Students are informed about the persons to address in case of questions or aid needed.

1.5. Description and assessment of the requirements and the system for the admission of students by specifying, inter alia, the regulatory framework of the admission procedures and requirements. The assessment of the study period, professional experience, and the options for the students to have their previously acquired formal and non-formal education recognised within the study direction by providing specific examples of the application of these procedures.

Characteristics and assessment of the requirements and system of student enrolment

The process of enrolment at DU is ensured in accordance with the “Terms of enrolment to full time and part time studies” that are annually approved by DU Senate in accordance with the study programme licences and accreditation sheets in the Study direction register (<http://svr.aic.lv/>). Terms of enrolment are actualized each academic year in accordance with the Law of Higher Education Institutions, Cabinet of Ministers regulations of 10 October 2006 No. 846 “Regulations on the requirements, criteria, and procedure of enrolment to study programmes”, and DU Constitution. Terms of enrolment at DU are elaborated for various levels of studies, there are special terms of enrolment to full time studies for foreign citizens.

Detailed information concerning the admission is available on the DU website:

<https://du.lv/ieskaties-augstskola/skoleniem/uznemsana/>

The process of enrolment are additionally regulated by “Full time and part time study opportunities”, “DU enrolment procedure”, registration fee, programme tuition fee, number of study places for enrolment that are approved by DU Senate decision before enactment. The Senate approves the dates of the competition and announces enrolment.

“DU terms of enrolment” and “Study opportunities” set requirements for persons who wish to study at DU, bilateral rights and duties of this person and the university in the process of enrolment, contain information on the study programmes and forms of studies in the particular academic year, on additional requirements for the prior education, preparedness, or special suitability for particular studies of candidates, on the criteria of the competition assessment. Enrolment to DU study programmes entails the candidate registration for studies, the procedure of the competition for study places, announcing the competition results, signing study agreement, and matriculation.

Enrolment to DU study programmes is ensured by DU Enrolment Board secretariat. The Enrolment Board sets and approves of the competition results. The Enrolment Board may also approve the enrolment places and execute their redistribution.

The obligations of the Enrolment Board and Enrolment Board secretariat are stated in the document “Bilateral rights and duties of person and DU in the process of enrolment.

DU Enrolment Board decision on the competition results may be appealed according to the procedure of DU “Procedure whereby person may dispute and appeal decisions related to enrolment to the study programme at Daugavpils University”. DU enrolment procedure and information about it are efficient and transparent. During the enrolment there are informative stands placed in DU entrance hall, consultations are provided in person, on the phone, and by e-mail. It must be noted that the majority of the potential students communicate on issues concerning enrolment by using DU accounts in social networks.

Previously acquired formal and non-formal education recognition opportunities within the study direction

In accordance with paragraph 5 of section 59² of the Law of Higher Education Institutions[1], paragraph 2 of section 59³ and “Terms of recognition of competences acquired beyond formal education or gained in professional experience and study results achieved in previous education”, DU has elaborated and enforces “Regulation on recognition of competences acquired beyond formal education or gained in professional experience and study results achieved in previous education at Daugavpils University”. Most often there are cases of recognition of experience gained beyond formal education (participation in seminars, instruction, professional updating courses,

etc.). The procedure stated in the regulation is implemented stage by stage in cooperation with the person responsible in the faculty. Decision on recognition is made by the assessment and examination board.

At the beginning of the study year 2020/2021, the 2nd year students of BSP “Economics” were transferred and re-registered for studies in the new PBSP “Business and Financial Processes”. The study courses acquired within BSP “Economics” were compared with the corresponding study courses of PBSP “Business and Financial Processes”.

The director of the study programme made a comparison of the acquired study courses, comparing the study courses and their volume previously acquired in BSP “Economics” with the study courses of PBSP “Business and Financial Processes”, and indicated 1) which study courses could be recognized as being equal, as well as provided both the assessment (mark) and the date of examination; 2) the study courses to be acquired, their volume in credit points, and the deadlines for taking tests and examinations. After the comparison had been coordinated the Department of Studies, it was submitted to the Dean’s Office of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The comparison was prepared in 3 (three) copies. The filing secretary of the faculty submitted the comparison signed by the director of the programme and the Dean of the faculty to the Head of the Department of Studies and the Vice-Rector for Studies for their approval. Having received the approved comparison, the programme director presented it to the applicant. The student confirmed their consent by signing the comparison.

As a result, students continued their studies in the 2nd study year in PBSP “Business and Financial Processes”, at the same time acquiring the missing study courses in the study content together with the 1st year students of PBSP “Business and Financial Processes”.

In a similar way, the master student, who had returned from the academic leave, was transferred and re-registered from the 2nd year of MSP “Economics” to the 2nd year of PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation”. Taking into account that MSP “Economics” was an academic study programme, several academic courses were recognized as being equal, but the student had to acquire the study courses “Professional Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility”, “Intellectual Property and its Assessment”, as well as specialization internship and introductory internship.

In the study year 2020/2021, the study courses acquired by the students of PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” who had previously been studying in the professional bachelor’s study programme of the BA School of Business and Finance and the professional higher education bachelor study programme “E-business and Logistics Management Systems” of University of Latvia, were also recognized.

The procedures for the recognition of competences acquired outside formal education or through professional experience and learning outcomes achieved in previous education were not carried out in the newly developed study programmes, but it is planned to implement them similarly as in other DU study programmes in compliance with the regulation “On the Recognition of Competences Acquired outside Formal Education and through Professional Experience and the Learning Outcomes Achieved in Prior Learning”.

1.6. Assessment of the methods and procedures for the evaluation of students’ achievements, as well as the principles of their selection and the analysis of the compliance of the evaluation methods and procedures with the aims of the study programmes and the needs of the students.

Depending on the form of learning, the academic staff members select the forms and criteria of assessment. The academic staff encourages to analyze and assess the criteria of assessment of the work. A large part of the outcomes require of students not only to demonstrate knowledge but also put the acquired material to practical analysis relating it to the existing experience and daily life. Therefore a significant role is attributed to seminars and practical assignment classes. In practical assignment classes, during individual or group work presentations, students, expressing their opinion, improve their analytical skills. Acting in this way, a constant dialogue is sustained with other partners and students are aware of the diversity of the opinions exchanged and thus enrich one another's experience. In the study courses dedicated to practical skill and competence acquisition, special attention is paid to the development of integrative reflection. Reflection facilitates the stabilization of students' professional skill acquisition as well as self-cognition and self-actualization. Therefore in these cases formative assessment of the outcomes of studies has an especially motivating significance in the process of studies. In the framework of formative assessment, students become aware of their errors and improve the acquired competence, because formative assessment provides a feedback to students on their state of knowledge acquisition.

Along with formative assessment, academic staff members use summing assessment. Summing assessment is practiced in the case of grading the mid-term examinations. Upon the completion of the study course there is a graded test or examination. The final course examination proceeds orally, in writing, by way of test of accomplishment.

Students can get acquainted with the criteria, conditions and binding procedures for evaluating the learning outcomes in the course descriptions of the study programme.

The assessment principles and criteria are described in the description of each study course that are available in the DU e-environment. When starting to work with students in classroom, the teaching staff acquaint students with the requirements of the study course, as well as with the system of assessment of their knowledge and skills.

In order to analyse the compliance of the assessment methods and procedures with the goals of the study programme and the students' needs, the results of students' surveys, formal indicators of students' progress are described, the content of each study course and the quality of teaching are thoroughly examined. In case discrepancies in the assessment methods are established, the decision is taken on the changes to be introduced in the content of the study courses or in the organization of the study process; if necessary, the issues are considered in the Study Direction Council. After that, the proposals for changes to be introduced in the study courses or the study programme are discussed in the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and after the Council's acceptance they are forwarded to the DU Council for Studies, where the appropriateness and necessity of the changes are considered. In case of a positive decision of the Council for Studies, the changes are approved.

1.7. Description and assessment of the academic integrity principles, the mechanisms for the compliance with these principles, and the way in which the stakeholders are informed. Specify the plagiarism detection tools used by providing examples of the use of these tools and mechanisms.

“Daugavpils University Code of Ethics for employees and students” sets the guidelines of ethical conduct for DU employees and students. It is stated in the Code that students support and maintain academic and professional integrity, do not allow plagiarism, cheating, other fraudulent utilization of intellectual property, fraud, whereas the academic staff duly, honestly, and fairly assess students’ accomplishment, support and maintain academic and professional integrity without causing conditions for expressions of academic fraud, follow the process of students’ work, do not allow plagiarism, cheating, other fraudulent utilization of the intellectual property or other fraud.

For the implementation of the academic integrity, DU refers to “General Guidelines for Academic Integrity”[1] that help develop a uniform understanding of integrity matters in science and business.

The study programmes of the study direction follow the principles of academic integrity in compliance with the Regulation on Studies at Daugavpils University [2]. For instance, if students use unauthorized aids during a test or an examination or their final written work (Bachelor’s or Master’s thesis) is plagiarized, they are suspended from the examination as the ones not having taken it and an appropriate entry is made in the examination report

On 28 October 2019, within ESF SAM 8.2.3.0/18/A/010 project “Daugavpils University governance and management competence improvement”, DU employees were involved in the course of instruction “Academic integrity” of 6 hrs.

DU has elaborated and observes procedure of submitting graduation papers/theses for plagiarism control at Daugavpils University, that envisages compulsory submitting of the electronic versions of graduation papers/theses and their storing in Daugavpils University Informational system that provides an opportunity to compare students’ papers to the set of papers defended in previous years. Study courses that envisage the acquisition of scientific research methodology pay special attention to observing the principles of academic integrity in the research of the respective branch.

Before the defence, all final papers developed by DU students, including Bachelor’s and Master’s theses of the students of the study direction “Economics” are checked by using the plagiarism control system (<http://www.plagiarism.org/>). If signs of plagiarism are found in the process of comparing the final theses, the Expert Commission established by the Dean of the faculty and approved by the respective order evaluates the paper and decides on the detection of plagiarism.

Within three working days, the expert commission examines the report and submits proposals on the student’s responsibility to the Dean of the faculty.

Within the framework of several study courses of the study programmes implemented within the study direction “Economics” (e.g., “Creative Economics (Study Project I)”, “Methods of Research”, “Research Methods in Economics”, “Professional Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility”, “Business Communication and Ethics”), the basic principles of academic integrity are raised and students are informed about the possible consequences of violating them.

[1]http://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/RED_Guidelines_RTU_VS_amed_v2.pdf [viewed 12.12.2019., accessible in Latvian]

[2]https://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NOLIKUMS_PAR_STUDIJAM_DU_2018.pdf [viewed 12.12.2019., accessible in Latvian]

1.8. Specify the websites (e.g. the homepage) on which the information on the study direction and the relevant study programmes is published (in all languages in which the study programmes are implemented) by indicating the persons responsible for the

compliance of the information available on the website with the information published in the official registers.

Information on the study programmes of the study direction “Economics” is available here: <https://du.lv/en/studies-admission/study-programmes/>

Self-assessment reports of the study direction “Economics” are annually published here:

<https://du.lv/studijas/studiju-kvalitates-novertesanas-centrs/pasnovertejuma-zinojumi/>

[accessible in Latvian]

The relevance of the information available on the website to the information in official registers is the responsibility of DU International and Public Relations Department.

II - Description of the Study Direction (2. Efficiency of the Internal Quality Assurance System)

2.1. Assessment of the efficiency of the internal quality assurance system within the study direction by specifying the measures undertaken to achieve the aims and outcomes of the study programmes and to ensure continuous improvement, development, and efficient performance of the study direction and the relevant study programmes.

Evaluation of effectiveness of inner quality assurance system within study direction

One of the essential aspects of the study functioning is the development of the direction management and its quality assurance system, which is coordinated by the DU Study Council and the DU Study Quality Assessment Centre. The aim of ensuring the quality and management system of the study process is to guarantee the compliance of the content of the programme with the requirements of higher education and economics, as well as the requirements of the labour market of Latvia and the European Union.

Study quality assessment is performed with the aim to control the implementation of the study programme and to plan its development in order to fully achieve the goals set in the programme and fulfil the set tasks. Quality control takes place continuously: when admitting students, hiring academic staff, assessing and improving study programmes, evaluating the activities of structural units and their heads according to the results of research and study work. The main forms of quality assessment are:

- external assessment – licensing, accreditation and assessment by independent experts;
- self-assessment – internal quality assurance system. The internal control of the quality of study work is constantly performed by the department and the faculty, the study direction council, this work is coordinated and managed by the Study Quality Assurance Centre of Daugavpils University (hereinafter – SQAC) approved by the DU Senate.

The study programmes of the study field have been developed in accordance with the relevant professional standards (PBSP “Business and financial processes” **financier** (occupational code – PS-117), **business manager** (occupational code – PS-115) and PMSP “Smart Economics and

Innovation” **financial analyst** (occupational code – PS-118), **economist** (occupational code – PS-113)), the requirements of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 512 and other regulatory enactments, taking into account the recommendations of employers and other experts. Opinion surveys of internship supervisors are regularly conducted, the opinion of bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral thesis reviewers, state examination commissions and other experts is analysed. Opinion surveys of employers are organized at the end of the internship, asking to assess the intern’s/employee’s readiness for work, competence, communication skills, acquired theoretical knowledge, practical skills.

Inner quality assurance system of the study direction “Economics” is implemented in line with DU practice. The system can be considered as effective, transparent, and coherent with the goals of the study direction “Economics” and the process of its implementation. The scheme of DU study quality implementation see in "Other Annexes".

To implement inner quality assurance system of studies effectively within the study direction “Economics” the following activities are performed:

- Inner quality control of the study direction “Economics” is carried out by the Council of study directions and academic staff of the department of Economics. Improvement actions for direction development plan and study quality are discussed and assessed at the end of each academic year at the council meeting of the study direction “Economics”.
- In collaboration with the head and academic staff of the Department of Economics and members of study direction board, study programme directors carry out strategic planning and implementation of study process. In the Department of Economics changes within the study courses, their content and calendar layout per semesters are discussed and submitted to the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- Once during an academic year the head of the study direction “Economics” in cooperation with the programme directors prepare a study direction self-evaluation report on the previous academic year.
- At the meetings of the council of study direction the more recent methodological literature and publications are discussed.
- During the implementation of the study programmes of the field, the opinions of the lecturers involved in the programmes – industry professionals, as well as employers and graduates of the programme are regularly surveyed (surveys, analysis of some separate components of the programme, involvement of employers and university graduates in the study council), which allows closer coordination of the programme content with the economic development trends and labour market needs. The quality of study work is promoted by the intensive participation of the graduates in the study process of the university, both by conducting guest lectures and by providing internships and jobs in companies. The exchange of views between the academic environment and employers also takes place regularly within the framework of scientific and practical conferences and professional seminars.
- Some of the teaching staff and doctoral students involved in the study direction “Economics” perform not only academic activities, but also professional activities in the field of economics, business, management, finance, which ensure compliance of the study programmes with the current trends in the labour market.
- In order to improve the skills of remote work, the academic staff of the study field “Economics” regularly participates in training courses, e.g., to ensure an effective use of the possibilities of the e-learning environment *Moodle*. Within the framework of the ESF project “Reduction of Fragmentation of Study Programmes of Strengthening of Shared Use of Resources at Daugavpils University”, Nr. 8.2.1.0/18/A/019, for lecturers there were organized seminars for the development and integration of the study course materials necessary to

support a study process.

- In order to improve the skills of remote work, the academic staff of the study field “Economics” regularly participates in training courses, e.g., to ensure an effective use of the possibilities of the e-learning environment *Moodle*. Within the framework of the ESF project “Reduction of Fragmentation of Study Programmes of Strengthening of Shared Use of Resources at Daugavpils University”, Nr. 8.2.1.0/18/A/019, for lecturers there were organized seminars for the development and integration of the study course materials necessary to support a study process.

2.2. Analysis and assessment of the system and the procedures for the development and review of the study programmes by providing specific examples of the procedures for the development of new study programmes within the study direction (including the approval of study programmes), the review of the study programmes, the aims, and regularity, as well as the stakeholders and their responsibilities. Description of the mechanism for obtaining and providing a feedback, including with regard to the work with the students, graduates, and employers.

The development of a new study programme is started at least one study year before the beginning of the study programme implementation in accordance with the **“Daugavpils University Study Programme Development and Consolidation Plan”** and in accordance with other documents regulating the study process: in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 795 **“Regulations Regarding Licensing of Study Programmes”** of 11 December 2018, Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No 512 “Regulations on the state standard of second level professional higher education” of 26 August, 2014, and “Daugavpils University Regulations on Study Directions and Study Programmes Opening and Management”.

Process of elaborating new study programmes

Parties involved	Activity
Structural units of faculties, Faculty council, the person responsible for the study programme development	Structural units of faculties submit a proposal to the faculty council about the formation of a study programme. The proposal is supplemented by an extract from the minutes of the structural unit meeting indicating the information on the programme (title of the study programme, the person responsible for the study programme development, justification of the need for the study programme, amount, duration of the study programme, type and form of studies, language of instruction, requirements for enrolment, degree to acquire, professional qualification or degree and professional qualification to acquire).

Study direction council, the person responsible for the study programme development	Study direction council monitors the proceeding of the new study programme elaboration, upon necessity announcing meetings of the study direction council to discuss the content, provision of the study programme, and other issues. The person responsible for the study programme development elaborates the characteristics of the study programme and all its appendices.
The person responsible for the study programme development, CSQA, Faculty council, Council of Studies, Senate, Vice rector for studies, Academic Information Centre.	The person responsible for the study programme development submits the completed characteristics of the study programme along with all appendices to examination at CSQA. CSQA estimates the quality of the study programme and its compliance with the legal documentation. After that the programme is examined by the faculty council and DU Council of Studies. Decision on submitting the study programme for licencing is made by the Senate. After the approval of the study programme within 1 month it is submitted for licencing at the Academic Information Centre. The person responsible for the study programme development in cooperation with the CSQA and vice rector for studies organize the visit of licencing expert commission to DU.

In order to ensure the compliance of the study programmes with the national economy needs, current legal documentation, or to improve them, procedures of study programme improvement and reviewing are organized on regular basis. Their regularity depends on the necessity for the changes and the degree of their significance.

Study programme reviewing process

Parties involved	Activity
Programme director, Profile department, Faculty council, Council of Studies.	Study programme director proposes changes in a study programme (provision of courses, changes in CP, introduction of new study courses, and other changes that do not exceed 20% of the total amount of the programme in accordance with regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 793 "Terms of opening and accreditation of study directions", paragraph 2.3.4[1]) Changes are examined at the department meeting, faculty council, and the decision is made by the Council of Studies. Regularity - upon necessity or at least once in an academic year.

Programme director,
CSQA,
Profile department,
Faculty council,
Council of Studies,
Senate,
Vice rector for studies,
Academic Information Centre.

The necessary changes in the study programme are to be made in accordance with Cabinet Regulations No. 793 "Regulations Regarding Opening and Accreditation of Study Directions".

Changes need to be made in a study programme in accordance with regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 793 "Terms of opening and accreditation of study directions".

Study programme director in cooperation with the CSQA elaborate the proposal for the changes necessary. The proposal is examined at the department meeting, faculty council, Council of Studies, it is approved by the Senate. After approving, the proposal of changes is submitted to the Academic Information Centre. Study programme director in cooperation with the CSQA and vice rector for studies organize the visit of expert to DU Regularity - upon necessity.

Example of the development of PBSP "Business and financial processes"

PBSP "Business and financial processes" was developed in the framework of the ESF project "Reduction of Fragmentation of Study Programmes of Strengthening of Shared Use of Resources at Daugavpils University", Nr. 8.2.1.0/18/A/019. Highly qualified specialists in the field of Economics, Finance and Business participated in the development of the study programme, representing the interests of academic, local government and also private sector: project manager, coordinators (Dr. oec. Elita Jermolajeva, Head of the Development Department, Preiļi County Council; Dr. oec. Associate Professor Aina Čaplinska, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, DU), programme director (Dr. oec. Associate Professor Ludmila Aleksejeva, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, DU), responsible for the development and implementation of the programme content, content development experts (Dr. Oec. Associate Professor Natalija Konovalova, Economics and Finance, University of Business, Arts and Technology "RISEBA"; Aleksejs Homuņiņins, Head of SIA "Rols"; Alīna Daņiļeviča (Ohotina), researcher of The Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, DU; Dr. oec. Ingrīda Veipa, Head of the Department of Economics, Jēkabpils Agribusiness College), industry experts (employers) (Dr. oec Sandra Ežmale, Head of the Rēzekne Special Economic Zone), external experts. In the process of the development of the programme, the opinions and recommendations expressed in the questionnaires for the students, graduates and employers of BSP "Economics" were taken into account. The content of the programme was modelled in accordance with the development trends of the national economy and the needs of the labour market discussed at the meetings of the council of the study field "Economics", in which the representatives of students and employers participated. The structure and content of the developed programme evolved from the integration of the experience gained following the development trends of modern economics in Latvia and the European Union, participating in international conferences, congresses, seminars, developing professional competence within the ERASMUS + project. Both local and foreign experts were involved in approbation and improvement of the programme content (I. Gudele, former Minister for Electronic Government Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Head of the Training Centre MP of SIA "Magnetic Professional"; M. Elger, Urban and Regional Planning expert, Germany; Associate Professor M. Petrova, Bulgaria; Assistant Professor D. Ignatans, University of Huddersfield, Great Britain; docent E.Velinov, Škoda Auto University, Czech Republic).

Example of the development of PMSP "Smart economics and innovation"

The development of the programme is envisaged by the “Daugavpils University Study Programme Development and Consolidation Plan”, which was approved by the Ministry of Education and Science in 2018. The need for the establishment of the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” is determined by the “Daugavpils University Development Strategy for 2015-2020”, which states that “study development must take place in close interaction with scientific development, labour market demand and “Smart Specialization Strategy”.” (The documents are available in Latvian)[1]

The recommendations of practicing specialists of Latgale companies and institutions were taken into account while developing the content of the programme. In the process of its development, DU lecturers, industry representatives, entrepreneurs, interns and graduates of the programme – employers – were regularly interviewed, they had a possibility for discussions to exchange their views. The structure of the study programme and the content of the study courses, their implementation methods and forms are adapted to the requirements of the local labour market with an orientation to the socio-economic aspects of Latgale region. Professionals involved in the provision of the programme (managers of Latgale region companies and institutions, leading specialists in financial law and management, business issues and promotion of regional development) pointed out the need to emphasize the development of professional competencies in two qualifications: financial analyst and economist. Specialists involved in the development of the study programme assessed the concepts of smart development and innovation management included in the study courses and pointed out that within the programme it is important to consider the current economic solutions and innovative business tools: business planning strategies, start-ups, getting acquired with business incubators, etc.

Mechanism of receiving and providing feedback (working with students, alumni, employers)

For the study programme elaboration to be compatible with the labour market demands, special significance is attributed to the feedback received from students and alumni. Students and alumni assess the proceeding of the study programme as well as the applicability of the acquired knowledge, skills, and competences in professional activity, thus the feedback becomes a valuable element of the study process improvement.

The CSQA at the end of each academic year organizes a student survey the results whereof provide information on the assessment of the study quality and related aspects. Student survey is available in e-environment. Alumni and employer survey questionnaires are elaborated as well. The results of student surveys are taken into account when planning the next academic year, assessing the pedagogical and professional competences of the lecturers, the availability of the study materials and sources, the involvement of foreign teaching staff, and other related issues.

Graduate student and employer surveys are conducted by representative sampling. Employers are surveyed after internships, the survey of employers not involved in internship provision takes place every two years on average. Questionnaires or interviews of graduates are organized both immediately after graduation and several times after graduation (after six months, a year, three years). After processing the obtained data and reviewing the results, changes are introduced into the content of the study programme. The director of the study programme informs all involved parties (students, teaching staff, employers, graduates) about the changes introduced, thus providing feedback. The recommendations or reprimands mentioned in the surveys and the prevention mechanisms are discussed in meetings with both the teaching staff and the students of the study direction, as well as in consultations with the representatives of the sector. Student representatives participate in the direction councils and in the development of solutions to the comments provided in the surveys.

Student, alumni, and employer survey results are used to review and improve the study

programme content. The study programme director reacts to all justified opinions, proposals, and reprimands expressed in the survey questionnaires, and upon necessity they are discussed by the study direction council. After introducing the changes in the study programme content, the study programme director informs all the parties involved (students, academic staff members, employers, alumni), thus providing a feedback.

<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/303956-studiju-virzienu-atversanas-un-akreditacijas-noteikumi> [viewed on 15.01.2020.]

https://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/3_DU_Studiju-virzienu-un-studiju-programmu-atversanas-un-parv-nolikums.pdf [viewed on 15.01.2020.]

[1] https://www.izm.gov.lv/images/zinatne/IZM_Viedas_Specializ_strategija_2013.pdf

2.3. Description of the procedures and/or systems according to which the students are expected to submit complaints and proposals (except for the surveys to be conducted among the students). Specify whether and how the students have access to the information on the possibilities to submit complaints and proposals and how the outcomes of the examination of the complaints and proposals and the improvements of the study direction and the relevant study programmes are communicated by providing the respective examples.

Submitting and considering the complaints and proposals from students is an essential component of the study quality system. To ensure the improvement of the quality of studies, it is necessary to analyze the processes, collect clear survey of the causes for the complaints submitted and provide feedback to the person who submitted the complaint or proposal.

The procedures and systems of submitting complaints and proposals from students

Students have the right to submit complaints and proposals to the study programme director, the head of the major department, dean, vice-rectors, and rector. Complaints and proposals, depending on their degree of significance, are accepted orally, in writing, and electronically.

Complaints and proposals are accepted from individuals or collectively, openly (with identified submitter) and anonymously. Drafting the submissions and their acceptance at DU is executed in accordance with the procedures set in "The Law on Submissions". Submissions concerning possible violations of the norms of "DU Code of Ethics", including action or conduct outside DU, if that affected the prestige of DU, may be made by DU academic, administrative, and general staff, students. On behalf of students submission may be made by the Student Council that may represent the student in the course of examining the complaint.

Submissions from students and the academic staff concerning the infringements and violations of the academic freedom and rights that are stated in the Constitution are examined by DU Academic Court or Arbitration.

Submitting open complaints and proposals

DU students may submit open complaints and proposals in a free form or in accordance with the procedures stated in DU interior normative acts.

Submitting anonymous complaints and proposals

The following tools for submitting complaints are available at DU:

In CSQA website section: <http://sknc.mozello.lv/sniegt-ieteikumu/>

[accessible in Latvian];

Questionnaire of trust designed by the Student Council - <https://ej.uz/1jgg>. [accessible in Latvian].

Anonymous complaints are received electronically, after examination and content analysis of the complaint CSQA leads negotiations with the involved parties and in case of necessity conducts the monitoring of the study quality. In the prior practice, in examination of anonymous complaints CSQA closely cooperated with the Student Council, examining the situation and taking steps for the improvement of the study quality, because, in accordance with “The Regulation of Daugavpils University Student Council”, the Student Council has the right to request and receive information from any structural unit of DU concerning all matters in its competence that concern students’ interests.

In order to examine complaints related to enrolment, “Order whereby a person may dispute and appeal decisions related to enrolment to a study programme at Daugavpils University” is in force at DU, in accordance with which a person may dispute the decision of the Enrolment commission on the results of the competition by submitting an application to DU rector in seven working days’ time after the publication of the competition results.

In accordance with “The Regulation on Studies at Daugavpils University”, students have the right to submit to the faculty dean a motivated appellation about the results of examination within one working day after their announcement. Appellation is examined in three working days’ time by a commission formed on the dean’s decision by the participation of the examiner and the head of the respective department.

Information accessibility

All interior administrative acts, in accordance with which students may submit complaints and proposals are publicly available from DU website. Students may receive information by addressing the study programme director, dean, CSQA, and the Student Council.

Feedback in examining complaints and proposals

CSQA coordinates the examination of students’ complaints and proposals and, if needed, organizes express surveys (e.g. on the preferable working hours of DU Library at the beginning of the academic year 2018/2019, on free choice study courses, etc.), executes study quality monitoring by attending classes and talking with students and the academic staff in order to ensure full bodied analysis of the conflict or problem. During the implementation of the remote study process in 2019/2020 spring semester, there was organized a survey of DU students on the quality of the implementation of the remote learning process, as a result of which the offer of the library services was improved, as well as the methods and tools for organizing remote learning were diversified for all the university students including the students of the study direction “Economics”. During the implementation of the remote study process in the academic years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, the head of the study direction and the directors of the study programmes regularly communicate with the students of all levels, monitoring the study process of the study programmes of the direction.

Since 2013, CSQA has received oral and written complaints about the study quality (e.g. discrepancy between the requirements for crediting indicated in the study course description and the forms of examination of students’ knowledge and skills in the study process, proposals for the timetable, changes of the library opening hours, communication problems, etc.).

All complaints and proposals are always discussed with the involved parties. In the examination of

complaints and proposals there participates study programme director and, if needed, also the head of the study direction and vice-rector for studies. After the situation analysis, possible solutions are found, students are always informed about the implementation of the complaints and/or proposals, CSQA provides consultations in the matters of study quality.

Preceding practice in examining complaints and improvement implementation

In the period of time from 2013 to 2019, students of the study direction “Management, administration and real estate management” submitted various proposals and complaints in oral and written form. The table below provides the summary of some significant examples.

Proposal or complaint	Improvements made
Changes of working time of DU library, short opening time on working days and inaccessibility on Saturdays.	Since the autumn semester of 2018 the opening time of DU library has been changed: Working days: 9.00 – 20.00. Saturdays: 10.00 – 16.00. Students provided positive feedback about the changes made.
In the implementation of the study process, there is inconsistency of the requirements for obtaining credit points and the forms of mid-tests to check students’ knowledge and skills indicated in the course description.	In the academic year 2017/2018, based on the students’ complaints, discussions were held with the lecturer, as a result of which the lecturer refused to conduct some study courses. It was possible to delegate the provision of study courses to another lecturer. The students positively assessed the changes made.
Since the academic year 2015/2016, in the surveys students regularly stress out the need to pay more attention to the content of practical orientation in the study courses of bachelor and master study programmes.	From the academic year 2018/2019, in the study direction, the content of the study programmes has been being aligned with the labour market, in accordance with the recommendations of the students and the employers. As a result, the study programmes of the direction were modernized by developing PBSP “Business un financial processes” and PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation”. The students positively assessed the practical orientation of the study programmes.
Students’ proposal to make changes to the timetable of classes of PMSP “Economics”, planning lectures on Friday afternoons and on Saturdays due to the students’ workload.	From the academic year 2019/2020, the changes to the timetable of classes of PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” have been made by providing lectures on Friday afternoons and on Saturdays. The students positively assessed the changes made.

2.4. Provide information on the mechanism for collecting the statistical data, as developed by the higher education institution/ college. Specify the type of the data to be collected, the collection frequency, and the way the information is used to improve the study

direction.

When collecting physical person data, DU collects and processes person data for concrete, clear, and lawful reasons and exclusively according to the procedure and amount stated in the normative acts.

DU operates **informative system DUIS**, that holds statistical data and information on study programmes, students, and academic staff members. The system is accessible from DU inner network. Data are entered into DUIS by study programme directors, faculty records managers; they are summarized and verified by the Department of Studies. At the end of each month the data from DUIS system are exported to **State Education Information System (SEIS)**. Data export is executed in accordance with the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 276 of 25 June 2019 "Terms of State Education Information System" (<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/307796>). SEIS data export entails person data of DU students, information of students' status (matriculated and ex-matriculated student number, their status changes, e.g. semester of studies, students being in an academic withdraw, etc.) and other binding information.

One of the main instruments contributing to the improvement of the study directions is **student survey** that is announced by the Centre of Study Quality Assessment 3 times a year – for the first year students 2 months after beginning the studies, after the winter graduation, and after summer graduation. In particular study programmes student surveys are organized at the end of each semester. Based on the data and information provided in the surveys, in case of need CSQA carries out lecture auditing and individual student group surveys as well as organizes interviews with the academic staff concerning the measures of the study quality improvement.

The data gained in surveys are collected in DU survey system (*Open Source Project LimeSurvey*, accessible here – <https://aptaujas.du.lv/index.php/979397>), data are analyzed and their results are reflected in the study direction self-assessment reports.

DU organizes also **alumni** and **employer surveys**. Alumni survey data contain the information on the trends of alumni's employment, assessment of the acquired study programmes and proposals for their improvement. The survey is elaborated on the platform *Google forms*

(accessible: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqCwHx3peZ8dE-ff1exziYSZu13T-Sh33UN9kyB-XQ1PRrIA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>

[accessible in Latvian].

Employer surveys are executed and their data are summarized by the study programme directors. Their aim is obtaining proposals for the improvement and development of DU study content.

2.5. Description and assessment of the integration of the standards set forth in Part 1 of the ESG. Specify which of the standards are considered a challenge and which require special attention.

Elaborating and implementing study programmes of the study direction "Economics", DU constantly strives to integrate the standards and guidelines for the quality provision in European higher education space at all stages of the study programme elaboration and implementation.

Quality ensuring policy. Study direction programmes of all levels are elaborated in accordance with the legal framework in force and are improved along with the changes of legislation and labour market demands, latest ideas of science and practice. Each student of the study direction receives the necessary support and guidance at each step of academic activity, DU takes a firm stand in issues of academic integrity. All the submitted scientific works are checked for plagiarism. DU academic staff members and students are ensured an equal attitude and access to the resources necessary for studies.

Elaboration and approval of the study programmes of the study direction “Economics”. All the study programmes of the direction have been elaborated and improved in accordance with the legal framework binding for the direction, labour market demands, trends of the development of the sphere, thus ensuring the compliance of the programme to contemporary requirements. All the study programmes in the study direction are subject to certain procedures of approval and revision.

Student centred learning, teaching, and assessment. Taking into account the students' abilities, needs, diversity of personal and professional experience, as well as being aware of the significance of the feedback, various study methods are used in contact classes, e.g. improved lectures, practical assignment classes, creative seminars, study projects, trainings, group and individual supervisions, etc. that were purposefully integrated in study courses of all levels.

Student matriculation, course of studies, recognition of qualification, and certification. In the process of student matriculation, course of studies, recognition of qualification and certification, previously approved and publicly accessible laws and regulations (terms, procedures, regulations - Regulations on studies at DU, Regulations on opening and managing study directions and study programmes of Daugavpils University, Regulations on Doctoral Studies at Daugavpils University, etc.), which provide description and explanation of the above-mentioned processes in precise terms.

Academic staff members. The academic staff for the implementation of the study direction is recruited in accordance with clear, publicly accessible requirements to the position. Professional development activities (remote learning opportunities and e-tools support seminars (Zoom, Webex, Moodle), English language development courses, etc.) are provided to each member of the teaching staff involved in the implementation of the study direction. Scientific activities are promoted strengthening the link between education and science; innovation teaching methods and the use of new technologies are also promoted by providing the necessary technical equipment and encouraging the use of different teaching methods (e.g., Zoom licenses purchased, classrooms equipped for remote learning, Moodle capabilities were improved).

Learning resources and student support. DU provides appropriate and easily accessible teaching aids and the availability of various kinds of support. In accordance with the principles of student-centered education, the work of Student Service Centre, Dean's Office, Department, Library is ensured, and the study resources placed in the Moodle environment are regularly updated and supplemented.

Information management. DU collects, analyzes, and later utilizes respective information for efficient study programme management, such as the facilities provided by the DUIS, as part of the annual self-assessment procedure, or the regular exchange of information during department and direction meetings.

Informing the society. DU provides for informing the society by regularly publishing clear, precise, objective, current, and easily accessible information on its activity, including the information on the programmes offered and criteria for enrolment as well as the expected

outcomes of studies and qualification conferred in the study programmes. Information about the programmes of the study field is regularly disseminated at the platform of annual events “Scientists’ Night”, “Science Festival”, “Young Entrepreneurs School”, open days. The audience of both Latvian and foreign potential students is also informed on social media by using the PBSP “Business and financial processes” advertisement in Latvian and English. Daugavpils University regularly participates in various educational exhibitions both in Latvia and abroad, and disseminates there information about its study programmes.

Programme inspection and regular monitoring. DU carries out systematic and regular study programme inspection and monitoring in order to ensure that all the aims set and study outcomes envisaged are reached. Every year the study plans are updated, the provision of study courses is supplemented as necessary, the course descriptions are improved, supplementing both with the sources of used literature and in accordance with the latest scientific findings and innovations introduced in the labour market. Monitoring and regular inspection of study programs take place in accordance with the DU regulations.

In academic year 2020/2021, special attention is paid to the provision of professional development activities to DU teaching staff, including lecturers of the study field “Economics”.

1) To support the improvement of foreign language proficiency (especially the one of English of the academic staff) and to promote the participation of the academic staff in the international cooperation and mobility activities, DU academic staff have an opportunity to improve English language proficiency level (B2 and C1 levels) participating in language study programmes implemented within the framework of the ESF project “Strengthening the professional competency of Daugavpils University academic staff in the areas of strategic specialization” (No. 8.2.2.0/18/A/022) and within the project No. 8.2.2.0/18/I/005 “Strengthening the capacity of Daugavpils University academic staff in the education field “Education, Pedagogy, and Sports” in the areas of strategic specialisation”.

2) In February and March 2021, within the framework of the ESF project “Strengthening the professional competency of Daugavpils University academic staff in the areas of strategic specialization” (No. 8.2.2.0/18/A/022) and within the project No. 8.2.2.0/18/I/005 “Strengthening the capacity of Daugavpils University academic staff in the education field “Education, Pedagogy, and Sports” in the areas of strategic specialisation”, professional development courses “Fundamentals of the development of e-learning materials and virtual study platforms” and “Trends in the use of educational technologies” are organized to develop the lecturers’ competence of the use of the e-learning environment and technological solutions in the study process.

3) To improve the professional competence of the lecturers, DU offers several professional development programmes implemented within the framework of the ESF project “Strengthening the professional competency of Daugavpils University academic staff in the areas of strategic specialization” (No. 8.2.2.0/18/A/022), for example, “Communication skills” , “ABC of leadership”, “Coaching leadership style”, “Communication”, “Emotional intelligence in education”, “Fundamentals of the development of e-learning materials and virtual study platforms”. Within the framework of the above-mentioned project, in relation to the topicality of the study fields, for the academic staff there will be organized personal development lectures on commercialisation of inventions, nutrition, body health, personality charism and prevention of burnout risks, anti-stress days, professional efficiency promotion day camps, experience-based trainings and visits to companies in Latvia.

The activation of the use of the e-learning environment MOODLE for the acquisition of the content of the study programmes, evaluation of the achieved learning outcomes and provision of the feedback is the biggest challenge in implementing the programmes of the study direction

“Economics”.

II - Description of the Study Direction (3. Resources and Provision of the Study Direction)

3.1. Provide information on the system developed by the higher education institution/ college for determining the financial resources required for the implementation of the study direction and the relevant study programmes. Provide data on the available funding for the relevant study programmes, as well as the sources of the funding for the scientific research and/or artistic creation activities and their use for the development of the study direction. Provide information on the costs per one student (for each relevant study programme of the study direction) by specifying the headings indicated in the calculation of costs and the percentage of the funding among the indicated headings.

The analysis of the expenditure of the study programmes of the direction shows that they are altogether cost-effective. This is testified by the constant number of students in all levels of study programmes and the demand for professional education provided by PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” and PBSP “Business un financial processes”. The financing plan for each year is determined by the DU budget, which is approved by the DU Senate. The calculation of costs per student in each of the direction programmes is attached in the appendix in the section “Other appendices”.

Since 2019, significant funds have been attracted for the study direction "Economics" within the framework of the ESF project "Reducing Fragmentation of Study Programmes and Strengthening the Sharing of Resources at Daugavpils University" (project No. 8.2.1.0/18/A/019) and "Strengthening the professional capacity of Daugavpils University academic staff in the areas of strategic specialisation" (project No. 8.2.2.0/18/A/022), which ensure the content and technical modernisation of the study direction, as well as the renewal of the academic staff and the improvement of professional competences.

Initially, the new study programme will be implemented from the DU budget, but it is planned that, in the future, income from tuition fees will be one of the sources of funding for the provision of the study process. Students have the opportunity to apply for tuition fee discounts.

The financial resources of the study direction “Economics” consist of the state budget grant and own revenues. Funds for the development of the science base from the Ministry of Education and Science are allocated for the development of science in the study direction. The study direction obtains the funds intended for the development of science on the basis of the lecturers’ scientific achievements and indicators for the previous year, which are assessed by the Department of Science at DU. Lecturers of the study direction can apply for the payment for publications indexed in Web of Science or *SCOPUS* databases, as well as receive remuneration for the Hirsch index. For a number of years, moreover, it has been possible to participate in the Daugavpils University research project competition and receive funding, which was successfully used by the lecturers involved in the direction, e.g., L. Aleksejeva, O. Lavrinenko, I. Ostrovska, A. Čaplinska and others.

Students can apply for the student research project competition or together with the lecturers

participate in the research project competition [1] and receive funding for the implementation of research activities [2].

More about tuition fees and discounts – <https://du.lv/studijas/studiju-maksa-un-atlaides/> (The link leads to a page in Latvian).

The cost of PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” per student is approximately 2,300.00 EUR (for a detailed calculation, see Appendix), which is achieved as a result of optimal organization of the study programme, efficient resource management and planning, and depends on the type and form of study programme. The required number of students to ensure a qualitative study process is at least 13 students, regardless of the chosen sub-direction or type of study of the study programme “Smart Economics and Innovation”.

The cost of PBSP “Business un financial processes” per student is 6,450.70 EUR, i.e., on average 1,600 EUR per year, including salary fund and employer’s SSIMC, business trips, materials, energy resources and inventory costs, purchase of books, equipment and investment costs, as well as students’ social security expenses.

The cost of DSP “Economics” per student per year is 13,620.30 EUR. Other costs include general staff remuneration, infrastructure maintenance costs, purchase of property and services necessary for the provision of the studies, as well as DU indirect expenses.

[1] Konkursa “Daugavpils Universitātes studējošo pētniecības projekti” nolikums. <https://du.lv/daugavpils-universitate-izsludinats-studejoso-petniecibas-projektu-konkurss/>

[2] Konkursa “Daugavpils Universitātes pētniecības projekti” kārtība <https://du.lv/daugavpils-universitate-izsludinats-ieksejo-petniecibas-projektu-konkurss-2020-gadam/>

3.2. Provide information on the infrastructure and the material and technical provision required for the implementation of the study direction and the relevant study programmes. Specify whether the required provision is available to the higher education institution/ college, availability to the students, and the teaching staff (the specific equipment required for the relevant study programme shall be indicated in Part III, Chapter 3 below the respective study programme).

The premises of the study process provision in the study direction “Economics” are mainly DU building in Parādes 1 which is the location of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the place of work of the academic staff implementing the programme. In the process of the implementation and development of the study programme, the quality of resources is regularly improved and the number of available resources is expanded depending on the development priorities, which in turn depend on the requirements of education and the labour market.

At Du, students can use at least 25 different premises: computer classes, rooms for consultations and meetings, library rooms for literature analysis, preparation of independent and research works, as well as specially equipped rooms for conferences with simultaneous translation booths. The following infrastructure is provided for the implementation of the study direction “Economics”: apparatus and equipment (for preparation, combination, integration, visualization and distribution of study and research materials), information networks (Internet, intranet, *Moodle*), databases (library network, data databases of DU research centres, free access to databases (book resource

database)), materials (research materials, scientific publications, including Web of Science and Scopus publications, archives), services (administrative, financial, IT and network support services, access to official statistics), computerized applications and software (*Standard Office, SPSS, GIS*, online data visualization tools and software, online communication tools) that allow for research at different stages and provide a flexible and student-oriented environment. The classrooms at Parādes Street 1 meet the needs of the study process, have the necessary technical equipment (computers, video projectors, multifunctional devices, interactive whiteboards), which are used both in computer classrooms and in other classrooms to demonstrate lecture and seminar materials. Studiju procesā un patstāvīgo pētniecisko projektu realizēšanā tiek izmantota DU *CISCO System Networking Local Academy* datorklase ar jaunu piekļuves tehnoloģiju; DU Multimediju Centra tehniskie resursi. In the study process and to implement independent research projects, *CISCO System Networking Local Academy* computer lab is used with new access technology as well as technical resources of DU Multimedia Centre. There are large rooms available for lectures and smaller rooms for discussions, seminars and group work.

3.3. Provide information on the system and procedures for the improvement and purchase of the methodological and informative provision. Description and assessment of the availability of the library and the databases to the students (including in digital environment) and their compliance with the needs of the study direction by specifying whether the opening times of the library are appropriate for the students, as well as the number/ area of the premises, their suitability for individual studies and research work, the services provided by the library, the available literature for the implementation of the study direction, the databases available for the students in the respective field, the statistical data on their use, the procedures for the replenishment of the library stock, as well as the procedures and options for the subscription to the databases.

Information on the system and procedures applied for the development and purchase of methodological and information resources.

The study councils discuss the acquisition of the required literature and draft a list which is forwarded to the Vice Rector for Studies and the Vice Rector for Science for approval. The list is further submitted to DU Budgetary Commission. After approval of the list, the literature is purchased and included in the course descriptions. If the renewal of the infrastructure is required within a certain study direction, the director of the study direction or programme may submit an application for consideration to DU Budgetary Commission.

General description of Daugavpils University (DU) library.

DU library is included in the Library Register of the Ministry of Culture (BLB0524), received the accreditation certificate on 16 May, 2017 and was granted the status of a local library for five years. In its activity, the library uses the integrated information system ALISE (Advanced Library Information Service).

Opening hours, access to information resources and services.

The library provides students with access to high-quality information relevant to the field of study, offering information resources in the library collection for study and research purposes, as well as ordering information resources from other libraries. Library facilities are also accessible for people with reduced mobility. The library reading room has 60 work places available for visitors (including

20 computerized ones). The opening hours of the library are adapted for the convenience of the students. The library is open to visitors on weekdays from 9:00 to 20:00, Saturdays from 10:00 to 16:00. Books can also be transferred outside the library's working hours, using book transfer equipment at the study buildings at Vienības Street 13 and Parādes Street 1.

The variety of services offered, the layout of the premises and the working hours are closely linked to meeting the needs of the users. The total area of the library premises is 1000 m², students have at their disposal 2 reading rooms with free access to the collection, 2 subscriptions, Bibliography and information sector, 20 computers, 3 multifunctional devices, 2 copiers, 2 printers, Internet, incl. wireless Internet access. The library provides all services that promote independent study. The services are provided in accordance with the DU Library Terms of Use, approved on October 20, 2014 by DU Rector's Order No. 5-4 / 205. The library provides free basic services and paid services.

Free basic services:

- electronic ordering, reservation, extension of the loan period of books and other editions;
- receiving books and other editions for on-site use in the reading room or for the use outside the library;
- delivery of books and other editions from the National Library of Latvia and other state libraries, in case of the absence of the edition in DU library;
- self-service; the library has a self-service system for issuing and returning books; book return boxes are available in both DU buildings;
- use of computers and Internet, including WI-FI;
- use of electronic catalogues and databases;
- use of EBSCO, ScienceDirect and Scopus databases outside DU;
- consultations regarding the search of information and compiling a bibliography;
- teaching users to work with electronic catalogues and databases.

Fee-based services:

A list of fee-based services of DU library was approved in Senate session on 16 June 2014, Protocol no. 5.

- copying from the editions available in the library subject to copyright law;
- printouts;
- scanning;

international interlibrary loan services in the delivery of books, copies of articles, incl. e-copies.

Library collection

The library compiles the collection in accordance with the directions of study and scientific work of the university, requirements of the study programmes, thus providing information to all DU study levels – Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral, as well as directions of scientific research. The library ensures the purchase of books, journals, databases, and other editions upon applications from DU faculties, which have been reviewed and approved by DU Budgetary Commission.

The library collection is 271,221 copies, including 224,833 books, 32,720 periodicals (368 titles). The DU library has 8,247 sources of information in the field of economics and finance – monographs, reference literature, press publications in Latvian and foreign languages, a collection of digital video discs with read-only memory.

The students of the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, have access to a considerable (more than 200 sources) scientific, popular scientific and methodological literature in Latvian, English and Russian. In the Department of Economics, the latest scientific publications and

research in the field of Economics^[1] are available (including all the issues of the scientific journal “Regional Report” published by DU, abstracts and articles of international conferences, final theses of graduates of the study field “Economics”, incl. doctoral theses).

In line with the DU Development Strategy for 2015-2020, the library is systematically increasing the share of e-resources and developing the opportunities of remote access to e-resources to promote user's remote use of the library resources. Within the framework of the funding granted to the library, the number of databases is systematically evaluated. Each year, the use of subscribed databases is analysed.

Subscribed e-resources:

Aktuālās normatīvo aktu izmaiņas izglītības jomā – a monthly e-edition on current legislative changes in education;

Cambridge University Press – a full-text database of e-journals in the humanities and social sciences;

EBSCO – a multidisciplinary database of over 12,500 full texts, including 7,300 peer-reviewed journals. The database also offers the opportunity to view abstracts from journals, books, scientific reports and conference proceedings;

Letonika – a reference and translation database containing encyclopaedias, dictionaries, collections of images, audio and video, library of full texts of Latvian literature;

LETA – ziņas un arhīvs – a resource enabling the search for published news, photos, videos, press releases, articles from the Latvian press, statistics and other information;

Lursoft – a library of newspapers;

NOZARE.LV – current information in the most important sectors of Latvia;

ScienceDirect – a database in the humanities, social sciences, natural and technical sciences, life sciences and medicine. The database contains information on thousands of journals and books published by *Elsevier*;

Scopus – a bibliographic and citation database for *Elsevier* multidisciplinary scientific publications;

Web of Science – a bibliographic information and citation database of multidisciplinary scientific publications.

Journals

iBusiness – e-magazine for entrepreneurs and managers, which provides entrepreneurial experience, legal advice and answers to current business and economic issues;

Balance – a magazine on the current issues related to taxation, accounting, finance and legislative nuances with competent explanations from the best accounting and tax experts;

Forbes – Latvian Edition – Latvian business news, comments and reviews and Forbes US editorial materials;

Capital – business ideas magazine (until 2020). up-to-date information.

Free access resources:

Cogent OA (Cogent Social Sciences) <https://www.cogentoa.com/journal/social-sciences>

Core (The world's largest collection of open access research papers) <https://core.ac.uk/>

De Gruyter Publishers. Law (brīva pieeja vairākiem dokumentiem) https://www.degruyter.com/browse?authorCount=5&pageSize=10&searchTitles=true&sort=datedescending&t1=LA&type_0=journals

DOAB (Directory of Open Access Books) <https://www.doabooks.org/>

DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) <https://doaj.org/>

E-grāmatas latviski. Bezmaksas. Grāmatu grāmatnīca <https://egramatas.com/>

Eiropas Savienības Informācijas centrs <http://www.eiroinfo.lv>

Eiropas Savienības portāls <http://europa.eu/>

Eiropas Komisija <http://ec.europa.eu/>

Eiropas Parlaments <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/>

ES Padome <http://ue.eu.int/>

The European Investment Bank <http://www.eib.org/>

The European Central Bank <http://www.ecb.int/home/html/index.en.html>

The European Union Information Agency <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

European e-Justice Portal <https://e-justice.europa.eu/home.do?action=home&plang=lv>

Website of the Financial and Capital Market Commission <https://www.fktk.lv>

INGENTA Connect <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content?type=subjects>

JSTOR ((Journals in JSTOR). Registration required <https://www.jstor.org/subjects>

JURN (search millions of free academic articles, chapters and theses)
<http://www.jurn.org/#gsc.tab=0>

Economic analysis site <https://www.makroekonomika.lv>

Website of the Bank of Latvia Latvijas bankas mājas lapa <https://www.bank.lv>

Research and reviews of the Analytical Service of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia
<https://www.saeima.lv/lv/par-saeimu/publikacijas-un-petijumi>

Website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
<https://www.varam.gov.lv/lv/petijumi>

Website of the State Audit Office of the Republic of Latvia Latvijas Nacionālā Digitālā Bibliotēka
<http://gramatas.lndb.lv/#allThemes>

Website of the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia <https://www.em.gov.lv>

Website of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia <https://www.fm.gov.lv>

Website of the Latvian Investment and Development Agency <https://www.liaa.gov.lv/>

Database of regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia <https://www.likumi.lv>

MDPI (MDPI is a pioneer in scholarly open access publishing and has supported academic communities since 1996) <https://www.mdpi.com/>

OAPEN (Open Access Publishing in European Networks). Law
<http://www.oapen.org/search?expand=subject&f1-subject=Law>

OER Commons (Open Educational Resources) <https://www.oercommons.org>

Open Book Publishers <https://www.openbookpublishers.com/section/70/1>

Project Gutenberg. Free eBooks http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page

The World Bank <https://www.worldbank.org/>

The WWW Virtual Library <http://www.vlib.org/>

Website of the State Revenue Service <https://www.gov.lv>

WorldLII (a large collection of legislation, cases and related materials from all over the world)
<http://www.worldlii.org/countries.html>

Replenishment of the library stock and subscription of databases takes place at the request of the lecturers of the faculties. Applications for the purchase of books are regularly reviewed and approved by DU Budget Commission, thus implementing a mechanism for purchasing the latest publications for DU library. The library does not digitize the stock, but the final papers of DU students are uploaded in the library's information system. The library regularly informs the faculties about the latest literature, database trials and subscription options, so that the lecturers and students of the faculties can get acquainted with new offers. Interdisciplinary scientific publications topical for the implementation of the programme are available in the library [2].

The library stock contains 880 books in English in the field of economics and business, which make up 10.7% of all books in the library in this field. A diverse range of sources for students studying in English is also available in the library of the Department of Economics (basically these sources are presents made by partners and faculty). Study course descriptions list a variety of open and publicly available sources in English, from databases and interactive materials to research materials and reports developed by international organizations: e.g., World Bank, European Commission reports, Eurobarometer surveys, LR ministerial reports, e.g., Latvian Economic Development Report, Global Competitiveness Index, The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, The World Bank Doing Business Report, etc.

Students have access to the latest research in economics and business published in English and available from multidisciplinary databases offered by DU library: Cambridge Journal Online, EBSCO, ScienceDirect, SCOPUS. Free trials of various databases are offered every year. Databases containing publications in the field of economics and business, such as the ELGARONLINE Annual e-book collection, Taylor & Francis eBooks, have been tested over the last two years.

[1] Collective monograph published within the framework of the national research program project *EKOSOC-LV Simtam pāri. Viedā Latvija*, Rīga: LZA, 2018, p. 416;

Biotehonomika, Rīga: RTU, 2016, pp. 340. [ed. Blumberga, D.];

Zināšanu ekonomika Latvijas lauku un reģionu dzīvotspējai, Jelgava: Jelgavas tipogrāfija, 2018 [ed. Rivža, B.]

[2] Jansons V., Kozlovskis K. *Ekonomiskā prognozēšana SPSS 20 vidē*, Rīga: RTU, 2013, 548 lpp.;

Bikse, V. *Makroekonomika: teorija un politika*, Liepāja: LiePA, 2015, 270 lpp.;

Sustainable Development, Knowledge society and Smart Future Manufacturing Technologies, Cham: Springer, 2015, 341 lpp. [red. Leal Filho, W., Ūbelis, A., Bērziņa, D]

3.4. Provide information on the procedures for attracting and/or employing the teaching staff (including the call for vacancies, employment, election procedure, etc.), and the assessment of their transparency.

Electing to academic positions proceeds according to the requirements of the “Regulation on electing to academic positions at Daugavpils University”.

Information on the vacancies to academic positions and competition announcements are published in DU website and the official edition of the Republic of Latvia “Latvijas Vēstnesis”, thus providing an opportunity for each interested person to apply to the position at DU within a month’s time after announcing the competition.

Persons that can be elected to academic positions in DU are citizens of the Republic of Latvia and foreign citizens whose academic education and professional qualification corresponds with the requirements of the science or art sphere for study and research work at DU and who have a command of the state language and professional English.

After the announcement of the competition and receiving documents from the applicants to the academic positions, the information on the applicants (name, family name, scientific degree, the total scientific and academic work experience) is publicly accessible.

At the meeting of the faculty council (senate) or scientific institute scientific assembly, the participants of the meeting are familiarized with the applicants’ documents and motivated opinions of the structural units on each applicant to the academic position. After interviews with all applicants to the respective position, the council (senate) or scientific assembly makes a decision on electing or not electing to the respective position by secret ballot.

http://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Nolikums_par_velesanam_akademiskajos_amatos_du.doc
[accessible in Latvian]

3.5. Specify whether there are common procedures for ensuring the qualification of the academic staff members and the work quality in place and provide the respective assessment thereof. Specify the options for all teaching staff members to improve their qualification (including the information on the involvement of the teaching staff in different activities, the incentives for their involvement, etc.). Provide the respective examples and specify the way the added value of the possibilities used for the implementation of the study process and the improvement of the study quality is evaluated.

DU has elaborated interior normative acts and mechanisms that regulate the ensuring of the academic staff qualification and quality of work:

- *Regulation on elections to academic positions at Daugavpils University* (available here – https://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Nolikums_par_velesanam_akademiskajos_amatos_du.pdf). The link leads to a page in Latvian;
- *Procedure of the assessment of the scientific activity of Daugavpils University academic staff* (available here

- https://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/zinatniskas_aktivitates_vertesanas_kartiba.pdf).

The link leads to a page in Latvian;

- *Student surveys*. (available here -<https://aptaujas.du.lv/index.php/742698>; <https://aptaujas.du.lv/index.php/979397>).

DU Senate has approved the work content and duties of the academic staff determining the requirements in the academic work, research, academic, and scientific qualification updating and administrative work.

In accordance with the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia No. 569 *Regulations on the education and professional qualification required for pedagogues and the procedure of professional competence improvement of pedagogues*, professional updating may involve international mobility, participation in projects, conferences and seminars corresponding with the professional updating objectives, attested by issued documents.

DU promotes the development of the academic staff by moving towards a competent staff. Most lecturers have practical experience in the field, which confirms their suitability for work in a professional programme. The scientific capacity of the teaching staff is confirmed by the publications indexed in the *Web of Science* and *SCOPUS* databases, by the number of final theses (including doctoral theses) supervised and by research in the implementation of which the lecturers of the study programme participate.

In co-operation with the Centre for Professional Development (CPD), lecturers have the opportunity to participate in further education courses, improving, deepening and perfecting their knowledge. The academic staff involved in the programme regularly participates in various professional development courses (further education teacher training B courses, "Development of study courses in the e-learning environment *MOODLE*", "Data analysis and preparation of reports", etc.).

The competence of DU academic staff is improved by participating in mobilities within the framework of the European Union support programme "ERASMUS +" in the fields of economy, finance, business, education. Co-operation agreements have been concluded with more than 90 higher education institutions in 22 countries.

A significant part of the lecturers are graduates of the study programmes of the field "Economics", thus ensuring successive transfer of knowledge in the study process, as well as flexible integrity of study work and research in doctoral studies. During the reporting period Dr.oec. A. Daņiļeviča (Ohotina), Dr.oec. V. Šipilova, Dr.oec. O. Ruža have completed their doctoral studies have integrated into the academic environment, and Dr.oec. I. Veipa, Dr.oec. S. Ežmale participate in the implementation of the direction as lecturers and experts.

"ERASMUS +" programme supports the development of the staff - DU lecturers visit one of the foreign co-operation universities or participate in staff training, improving their professional competencies, ensuring participation in training, observing work at a foreign co-operation university or branch organization. International mobility gives the DU lecturers and staff the opportunity to gain knowledge and specific skills by learning from the experience and good practice of foreign partners, as well as to improve the practical skills needed for DU and professional development; it encourages the academic staff to expand and improve the range and content of courses offered, and enables students, who do not have the opportunity to participate in a mobility programme, to benefit from the knowledge and experience provided by the academic staff coming back from foreign European universities and foreign guest lecturers. International mobility promotes the exchange of knowledge and teaching experience between European higher education institutions.

Co-operation successfully influences the achievement of study results, as the teaching staff involved in it shares their knowledge and the acquired international scientific experience and thus

promotes the further development of the scientific potential of master and doctoral students.

Within the framework of the European Social Fund project *Nr.8.2.2.0/18/A/022* "Strengthening the Professional Competency of Daugavpils University Academic Staff in the Areas of Strategic Specialization" [1], in 2019-2020, the lecturers of the study field had the opportunity to implement qualification improvement by conducting an internship (in the amount of 200 hours) in the companies of the field corresponding to the lecturer's specialization. The internship of the lecturers in real functioning companies turned into an exchange of experience, which resulted in further mutual co-operation.

Internship conducted by the academic staff in 2019-2020

No.	Lecturer's name, surname	Place of internship
1.	Dr.oec., Aina Čaplinska	SIA "Veritas"
2.	Dr.oec., docent, Janīna Stašāne	SIA "LatInSoft"
3.	Dr.oec., researcher, Alīna Daņileviča (Ohotina)	SIA "Protams"
4.	Dr.oec., Ludmila Aleksejeva	SIA "ROLS"
5.	Dr.oec., leading researcher, Olga Lavriņenko	SIA „Protams"
6.	Dr.oec., leading researcher, Vera Komarova	SIA "Belkoks"
7.	Dr.paed., docent, Inta Ostrovskā	SIA "Veritas"
8.	Dr.oec., researcher, Oksana Ruža	SIA "Protams"
9.	Mg.oec., Teodors Bikovskis	Daugavpils Education Board
10.	Mg.hist., lecturer, Dmitrijs Oļehnovičs	SIA "Veritas"
11.	Mg.oec., lecturer, Sandra Zelča	Daugavpils City Council, Development Department

The lecturers involved in the direction increase their qualification by doing internships abroad, continue post-doctoral studies, as well as conduct lectures in foreign educational institutions. V. Komarova conducted classes at the War Studies University (Warsaw, Poland) and at the Russian University of Economics named after G. Plekhanov (Moscow, Russia). V. Špilova completed the Regional Planning Econometrics course in Austria (Training School on Spatial Econometrics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business), as well as successfully completed several study cycles organized by ELSEVIER Researcher Academy (Early Career Researcher studies in e-environment), for example, "How researchers store, share and use data" from the "Research Data Management" cycle and received a *Certificate of Completion* (conducted by Helena Cousijn), also

“The key to successful academic collaborations” from the Research Collaborations cycle and received a *Certificate of Completion* (led by Dr. Aijaz A. Shaikh) and others.

The research work of the academic staff involved in the programme is in most cases related to the conducted study courses and specialization: regional studies, SPSS research, sustainability of the Latvian economy, etc. Lecturers prepare scientific articles to be published (including in internationally peer-reviewed journals), participate in conferences and practical seminars, publish textbooks and develop methodological materials (e.g., N. Konovalova, A. Čaplinska “Banking for Entrepreneurs”, 2020). Lecturers have the opportunity to conduct research together with other Latvian and foreign HEI academic staff and students (e.g., I. Ostrovska participated in the state research programme “Economic, Political and Legal Framework for Preserving Latvia's Economic Potential and Promoting Competitiveness after the Pandemic Crisis (reCOVery-LV)” in co-operation with the academic staff and doctoral students of LLU, LU and other universities).

Academic staff members receive financing for their scientific contribution of the preceding period for next period scientific activities. At the end of each calendar year DU academic staff members submit a report to the Department of Science on their achievements in scientific and creative work, work in projects, participation in scientific seminars and conferences, publications, in accordance with the Procedure of the assessment of scientific activity of the academic staff of Daugavpils University. Academic staff members receive refunding for expenses related to preparing the publication (proofreading in English and fee for publishing) as well as remuneration for H-Index in SCOPUS and / or Web of Science data bases.. DU research project competition provides opportunity of receiving financing for topical and well-planned projects in order to facilitate the growth of DU academic, scientific staff and doctoral students in research work.

Lecturers of the study direction “Economics” are actively involved in the creation and management of municipal development projects, as well as in international research and applied projects, thus improving their skills and sharing their experience with project partners. The most significant projects of the recent years are: the Latvian-Lithuanian cross-border co-operation programme 2007-2013 project “Fostering Capacity for Business Development in Latgale-Utena Cross Border”, the NORDPlus project “New Model of Teaching Business Start Up Knowledge for Adults”, as well as the State research programme “Transformation of Economy, Smart Growth, Governance and Legal Framework for Sustainable Development of the State and Society - A New Approach to Creation of a Sustainable Knowledge Society (EKOSOC-LV)”.

Students are also stimulated to participate in scientific and practical conferences and seminars as listeners.

The added value of the opportunities used for the implementation of the study process and quality of studies

DU annually assesses the scientific activity of the teaching staff: the results of research work, activity in projects, as well as pedagogical and organizational work. Within the study process, the latest current events in the field are constantly followed – the academic staff participates in projects, the results are used to update the content of the study courses. The lecturers actively participate in the approbation and dissemination of the research results by making reports at scientific and practical conferences and seminars. The information obtained in scientific events is used conducting the study courses and supervising the papers, as well as preparing teaching aids. The research and creative activity of the academic staff is closely related to the study process, promoting students’ understanding of the relations between the innovation field and the real needs of the organization. The staff of the programme consists of lecturers who regularly co-operate to improve the study processes, thus achieving interdisciplinarity in the development of students’

knowledge and skills. A description of the lecturers' scientific activity during the last 6 years is available in the Appendix.

The opportunities offered for the updating of the qualification of the academic staff make an essential impact on the quality of studies. By utilizing the tools of professional updating and scientific activity support, the newly acquired knowledge and experience are transferred to the study course content, students are offered topical scientific research themes. For instance, within the research projects the academic staff members work with students in research groups for producing innovative research and preparing scientific publications. Students of all the study levels of the study direction are regularly involved in the implementation of DU internal research grants, as well as in scientific conferences (working together with their research supervisors).

Feedback on the topicality of the study course content is obtained from student surveys. In the free replies students express their opinion on the competence of the academic staff members and the topicality of the themes discussed in the study courses. Students are also involved in organizing the science transfer activities (Scientist Night, Science Festival, School of Science, Young Entrepreneurs School etc.).

At the end of each academic year, the study direction council assesses the need for purchasing recent study literature editions, the head of the study direction draws a list and submits for approving to vice-rectors for studies and science. After the procurement of the literature for studies, study programme directors review the study course descriptions and e-study environment *Moodle* materials to ascertain that the newly purchased editions are included in study courses replacing less topical or out-dated sources.

Example: One of the criteria in cases of announcing a competition for vacancies to academic positions at DU is the quality of research publications and their conformity with the branch of economics (and the sub-field (e.g., business, regional economy, finance and credit). As a result of the competition, the elected academic staff member is the one who holds higher scientific qualification indicators that, in turn, is a prerequisite of the growth of the study direction. Involvement of the academic staff members in scientific research is facilitated by means of various mechanisms – using common DU instruments of facilitating scientific research. In the branch of economics, academic staff members are encouraged to participate in international research conferences, elaborate publications for journals indexed in internationally cited data bases. In the field of economics, there are promoted participation of the academic staff in international scientific conferences, development of publications for journals included in internationally cited databases, as well as in the implementation of co-operation projects, incl. within a consortium of universities.

[1]Nr.8.2.2.0/18/A/022 “Daugavpils Universitātes stratēģiskās specializācijas jomu akadēmiskā personāla profesionālās kompetences stiprināšana” <https://du.lv/projekti/projekti/es-fondu-projekti/esf-lidzfinansetie-projekti/daugavpils-universitates-strategiskas-specializacijas-jomu-akademiska-personala-profesionalas-kompetences-stiprinasana/>[pārlūkots 5.08.2019.]

3.6. Provide information on the number of the teaching staff members involved in the implementation of the relevant study programmes of the study direction, as well as the analysis and assessment of the academic and research workload. Provide the assessment of the incoming and outgoing mobility of the teaching staff over the reporting period, the mobility dynamics, and the issues which the higher education institution/ college must

tackle with regard to the mobility of the teaching staff.

Information on the number of the academic staff members involved in the implementation of the study programmes in the study direction

A total of 65 lecturers are involved in the implementation of the study direction “Economics”, of which 59% have obtained a doctoral degree. 36 (55%) lecturers involved in the study programme are elected lecturers at Daugavpils University. In order to ensure the quality of the study process and provide students with an in-depth understanding of the practical application of knowledge, 25 (37%) guest lecturers are also involved in the study programme. Professional study courses in the field involve persons employed in accounting, financial industry, business management and economics.

Academic staff members involved in study direction "Economics"

Position	Number	Percentage rate
Professors	4	6%
Visiting professors	7	11%
Associate professors	5	8%
Docents	11	17%
Visiting docents	5	8%
Researchers	4	6%
Leading researchers	2	3%
Lecturers	7	11%
Visiting lecturers	17	26%
Assistants	1	1,54%
Visiting assistants	2	3%
Total	65	

The analysis and assessment of the academic and research load of the academic staff

The work load of the academic staff is calculated taking into consideration the academic staff member's amount of the study work in the academic year applying the load coefficient (N):

$$\text{Work load} = \frac{S \times N}{40}$$

S - the academic staff member's amount of the study work (work spent for the study process and its provision)

N - the load coefficient

For professor N = 0.0444 to 0.04

For associate professor N = 0.0434 to 0.04

For docent N = 0.0412 to 0.04

For lecturer, assistant N = 0.04

For senior researcher, researcher N = 0.08

40 - number of hours of five-day working week in accordance with paragraph 1 of the procedure of the accounting of the amount of work of the academic staff at DU

For the academic staff working full time at DU the following study work (work spent for the study process and its provision) amount is set for the academic year on condition that this is provided by DU budget opportunities and a special DU rector's order is issued:

position	Study work
professor	900 - 1000
associate professor	920 - 1000
docent	970 - 1000
lecturer	1000
assistant	1000
Senior researcher, researcher	500

lectures, seminars, practical assignment classes and laboratory works (study work in class):

position	Minimum work in class (hours)	
	Per year	Average per week
professor	256	8
associate professor	320	10
docent	384	12

lecturer	448	14
assistant	448	14

The academic staff member workload is determined in accordance with the “Procedure of the accounting of the amount of work of the academic staff at Daugavpils University”. If the workload exceeds 1000 hours per academic year, overload is calculated for the study work according to the procedure stated in legislation and work-performance contract is signed for the performance of the academic work.

Factors observed in recruiting the academic staff are stability of the academic position number and persons, equal load distribution, facilitation of the involvement of employers in the study process to ensure good quality of the professional programme implementation. Persons having a doctoral scientific degree and associate professors and professors are intensively attracted in order to implement high quality study programmes compliant with the laws and regulations.

Inbound and outbound academic staff mobility assessment in the reporting period, mobility dynamics, difficulties encountered by DU in the academic staff mobility.

Using *ERASMUS* + mobility opportunities, the development of the academic staff is promoted, the content of the study programmes is supplemented with innovative methods, foreign visiting professors are attracted, the internationalization of the study field is promoted. During the reporting period, the teaching staff of the study direction “Economics” actively used the opportunities of *ERASMUS* + mobility. The number of lecturers, who conduct classes and go on experience exchange trips to foreign partner universities, is increasing, thus broadening their horizons and deepening their knowledge both in languages and in the field of the research topic. The lecturers of the field will regularly continue to be actively involved in *ERASMUS* + mobilities, choosing partner countries where they could gain experience in providing the courses to be implemented in the programme, as well as enrich their experience in the management of study programmes. During the implementation of *ERASMUS* + projects, the academic staff of the direction regularly participate in consultative discussions with professors/colleagues from different countries, work in libraries and co-operate with industry profiling departments to obtain empirical data for research, preparation of joint publications, participation in organized scientific seminars and conferences.

By implementing such academic activities, the achievement of the study results is promoted, because the teaching staff involved in it share their knowledge with the acquired international scientific experience and promote the improvement of the scientific potential of master and doctoral students.

Major difficulties encountered in the process of academic staff mobility are difficulties of shifting classes from the mobility period due to the busy schedule, specificity of the foreign host institution administrative processes that at times slow down the circulation of the academic staff mobility documents.

3.7. Assessment of the support available for the students, including the support provided during the study process, as well as career and psychological support by specifying the support to be provided to specific student groups (for instance, students from abroad, part-time students, distance-learning students, students with special needs, etc.).

Support available to students in the study process

In solving issues related to the organization of the study process, students are assisted by the staff of the Faculty Dean's Office and the respective departments (Dean, Vice-Dean, Heads of Departments, study programme directors, and recording secretaries).

Prior to each examination envisaged in the study plan, student support is ensured with a consultation (2 hours for each study subject) scheduled in the timetable. Practice conference is organized for the students of professional study programmes before the professional qualification practice, but during the practice, the practice supervisors provide consultations upon request.

For students participating in the *ERASMUS +* programme and studying in higher education establishments abroad, an individual work plan is developed, and for the study courses that are not recognized as corresponding ones, lecturers provide students with the opportunity of distance learning by providing study course support materials and consultations on how to achieve the learning outcomes. During the study process, students can use support materials (lecture presentations, seminar materials, descriptions of practical assignments, etc.) that are uploaded in the *MOODLE* e-learning environment and sent to shared group e-mails.

When developing term paper, bachelor paper, master thesis and doctoral thesis, each student has the opportunity to receive individual consultations provided by members of the academic staff. DU has developed "Methodological guidance for the study programmes of the Department of Economics for the development and defence of Term, Bachelor and Master papers" (The documents are available in Latvian)^[1].

If a student is not able to attend classes (due to health, family reasons, etc. - which is especially relevant for full-time correspondent students), university lecturers provide on-site and on-line counselling upon request.

During the remote studies, students have the opportunity to communicate electronically and by telephone with lecturers, as well as to obtain technical and consultative assistance both from the director of the study programme and the staff of the Faculty, as well as from the Study Quality Centre. In this way, information about the various e-resources requested by the student is collected, Moodle, Zoom, etc. training is provided.

Support for foreign students is mainly provided by the *ERASMUS +* Project Coordinator and the Chief Specialist in International and Public Relations Department, as well as the staff of the Faculty Dean's Offices. At the beginning of each semester foreign students are offered free Latvian language courses, after which DU issues an academic certificate stating the level of knowledge acquired and the additional credits obtained. In addition, the director of the study programme provides consultations for foreign students, thus ensuring a more successful implementation of the individual plan.

In accordance with Daugavpils University Scholarship Grant Regulations (The documents are available in Latvian)^[2], students studying for state budget financing are eligible for scholarships for the acquisition of the study programme and single-payment scholarships.

DU students can apply for municipal scholarships based on their success indicators. Municipal scholarships are awarded on the basis of a cooperation agreement between DU and the municipality concerned.

Once a year, DU students and graduates (DU faculty) have the opportunity to participate in the competition of Else Marie Tschermak's Foundation. E. Tschermak studied at Daugavpils State Teachers' Institute from 1933 to 1939, emigrated to Denmark during World War II, and in her will wanted to set up this foundation to financially support DU students and graduates in funding for

studies and further training in Western European countries. For more information see (The documents are available in Latvian) <https://du.lv/par-mums/par-mums/starptautiska-sadarbiba/elses-marijas-cermakas-fonds/>.

DU students studying for tuition fee may qualify for a tuition fee discount (The documents are available in Latvian) [3]. Discounts are awarded to students who, after obtaining their bachelor's diplomas, continue their postgraduate studies in master's study programme with outstanding and excellent results, have great achievements in Olympic sports as evidenced by Coach Board recommendations, and other criteria.

At DU there is Social Support Programme of the Student Council (SC). Within the framework of the programme, successful students of DU full-time bachelor's and master's programmes, who live in DU hotels and need social support, have the opportunity to receive a 50% discount on the hotel room rental. More information available at: <https://du.lv/studentiem-ir-iespeja-pieteikties-sp-sociala-atbalsta-programmai-3/>[accessible in Latvian]

DU students have sports training in basketball, volleyball, aesthetic gymnastics, table tennis, and other sports available free of charge, as well as enjoy the opportunity to use the DU pool. For more information see <https://du.lv/du-sporta-treninu-saraksts-2019-2020-m-g/>. [accessible in Latvian]

Research and methodological support for master and doctoral students is provided during the period of the development of their papers by organizing seminars and pre-defence, in which students together with their research supervisors analyse their achievements and listen to recommendations for further development of the paper, gaining more popularity, as students actively attend seminars, where the research of their course mates are presented, participate in the discussions that provide professional advice. Regular individual consultations of students are planned for all study courses, in accordance with the approved consultation schedule. If necessary, lecturers offer additional consultations for in-depth study of the course. Students regularly use communication opportunities with the programme management to consult on issues of interest to them or to solve their problems.

Career and psychological support available to students

DU has Centre for Professional Development and Career Initiative and Support Centre, where it is possible to receive consultations from career counsellors, psychologists, youth affairs specialists and entrepreneurs on the issues of interest to them. One of the aims of Centre for Professional Development is to promote career development for the academic staff, as well as to provide training for the region's residents, especially educators, on current issues in a specific field (e.g., economics, accounting, business), thus facilitating knowledge transfer and co-operation between partners in the region.

Career Initiative and Support Centre provides career development services, promotes volunteer work and supports those initiatives that endorse the well-being of the residents of the Latgale region by improving the professional capacity, competitiveness, co-operation and participation of individuals.

Support for students with special needs and students with children

In 2015, DU completed the project "Improvement of the Study Programmes Quality at Daugavpils University and Environment Accessibility", which was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Within the framework of the project, the DU infrastructure was modernized and adapted for persons with special needs, thus improving the accessibility of the environment for persons with functional disorders (movement, visual, hearing impairments).

University classrooms are accessible to people in wheelchairs – lifts and stair lifts are installed, thresholds are removed, door width is appropriate. Information is made accessible to visually impaired and hearing impaired people by installing projection equipment and sound amplifiers; in both study buildings nurseries are set up for young studying parents to change their babies' nappies and feed their babies and a playroom for keeping kids busy while their parents attend classes.

In 2016, in the nomination *Education for All*, DU received the “Apeiron” Award, which testifies to the effective accessibility of the university environment. Among the DU students, there is a number of students with special needs who positively evaluate the customized infrastructure of DU. In oral surveys and TV interviews the students have admitted that after completing their secondary education (most often in the form of distance learning or home-based education) they were concerned about the access to higher education, but after more in-depth inquiry on study and environmental access opportunities in higher education, they started their studies at DU. All of the above-mentioned supportive measures contribute to the growth of every student by motivating them to continue and complete the study programme selected.

[1]

<https://du.lv/ieskaties-augstskola/metodiskie-noradijumi-studiju-bakalaura-un-magistra-darbu-izstradei/> [accessed on 15.01.2020.]

[2] https://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/DU_stipendiju_piesk_NOLIKUMS_2020.pdf [pārlūkots 02.01.2020.]

[3] <https://du.lv/studijas/studiju-maksa-un-atlaides/> [pārlūkots 20.12.2020.]

II - Description of the Study Direction (4. Scientific Research and Artistic Creation)

4.1. Description and assessment of the directions of scientific research and/or artistic creation in the study direction, their compliance with the aims of the higher education institution/ college and the study direction, and the development level of scientific research and artistic creation (provide a separate description of the role of the doctoral study programmes, if applicable).

Description and evaluation of the scientific research and/or artwork carried out in the study direction

Scientific research within the study direction “Economics” is carried out in the sub-fields of economics, management, finance and business. The research work of the academic staff involved in the programme is in most cases related to the conducted study courses and specialization – regional studies, sustainability of the Latvian economy, financial analysis, etc. Research directions and topics are determined by the implementation of the existing research, research interests of the academic staff of the direction, current social challenges in Latvia and Latgale region: economic prosperity, migration and globalization processes, economic and financial market developments in the EU, etc., as well as external factors such as Brexit, economic sanctions, regional reform, the COVID-19 crisis, etc.

Interdisciplinary research, carried out in co-operation with the academic and research staff in the

fields of psychology, management, law, education and science, as well as with master and doctoral students and international partners, has a high degree of validity and makes a significant contribution to the management of the study direction. The results of the research are published in scientific monographs and publications included in internationally cited databases.

The programme envisages a significant emphasis on applied research both in the acquisition of the study courses and in the implementation of internship. In order to strengthen students' theoretical knowledge and develop research skills, students are involved in research work during the development of term, bachelor, master papers and doctoral theses, as well as use the opportunity to work on research projects if appropriate funding is available (e.g., research project competition of DU teaching staff and students). Students have the opportunity to present the results of their applied research by participating in the annual "DU International Scientific Conference", where several working groups on economic and business issues are organized. Students can publish their dissertations in DU scientific journals - "Regional Review", "Social Sciences Bulletin" and "Proceedings of the DU International Scientific Conference", which are included in internationally cited databases.

Elaborating their doctoral theses, doctoral students work on topical challenges of economy and economics:

- Interregional specialization, competitiveness and sustainability.
- Socio-economic smart development of the European Union regions.
- Cross-border co-operation and innovation.
- Management of the company's assets, their valuation and financial efficiency.
- Financial development and its impact on the economy.

Since the first week of October 2006, in co-operation with the DU Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences and the lecturers of the departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences there was organized the annual scientific-practical conference "Social Sciences for Regional Development", in which the human resources involved in the study direction "Economics" regularly participate. In 2020, such a conference was organized for the fifteenth time. The collections of the conference theses and articles are published. Publications are reviewed anonymously prior to their publication in the conference proceedings. The conference is attended by more than 50 scientists from around the world. In 2020, the conference took place remotely, bringing together more than a hundred participants from 9 countries (including Portugal, Poland, Norway, Ukraine, Georgia).

In addition, students have the opportunity to voluntarily participate as research participants in the research activities conducted by the academic staff of the study direction, thus getting to know the research process better. Lecturers of the study direction use the results of their own and colleagues' research and knowledge in teaching study courses, referring to them and linking them with other international research and knowledge to illustrate the manifestations of specific economic phenomena in the Latvian economy or in the international context.

Co-operation with the researchers of the DU Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, especially with the Centre for Social Research and the Centre for Sustainable Education, makes a great contribution to strengthening the scientific research potential of the study direction. Students have the opportunity to participate in projects and scientific events organized by the researchers of the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences. The integration of applied research in the study process takes place with the aim to coordinate the challenges of entrepreneurs with research topics, which is considered to be an important priority for the development of the study direction.

A significant part of the academic staff involved in the study direction "Economics" are experts of the Latvian Science Council in social sciences (Business and Economics, Psychology, Educational

Sciences, Law).

The academic staff of the study field "Economics" publish their research in internationally peer-reviewed journals and collections of articles indexed in the *Web of Sciences* and *SCOPUS* databases, e.g., "Economics & Sociology", "Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability", "International Journal of Economics and Financial Issues", "Technological and Economic Development of Economy", "Economics and Sociology", "Actual Problems of Economics", etc.

Description and evaluation of the scientific research directions of the study direction, compliance with the objectives of Daugavpils University, the study direction and the level of scientific development.

At the end of each calendar year DU academic staff members submit a report to the Department of Science on their achievements in scientific and creative work, work in projects, participation in scientific seminars and conferences, publications, in accordance with the *Procedure of the assessment of scientific activity of the academic staff of Daugavpils University*.

In the reporting period academic staff members of the study direction "Economics" reached high achievements in research work participating in international scientific conferences and congresses as well as publishing their research in internationally reviewed journals and paper collections indexed in *Web of Sciences* and *SCOPUS* databases. In accordance with the procedure of the assessment of the scientific activity of DU academic staff, the scientific activity of DU academic staff was encouraged by granting remuneration within the existing DU budget funding for the support of further scientific activity. In accordance with the procedure of remuneration of DU academic staff for Hirsch Index of 2019, DU financially supports the scientific achievements of DU academic staff.

H-indices of lecturers involved in the direction "Economics" in the SCOPUS/WoS database

Lecturer	(<i>www.scopus.com</i>) h-index	(<i>www.publons.com</i>) h-index
Aleksejeva Ludmila	3	1
Burima Maija	1	n
Čaplinska Aina	2	n
Daņiļeviča (Ohotina) Alīna	0	n
Ignatjeva Svetlana	4	n
Iliško Dzintra	7	3
Irēna Kokina	1	1
Jefimovs Nikolajs	4	n
Komarova Vera	1	n

Lavriņenko Olga	6	4
Lazdāns Dainis	2	n
Meņšikovs Vladimirs	1	n
Oļehnovičs Dmitrijs	1	n
Ostrovskā Inta	2	n
Petrova Mariana Mateeva	n	n
Piotrowska-Trybull Marzena	2	n
Ruža Aleksejs	4	n
Sannikova Aija	1	0
Sergejs Hiļķevičs	2	n
Špilova Vikotrija	2	1
Trofimovs Igors	2	n
Tvaronavičiene Manuela	25	16
Velinov Emil	1	n

During the reporting period, the lecturers involved in the study direction "Economics":

- developed more than 400 scientific publications, out of them 200 included in the internationally peer-reviewed journals and article collections indexed in *SCOPUS*, *Web of Sciences* and *Thomson Reuters*;
- participated in more than 500 international scientific conferences, congresses and symposia;
- participated in the development and implementation of 3 *HORIZON2020* projects;
- managed and participated in the development and implementation of about 60 international projects of ESF, ERDF, COST, INTERREG, etc.;
- managed and participated in the development and implementation of about 30 Latvian-wide projects (financed by the Latvian Council of Science, the State Culture Capital Foundation, State Research Programme, Daugavpils City Council, etc.).

Articles published in Scopus or WoS CC indexed journals in co-operation with lecturers and doctoral supervisors have also been developed by doctoral students: A. Smirnov, O. Rybalkin, J. Gladevičs, E. Čižo, J. Amosova, L. Sinica, O. Volkova.

DU has various mechanisms for encouraging the involvement of the academic staff members in scientific research. For instance, DU covers the costs of publishing monographs by DU academic staff members; they have reduced participation fees for DU scientific events that facilitate publishing in DU scientific editions; annually DU organizes a festive event "Annual Prize for Science" where prizes are awarded for significant contribution to natural sciences and humanities; the

academic staff members who are LCS experts are granted 50 paid hours in their workload.

4.2. The relation between scientific research and/or artistic creation and the study process, including the description and assessment of the use of the outcomes in the study process.

The research and creative activity of the academic staff is closely related to the study process, promoting students' understanding of the industry's connection with the needs of the real organization. Implementing the programme, the lecturers involved regularly co-operate to improve the study processes, thus achieving interdisciplinarity in the development of students' knowledge and skills.

Lecturers of the study programmes actively participate in approbation and dissemination of the research results by making reports at scientific and practical conferences and seminars. The information obtained in scientific events is used conducting the study courses and supervising the papers, as well as elaborating the study support materials.

Students are involved in research work while developing their term, bachelor and master papers and doctoral theses in co-operation with their scientific supervisors, as well as using the opportunity to work on research projects if appropriate funding is available (e.g., research project competition of DU teaching staff and students) and to participate at international scientific event together with the teaching staff, to publish joint scientific articles in internationally peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.

Students have the opportunity to voluntarily participate as research participants in the research conducted by the academic staff and doctoral students, thus acquiring a better understanding of the research process, for example, students participate in organizing and implementing various surveys, collecting necessary data, processing and analysing results.

Every year, the lecturers of the study direction work as experts at the annual Latgale and Latvian conference of pupils' scientific research works, participating in the development, review and evaluation of pupils' scientific research works. Thus, the succession of different levels of research is developed, co-operation with the regional society/community is promoted, as well as co-operation with potential students is established.

The lecturers of the study direction use the results of their own and colleagues' research and knowledge in teaching the study courses, referring to them and linking them with other international research, their results and knowledge to illustrate the manifestations of specific economic aspects in the Latvian economy. An interesting experience for both lecturers and students of the study direction was the participation in the project of the EU Interreg V-A Latvia-Lithuania Cross Border Co-operation Programme 2014-2020" (performers - I. Ostrovskā and L. Aleksejeva). During the project, students actively participated in its various events and other activities, besides as a result of the project teaching aids and other interactive tools were developed. All the materials are placed in the *Moodle* environment and is used in the study process (see <https://estudijas.du.lv/course/view.php?id=4232>). The Moodle interface is available both in Latvian and English, and the content of the study programmes of the study direction "Economics" (including study course support materials) is being updated and supplemented in Latvian and English.

Findings gained during the project implementation are integrated into the study courses of the

direction, e.g., in PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation”, such study courses as “Smart Specialization and Regional Development”, “Innovations in Global and International Economy”, “Professional Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility”, etc., and, in PBSP “Business and financial processes”, such study courses as “Implementation of Sustainable Development Strategy in Society”, “Business Economics”, “Innovations and Product Development”, etc.

Doctoral students are involved in the provision of study programmes of the direction: they enrich the study content with modern research approaches and with the integration of specific research topics in the study process (e.g., E. Čižo provides the study course “Starting a Business and Innovative Business Models”, but A. Homutins - “Business Marketing”).

With all their competence and experience, the lecturers of the direction successfully work in the councils of various institutions and companies, which in turn allows for a better understanding of various economic processes and creates good opportunities for participation in various scientific research activities for exchange and increase of experience.

The scientific research of the DU study direction “Economics” is aligned with the study process, which testifies to its compliance with the development aims of the study direction and the internationally accepted practice in professional education of economics. The involvement of students in international events is promoted by assigning students independent work within a study course to be completed during a specific event. In order to perform the assignment of the independent work, the lecturer can provide assessment and feedback, which is an important motivation for the student being involved in scientific activities.

4.3. Description and assessment of the international cooperation in the field of scientific research and/or artistic creation by specifying any joint projects, researches, etc. Specify those study programmes, which benefit from this cooperation. Specify the future plans for the development of international cooperation in the field of scientific research and/or artistic creation.

Characteristics and assessment of the international cooperation in scientific research, joint projects and research

In addition to the already mentioned activities, the lecturers of the direction participate in the scientific activities of foreign universities: in the organizing committee of scientific conferences and in editorial boards. During the reporting period, scientific co-operation took place with many higher education institutions in several countries abroad. The teaching staff of the study direction “Economics” actively participate in scientific publications, editorial boards, councils, etc.: V. Meņšikovs, A. Daņiļeviča (Ohotina), V. Šipilova, M. Tvaronavičiene, Dz .Iliško, I. Ostrovska, L. Aleksejeva, E. Jermolajeva, etc. are members of the editorial board of international scientific publications in various countries of the world, e.g., journal *International Business Information Management Association* (IBIMA) published in the USA and Malaysian journal *Research Hub*, Faculty of Information Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA, ISSN 2180-0065, as well as Serbian *Journal Women’s Entrepreneurship and Education*, Akamai University, ISSN 1821-1283. Several publications with the participation of our lecturers are published in Macedonia: *European Scientific Journal*, *European Scientific Institute*, *European Journal of Social Sciences*, as well as in Georgia: *Globalization & Business*, ISSN 2449-2396, Tbilisi; *Economic Profile*, Kutaisi University and *Bulletin*

of Akaki Tsereteli State University ISSN 2233-3711, and in other countries (Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, etc.).

The teaching staff involved in the study direction actively participates in symposia, conferences, congresses, seminars, etc. scientific activities in scientific committees, councils, etc. V. Šipilova was a member of the programme committee in several international conferences in Turkey, Spain, Malaysia: 5th ASM (Academia Scientific Meeting) International Congress of Social Science May 3-5, 2018, Antalya, Turkey; 6th ASM (Academia Scientific Meeting) International Congress of Agriculture and Environment ICAE 2018 October 11-13, 2018, Antalya, Turkey; 32nd IBIMA (International Business Information Management Association, USA) International Conference (Proceedings are indexed in Scopus, Web of Science) ISBN 978-0-9998551-1-9 14-15-15 November, 2018, Seville, Spain; 33rd IBIMA (International Business Information Management Association, USA) International Conference, Granada, Spain, April 10-11, 2019; as well as the International Forum 2019 “Crossroads of Sciences on Knowledge, Information and Data 2019” – The Asian Pacific Conference on Library & Information Education and Practice 2019 November 4-7, 2019., Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In turn, V. Komarova was a member of the programme committee of the 13th International Scientific Forum October 4-6, 2018, Fes, Morocco VIII, as well as the International Scientific Conference “PUBLIC MANAGEMENT 2018”, November 15-16, 2018, Zegrze, Poland.

Faculty members also review scientific publications, e.g., V. Šipilova reviewed the collection of scientific articles indexed in Scopus, Web of Science (Thomson Reuters) databases – *Double-blind review* – 32nd IBIMA (International Business Information Management Association) International Conference, November 14-15, 2018, Seville, Spain. ISBN 978-0-9998551-1-9. In turn, associate professor L. Aleksejeva reviewed the scientific monograph “Social Innovation: Challenges and Solutions in Latvia” (ed. K. Oganisjana).

Participation in international conferences, congresses, seminars and other scientific activities plays an important role in the development of international co-operation in the field of scientific research. The teaching staff involved in the study direction are active participants of several events. In general, lecturers participated in many international foreign conferences, such as the International Forum 2019 “Crossroads of Sciences on Knowledge, Information and Data 2019” – The Asian Pacific Conference on Library & Information Education and Practice 2019 (ALIEP-2019). November 4-7, 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; The 1st Conference on Regional Risks and Risks to the Regions January 30-31, 2018, Vilnius, Lithuania; The 19th International Scientific Conference “New Problems of E-economy and E-Society” of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Nalenchov, Poland; The 13th International Scientific Forum October 4-6, 2018, Fes, Morocco; VIII International Scientific Conference “Public Management 2018” November 15-16, 2018, Zegrze, Poland; The 5th International Conference on Lifelong Education and Leadership for All – ICLEL 2019, July 6-12, 2019, Baku, Azerbaijan; The 4th International Conference on Actual Economic and Social Problems in Modern Globalization 2019, Tbilisi, Georgia, June 27, 2019; The European Triple Helix Congress (ETHAC2019) Responsible Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Thessaloniki, Greece, September 30 - October 1, 2019-1. October and many others.

The lecturers involved in the study direction in co-operation with foreign partners organized a scientific-practical seminar “Society’s Involvement in Social Entrepreneurship to Promote Smart Regional Growth” at Shota Rustaveli Batumi State University, Batumi (Georgia), July 1-6, 2019.

Lecturers of the direction are also actively involved in solving current societal and economic challenges by participating in projects and preparing reports and making publications. Current issues related to the COVID19 pandemic were discussed at the following conferences with the participation of the lecturers: “Challenges of the Latgale Region Economic Development in

Conditions of the Covid-19 Pandemic”, the 6th International Scientific Conference “Trends Regional Development in the EU Countries 2020” (23.10.2020) (video conference) in Warsaw (Poland)/Jelgava (Latvia) and “Assessment of Socio-Economic Changes of the Coronavirus Pandemic in Latgale Region”, the 13th Jonas Pranas Aleksa international interdisciplinary scientific conference “Development of the State Vision: National And International Context” (September 18-19, 2020) at Siauliai University.

Within the framework of the themes of the doctoral theses, doctoral students are actively involved in international projects (e.g., J. Kudiņš - in the *Interreg* Latvia-Lithuania programme project “Mentoring for Youth Entrepreneurship Support, BONUS LT-LV” and L. Leikuma-Rimicāne - in the *Interreg* Latvia-Lithuania programme project “Ready for Business (ReforB)” was elaborated in co-operation with the Faculty of Economics and Social Development, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, which is a long-term partner of the Department of Economics, DU.

Lecturers also participate in scientific consortia and networks. V. Špilova is involved in the Research Network Membership of the Diversity in Organizations, Communities & Nations University of Illinois Research Park, Champaign, USA (<https://cgscholar.com/community/profiles/viktorijasipilova>). O. Lavrinenko and A. Daņileviča are members of the consortium of entrepreneurs and scientists “EcoEcon”. I. Ostrovska is a member of the European network of universities and colleges, COPERNICUS Alliance.

Co-operation with scientific institutions takes place within the framework of various co-operation projects, which allows to accumulate experience, skills and competencies and to use the knowledge gained as a result of research, which h are used for the improvement of the study courses. The thematic framework of the projects, managed or in which the academic staff of the direction participate, is interdisciplinary and diverse:

- various aspects of sustainable development, such as Participation in the NORDLUS TEN IP programme “Innovative an Sustainable Aesthetic Methods for Citizenship Education: Nordic and Baltic Perspectives” (ISAMCE). DENMARK, Copenhagen; Erasmus + Programme: Strategic Partnership Project No.2015-1-DE-02-KA202-002346 (Erasmus + project “Methods for ESD - competencies and curricula” (MetESD))
- territorial development aspects, such as the scientific research project “Rethinking Territory Development in Global Comparative Researches (Rethink Development)” (scholarship of the Marie Curie FP7-PEOPLE-2011-COFUND program - NEWFELPRO (The new International Fellowship Mobility Program for Experienced Researchers in Croatia), Grant Agreement No. 10) and 2014-2016 - ISCH COST Action IS1104 “The EU in the New Complex Geography of Economic Systems: Models, Tools and Policy Evaluation” STSM at the University of Akureyri Research Center (UARC), Akureyri, Iceland (grant of the ISCH COST Action IS1104)

International co-operation also happened within the framework of the Erasmus + Lifelong Learning Programme K2 strategic partnership *EUROKEY* project no. 2017-1-TR01-KA202-046115.

Co-operation in research projects and programmes promotes the acquisition of experience and understanding of educational, scientific and economic processes in different countries, which in turn promotes the increase of lecturers’ competence, allowing them to apply the acquired experience and knowledge into the study process. At the same time, the institutions and entrepreneurs involved in research have practical and scientifically based proposals and developments for further progress of their activities.

Further plans for developing international cooperation in scientific field:

Describing the plans for international co-operation in the field scientific research in the near future, it seems necessary to mention the co-operation with Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania),

University of Huddersfield (United Kingdom) and The Faculty of Management and Command of the War Studies University (Poland). Within the framework of this co-operation, it is planned to carry out research on the business environment, the investment climate, various aspects of regional development, social entrepreneurship trends, various digitalisation tools in the economy, etc. Scientific co-operation with foreign research centres, universities and institutes significantly strengthens the quality of the research carried out within the study direction "Economics", promotes international recognition and positively influence the citation index of publications. Involvement in the implementation of international research will promote the establishment of scientific networks of students and lecturers of DU and foreign institutions in the field of economics.

When describing the future plans of international co-operation, it should be emphasized that co-operation with long-term partners from the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Poland, Estonia and Lithuania will be continued within the study programmes.

The main focus will be on the publication of scientific articles in the editions included in the SCOPUS and Web of Science databases, as these publications provide an opportunity to obtain more funding for further research and promote the development of the study direction. Interdisciplinary research relevant to the study direction will be carried: incl. the activities to strengthen co-operation in the international consortium of Entrepreneurs and Scientists "EcoEcon". It is planned to organize a joint doctoral school together with the partner universities.

In order to improve students' research work, it is planned to involve students more widely in the performance of international research, incl. co-operation with foreign students, working in international project groups, which will provide an opportunity to gain international experience in both professional and intercultural communication.

4.4. Specify the way how the higher education institution/ college promotes the involvement of the teaching staff in scientific research and/or artistic creation. Provide the description and assessment of the activities carried out by the academic staff in the field of scientific research and/or artistic creation relevant to the study direction by providing examples and the summary of the quantitative data on the activities in the field of scientific research and/or artistic creation relevant to the study direction over the reporting period, for instance, the publications, participation in conferences, activities in the field of artistic creation, participation in projects by the academic staff members, etc., by listing the aforementioned according to the relevance.

At the end of each calendar year the lecturers of the study direction "Economics" submit a report on their achievements in scientific and creative work, work projects, information on participation in scientific seminars and conferences, publications in accordance with DU procedure for evaluation of scientific activity of academic staff. In compliance with the procedure for evaluating the scientific activity of Daugavpils University, DU teaching staff submit a report on achievements in research and creative work, work in projects, participation in scientific seminars and conferences, publications to the Department of Science. The teaching staff receive reimbursement for expenses related to the preparation of their publications (proofreading of scientific texts in English and publication fees), as well as remuneration for the Hirsch index of citations in SCOPUS and / or Web of Science databases. As a result of the DU research project competition, funding is granted to topical and high-quality projects in order to promote the research growth of DU academic, research staff and doctoral students. For the regulations, see in the Appendix.

4.5. Specify how the involvement of the students in scientific research and/or artistic creation activities is promoted. Provide the assessment and description of the involvement of the students of all-level study programmes in the relevant study direction in scientific research and/or artistic creation activities by giving examples of the opportunities offered to and used by the students.

In the study direction, in order to promote students' integration and circulation at the international level, which is an essential precondition for the development of professional competencies and skills, students participate in exchange programmes, apply for and take part in international and local projects and participate in international conferences, publish joint scientific articles in international peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings:

Joint articles are published in several scientific journals, for example: B.Kusiņa, a graduate of BSP "Economics", in co-operation with lecturers I. Ostrovskā, B. Rivža and L. Aleksejeva developed an article *Comparative Analysis of Smart Development of Territories: the Example of Daugavpils and Ilukste Municipality*. Proceedings of the 2020 International Conference "Economic Science for Rural Development" No 54 Jelgava, LLU ESAF, 12-15 May 2020, pp. 181-189 DOI: 10.22616 / ESRD.2020.54.022 181 ISSN 2255-9930 on line ISBN 978-9984-48-345-0 (E-book) http://www.esaf.llu.lv/sites/esaf/files/files/pages/Krajums_Nr_54_07.07.2020.pdf WEB OF SCIENCE

Leikuma-Rimicāne and J. Kudiņš, students of DSP "Economics", together with lecturers I. Ostrovskā, L. Aleksejeva and D. Oļehnovičs developed and published 2 scientific articles: Ostrovskā I., Aleksejeva L., Oļehnovičs D., Leikuma-Rimicāne L., Kudiņš J. (2019), *Society's Involvement In Social Entrepreneurship To Promote Smart Regional Growth, Globalization And Business*, N7, pp. 63-69. <http://www.eugb.ge/content.php> ERIH PLUS

Ostrovskā I., Aleksejeva L., Oļehnovičs D., Leikuma-Rimicāne L., Kudiņš J. *Social Entrepreneurship as a Tool for Civic Engagement in the Context of Smart Regional Development*. 5th International Conference "Lifelong Education and Leadership for all Conference" proceeding book topic: Economic Sides of Lifelong Education and Sustainability 9-11 Jul, 2019 Baku, Azerbaijan ISBN: 978-605-66495-7-8 SCOPUS and WoS https://faf348ef-5904-4b29-9cf9-98b675786628.filesusr.com/ugd/d546b1_53532ffa476d422c899098cb744d725c.pdf

Karčevska, a student of MSP "Economics", in co-operation with lecturers L. Aleksejeva and I. Ostrovskā published an article *Leader Program - for Business Promotion in Rural Areas of Latvia: The Case Study of Latgale Region*. Regional Review. Research papers. Jermolajeva E. (edit.) No. 11 (2015). Daugavpils: Daugavpils University Academic Publishing House "EBSCO Academic Search Complete international database and ProQuest database, World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research (WINIR)

Karčevska, a student of BSP "Economics", together with the lecturers presented papers at conferences in Latvia and Lithuania:

Aleksejeva L., Ostrovskā I. report "Rural Support Service LEADER program for business promotion in Latgale". 10th International Scientific Conference "Social Sciences for Regional Development 2015", Daugavpils University, October 16-17, 2015

Report by Karčevska L., Aleksejeva L. and Ostrovska I. *“LEADER - Business Promotion Program in Rural Areas in Latvia: Case Study of Latgale Region”*. 3rd International Scientific-Practical Conference Trends in Science and Higher Education Studies under Conditions of Globalization, Panevezys (Lithuania). October 22-23, 2015.

The lecturers involved in the direction actively participate in the DU internal project competition, in which they obtain financial support for the performance of their research activities. Students of the study direction “Economics” are also involved in these projects. The following projects have been supported: Ostrovska I. “Public Involvement in Social Entrepreneurship to Promote Smart Growth in Latgale Region”; Lavrinenko O. “Green Economy: Concept Development and Approbation of Evaluation Methodology on the EU Data”; Ohotina, A. “Establishment of an Interdisciplinary Consortium to Ensure Investment Climate Monitoring”; Aleksejeva L. “Development of Smart Territories: Research of Innovative Solutions in Latgale Region”; Čaplinska, A. “Banking for Entrepreneurs” (teaching aid). The students of MSP “Economics” and DSP “Economics” were involved in all these projects. For example, within the framework of the DU internal grant, A. Homuņņins and Z. Vītols, students of DSP “Ekonomiks”, in co-operation with the lecturers participated in conferences in Latvia and Poland:

Homuņņins, A., Aleksejeva, L. – report “Scenarios of Socio-economic Change: Case Study of Districts in Latgale Rigion (Latvia)”. 15th International Scientific Conference “Social Sciences for Regional Development 2020”, Daugavpils University, October 9-10, 2020;

Vītols, Z., Aleksejeva, L., Ostrovska, I. – report “The European Union Multi-Annual Budget Performance Analysis Under the Program “Security and citizenship” in the Baltic States”. 9th International Scientific Conference “Public Management 2020” “The Contemporary Problems of Management, Defense and Security”, Warsaw, November 19, 2020.

Graduates and doctoral students of the direction are also involved in the provision of the study courses as guest lecturers in the field, as well as actively participate in the education of young people in the region at the School of Young Entrepreneurs organized by the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, DU.

Within the framework of the annual international scientific conference held at Daugavpils University, a student working group is regularly organized, within the framework of which master and doctoral students have the opportunity to approbate the intermediate results of their research.

Students regularly participate in economic and financial promotion activities on the initiative of the lecturers, e.g., Business forums, conferences of Bank of Latvia, Industry seminars and events of Latvian Chamber of Commerce and, etc.

4.6. Provide a brief description and assessment of the forms of innovation (for instance, product, process, marketing, and organisational innovation) generally used in the study direction subject to the assessment, by giving the respective examples and assessing their impact on the study process.

Increasingly, smart specializations are entering the social sciences. Many future professions in business and economics require a combination of financial analysis, economic development, business (product development), IT (data analysis), and other skills. [1] The emergence of new challenges in the labour market (economical production and “just-in-time” production, economic activities of online platforms), increasing influence of network companies, shared economic

activities) brings to the fore a combination of several skills (even professional fields).[2]^[3]

Requirements for financial analysis, economic development, business (product development), as well as IT (data analysis) and other skills synergies and new professional standards expressed in Latvian and international research and planning documents for successful competitiveness in the labour market (“Financier”, “Business Manager”) determined the need to modernize the study direction “Economics” (changes in the content of the study programmes at all levels). The professional standard of the enterprise manager approved by the Vocational Education and Employment Tripartite Cooperation Sub-Council on 18 September 2019 and the professional standard of the financier approved on 16 October 2018 corresponds to the sixth level of the Latvian Qualifications Framework and includes new knowledge, skills and competencies required for business process management.

Thus, based on the existing information and thanks to DU’s openness to innovation, the study direction “Economics” was decided to be reorganized at the levels of both bachelor and master study programmes, developing a new Professional Bachelor Study Programme “Business and financial processes” with two sub-programmes according with professional qualifications – “Finance” and “Business management” and a Professional Master Study Programme “Smart Economics and Innovation” with two sub-programmes according with professional qualifications – “Financial Analyst” and “Economist”.

Thus, the topicality of the PBSP study programme “Business and financial processes” is based on the ability to align the content of the programme with the new professional standards, to bring it closer to the requirements of the labour market. PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” envisages preparation of human resources in accordance with the settings of the modern regional development paradigms. The findings and approaches of the study programme are largely in line with the scientific publications cited in international databases on the necessary knowledge and skills required by modern business. Within the study programme, the transfer of smart knowledge will be promoted, ensuring a fuller use of local resources in Latgale region and Daugavpils region: municipal institutions, administrative institutions and the private sector.

The recommendations of the representatives of employers were also taken into account in the development of the professional bachelor study programme “Business and financial processes” and the professional master study programme “Smart Economics and Innovation”, which allowed not only to maintain the opportunity not only to train competitive specialists, but also paid attention to the current economic situation in Latvia and in the eastern region of the country and to the needs of the labour market. To ensure the study process of the programme, practitioners with practical work experience in both finance and business are attracted, which creates a ground for students to connect the knowledge, skills and competencies to be acquired in the study process with the practical solution of the current problems in society.

Marketing innovations

Professions of the DU direction “Economics” are popularized:

- In general education institutions of Eastern Latvia during career weeks, during class hours. Informing about the quality of university education services, the success of graduates in their professional careers in the labour market and the high qualification of the academic staff are emphasized.
- At the annual Young Entrepreneurs School, the lecturers from the direction of “Economics” and professionals in the field of Economics, meeting pupils in upper grades of secondary schools, discuss and share their knowledge.
- Within the framework of the events of the annual “Scientists’ Night”, “Science Festival”,

interactively presenting the smart possibilities of Economics as a science.

- Open days, during which, in co-operation with the students of the direction, interactive events and demonstrations are organized, which characterize the content of the work of economics professionals.

[1] Jobs of Tomorrow Mapping Opportunity in the New Economy. World Economic Forum, 2020 http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Jobs_of_Tomorrow_2020.pdf

Top Economic Developer Skills. <https://www.zippia.com/economic-developer-jobs/skills/>

[2] OECD Employment Outlook 2019. OECD, 2019. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9ee00155-en.pdf?expires=1588342349&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=3570100D5466B3848CAE609AA9483827>

[3] LinkedIn's Economic Graph research <https://economicgraph.linkedin.com/>

II - Description of the Study Direction (5. Cooperation and Internationalisation)

5.1. Provide the assessment as to how the cooperation with different institutions from Latvia and abroad (higher education institutions/ colleges, employers, employers' organisations, municipalities, non-governmental organisations, scientific institutes, etc.) within the study direction contributes to the achievement of the aims and learning outcomes of the study direction. Specify the criteria by which the cooperation partners suitable for the study direction and the relevant study programmes are selected and how the cooperation is organised by describing the cooperation with employers. In addition, specify the mechanism for the attraction of the employers.

Cooperation with institutions of Latvia

During the reporting period, regular scientific and academic co-operation with partners within the consortium has been being implemented within the study direction "Economics", for example, Latvia University of Agriculture and Liepāja University conduct joint scientific research, participate in doctoral and professor councils, organize scientific events, review doctoral theses, etc. In 2019-2020, in cooperation with the consortium partners the National Research Programme project No. VPP-IZM-2018/1-0005 "Challenges and Solutions of the Latvian State and Society in the International Context" (*INTERFRAME-LV*) was implemented; in 2020, the work on the project "Opportunities for Increase in Productivity and Competitiveness of the Economy as an Economic System in the Conditions of the Covid-19 Pandemic" within the National Research Programme "Economic, Political and Legal Framework for Preserving Latvia's Economic Potential and Promoting Competitiveness after the Pandemic Crisis (reCOVery-LV)" was started. The faculty and the students of the study direction "Economics" participate in scientific conferences and other events organized by the consortium partner universities. Joint publications with lecturers and students of these universities were developed and published, for example, B. Kusiņa, a graduate of BSP "Economics", in co-operation with lecturers I. Ostrovska, B. Rivža and L. Aleksejeva developed an article "Comparative Analysis of Smart Development of Territories: the Example of Daugavpils and Ilukste Municipality", published in the Proceedings of the 2020 International Conference "Economic Science for Rural Development" No 54 Jelgava, LLU ESAF, 12-15 May 2020, pp. 181-189 DOI:

10.22616 / ESRD.2020.54.022 181 ISSN 2255-9930 on line ISBN 978-9984-48-345-0 (E-book) [http://www.esaf.llu.lv/sites/esaf/files/files/pages / Krajums_Nr_54_07.07.2020.pdf](http://www.esaf.llu.lv/sites/esaf/files/files/pages/Krajums_Nr_54_07.07.2020.pdf) Web of Science. In 2020, several reports were developed and presented at international scientific conferences in Poland, Jelgava and Daugavpils.

There is active co-operation with the University of Latvia (participation in doctoral and professor councils), Riga Stradiņš University (participation in doctoral councils), RISEBA University (conducting joint scientific research). Ensuring the continuity of studies, within the framework of the direction, there is also co-operation with colleges (for example, the Department of Economics of Jēkabpils Agribusiness College), with the aim to mutually reconcile education of different levels. *Ingrīda Veipa*, Head of the Economics Department at Jēkabpils Agribusiness College, was involved in the development of PBSP “Business and financial processes”. Co-operation and exchange of experience is also taking place with colleagues from Panevėžys College (Lithuania).

In co-operation with the Bank of Latvia, students and lecturers of the study direction “Economics” have the opportunity to participate every year in lectures-discussions conducted by the experts of the bank, which are devoted to the current issues topical for the national economy and the financial sector; they also have agreed to attend face-to-face “Money School” of the Bank of Latvia. In the autumn of 2020, a series of four lectures took place that were held remotely.

Joint events for students and lecturers of the direction of Economics and regional Economics teachers are organized in co-operation with long-term partners from the organization Junior Achievement Latvia (e.g., Young Entrepreneurs’ Day, events within the framework of the Science Festival).

Implementing the projects of the State Research Programme, the lecturers of the direction actively co-operate with the representatives of the LAS. Successful cooperation has been established with the leading Latvian commercial banks represented in the region: Swedbank, SEB, Citadele, Luminor (students have the opportunity to receive consultations, materials, elaborating their bachelor and master papers). Graduates of the DU study direction “Economics” also work in all the above-mentioned commercial banks. An example of excellent cooperation, students involve Swedbank employees in certain banking topics, practical classes are organized in the banking environment. Students have the opportunity to work practically and feel the atmosphere, the pulse of the future business in Daugavpils business incubator. During the reporting period, a number of guest lecturers – industry professionals, who participate in the implementation of the study programme, has also been increasing.

Cooperation with foreign institutions

Within the study direction “Economics”, international co-operation with a number of foreign universities and research institutions takes place. Examples of the most active co-operation:

- Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) (Norway);
- STSM at the University of Akureyri Research Centre (UARC) (Iceland);
- John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (research in the fields of Economics and Sociology) (Poland);
- University in Toruń, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management (Poland);
- University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (Poland);
- University of Beira Interior (Portugal);
- Kazimieras Simonavičius University (Lithuania);
- Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria);
- University of Huddersfield (United Kingdom);
- *Kaunas University of Technology* (Lithuania);

- Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia);
- University of Rijeka (Croatia);
- Panevėžys University of Applied Sciences (Lithuania);
- Vitebsk State Technological University (Belarus);
- Belarus State Economic University, Minsk (Belarus);
- The Economy Research Institute of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus (Belarus).

Regular co-operation with the partner universities abroad takes place in all the study programmes of the study direction, and it is focused on the exchange of students and lecturers and the possibilities to organize joint projects and events for scientific communication.

In 2020, within the study direction “Economics”, research co-operation with Kazimieras Simonavičius University (Vilnius) has been being implemented, having submitted 2 international research project applications for the Baltic research programme competition (“Transformation of the Baltic tourism industry and innovation-driven smart approach to sustainability in a changing market” and “Baltic Fashion industry transformation”); as well as during the reporting period, the project BONUS LT-LV, which popularised entrepreneurship, the study environment at DU and partner universities, promoted academic and business co-operation with the Faculty of Economics and Entrepreneurship of Kaunas University of Technology, involving the young people from the both countries in the academic environment. The study direction has a long-term co-operation with professors Marianna Petrova and Todor Golunov from St. Cyril and St. Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo, who, in the reporting period, conducted lectures for BSP “Economics” students.

Every year, in co-operation with colleagues from Lithuania, Poland, Turkey and Panevezys (Lithuania), a joint international conference “Science and Education in Globalization (SCEDU’20...)” is organized, where lecturers, doctoral students and master students regularly present their reports in working groups and plenary sessions.

A new impetus and a broader, cross-border view of things is provided by the opportunity for students to listen to lectures conducted by foreign lecturers, for the DU lecturers it is an opportunity to exchange experiences, discuss current issues, look more creatively at learning processes, agree on further forms of co-operation. The study programmes of the direction regularly host guest lectures conducted by foreign lecturers. Starting from 2019, within the framework of the ESF project no. No. 8.2.2.0/18/A/022 “*Strengthening the Professional Competency of Daugavpils University Academic Staff in the Areas of Strategic. Specialization*” [1], several foreign professors are involved in the implementation of the study direction “Economics”, e.g., Marzena Piotrowska-Trybull (Poland), Dr.oec. Halina Shmarlouskaya (Belarus), Marian Petrov (Bulgaria), as well as ERASMUS + guest lectures are conducted by foreign lecturers for the DU students, e.g. assist.prof. Muhsin Fuat Bayik (Turkey), N. Rakhmanberdieva and M .Chalisheva (Tajikistan), Dr.oec. G. Dudzevičute, Dr.oec. D. Prokopiene (Lithuania). Woickeh Kosiedowski, Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Toruń, and M. Ellger, expert in Urban and Regional Planning from Germany, have a long-term co-operation, conducting guest lectures. During the four academic years, students of the direction “Economics” had the opportunity to study modern theories and practices of regional development in co-operation with Professor Woickeh Kosiedowski, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Toruń. In addition, the professor established close co-operation with Daugavpils University lecturers in the field of science, organizing and reporting at international scientific conferences (in Daugavpils and in Toruń), developing scientific articles and projects, and supervising, discussing and reviewing doctoral theses.

In turn, many lecturers of the Daugavpils University study direction “Economics”, mainly thanks to the Erasmus programme, had the opportunity to conduct lectures, internships, improve

qualifications in foreign universities, research institutions, thus gaining new experience, skills, abilities abroad and the opportunity to implement new knowledge in everyday work, improving the study process of the direction “Economics” and developing scientific co-operation with foreign colleagues.

Lecturers of the study direction “Economics” co-operate with international institutions, for example, A. Danileviča (Ohotina) works as an expert of the Polish Science Foundation (Expert of the Foundation for Polish Science under Measure 4.4 of the Smart Growth Operational Programme 2014-2020) and as an expert of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA).

Cooperation with employers and local governments

Contacts with employers in achieving the aims and tasks of the study direction “Economics” is realized by the lecturers of the study programme getting involved in projects related to solving various issues of socio-economic nature, business development, as well as regional peculiarities of economics. Co-operation with employers and professional organizations is organized and developed at several levels:

- guest lectures;
- study excursions;
- participation both in the assessment of the learning outcomes of the study process and in the work of the council of the direction;
- participation in the development and improvement of the study programmes;
- internship offers;
- implementation of co-operation projects.

Forms of co-operation with employers include co-operation within the framework of projects, co-operating with employers in the development of the study programmes (professional bachelor study programme “Business un financial processes”, master study programme “Smart Economics and Innovation”). Employers are involved in the assessment of the content of the study programme and elaboration of recommendations to improve the study courses. For example, within the framework of the project “Reduction of Fragmentation of Study Programmes of Strengthening of Shared Use of Resources at Daugavpils University”, Nr. 8.2.1.0/18/A/019, E. Jermalajeva, Head of the Development Department of the Preiļi, acted as coordinator of the newly established study programme “Business and financial processes”, but, in the above-mentioned project, A. Homutiņins, Chairman of the board of SIA ROLS, and the S. Ežmale, Head of the Rēzekne Special Economic Zone, acted as experts. The issues on the content and quality of the study programmes, which are related to the requirements of employers and the promotion of professional growth in accordance with real practice have been discussed and assessed by employers. In order to improve the content and organization of the study programme, surveys of employers are regularly conducted. Employers and industry professionals are invited to conduct practical study courses (T. Bikovskis, A. Franckeviča, E. Račko, E. Čižo, etc.). Long-term co-operation has been established with Daugavpils City Council, Daugavpils, Krāslava Dagda, Ilūkste, Preiļi County Councils and other municipalities of Latgale region, VAS Daugavpils Psychoneurological Hospital, VAS “Valsts Nekustamie ģipšumi”, Latgale Planning Region. Co-operation with Latgale companies Axon Camble, SIA Aura, SIA Belmast, SIA Latinsoft, Daugavpils locomotive repair factory, SIA “RemPro”, SIA “Protams”, SIA Veritas R, Ziegler mechanical engineering is successful. Within the framework of cooperation, students of the field of “Economics” are provided with an opportunity to visit companies, get acquainted with the real work process, receive answers to practice-based, practical questions, get acquainted with potential study practices and employers. In turn, employers have the opportunity to get acquainted with potential employees, to inspire students to acquire certain knowledge and skills necessary for work more diligently. Within the framework of co-operation, students of the direction “Economics”

are provided with an opportunity to visit companies, get acquainted with the real work process, receive answers to practice-based, practical questions, get acquainted with potential places of study internship and employers. In turn, employers have the opportunity to get acquainted with potential employees, to inspire students to acquire certain knowledge and skills necessary for work more diligently.

Close co-operation has been established with Daugavpils City Council, where graduates of the study direction "Economics" work in several structural units. The topics of students' research papers are coordinated with the needs of entrepreneurs and local government proposals within the study direction: bachelor and master research on the topical issues of industry development promotion, for example, A. Luriņa developed a paper "Competence Assessment of Accounting Specialists in Small And Medium Enterprises", L. Karčevska - "European Union Support for Young Farmers in the South Latgale Regional Agricultural Board in 2007-2013", N. Bikovska - "State and Local Government Support for Entrepreneurs and Opportunities for Improving Cooperation (case of Daugavpils Municipality)", etc.

Potential employers regularly turn to the administration and lecturers of the study direction to offer job and internship opportunities to the graduates of the direction, as well as to make project or co-operation offers to the students of the direction. Municipalities and state institutions are also potential employers for the graduates of the programme of the direction. For example, students and graduates of the study programme of the direction are employed in city and county councils (in Daugavpils, Preiļi, Dagda), State Revenue Service, LIAA business incubator, educational institutions of Eastern Latvia, AS "Attīstības finanšu institūcija Altum", PAS "Daugavpils ūdens", Rural Support service structures and elsewhere.

Diverse opportunities for co-operation, as well as extensive employment of graduates confirm the need for specializations offered in the study direction and form the basis for the need for the qualification of the bachelor and the master study programmes.

Representatives of employers from Eastern Latvia municipalities, entrepreneurs, representatives of state and municipal institutions, etc., who participate in the work of the council of the programme, final examination commissions, conduct study courses, participate in the organization of professional practices are actively involved in the development, improvement and implementation of the study programmes. Employers are involved with the aim to ensure the compliance of the study programme with the requirements of the labour market. Also, employers, professional organizations, state institutions are involved in the evaluation of doctoral theses, for example, in 2020. S. Ežmale, Head of the Rēzekne Special Economic Zone, provided feedback on A. Kokoreviča's doctoral thesis.

Taking into account the importance of fostering co-operation between universities, businesses and public authorities, the students, doctoral students and graduates of the study direction represent all the three parties and can form contacts and co-operation, which in general has a positive impact on the development of innovative systems in the region. An example of such co-operation is the international consortium established at the initiative of the Daugavpils University researchers, the aim of which is to promote cooperation in the field of innovation in order to improve sustainable development in ecology in the regions of Central and Eastern Europe. The members of the consortium, who signed the agreement are researchers and lecturers from Daugavpils University (Latvia), Vitebsk State University (Belarus), Kazimieras Simonavičius University (Lithuania), as well as graduates of doctoral and master programmes in Economics, Law, Ecology, entrepreneurs and other representatives. Thus, the students of the direction have been developing interdisciplinary research works, for example, the 1st year doctoral student I. Jermaļonoka in co-operation with the lecturers O. Lavriņenko and S. Ignatjeva recommends to study the aspects of labour market

digitization, while R. Malnačs, a BSP “Economics” student, presented the aspects of circular economy and environment (“Evaluation of Waste Management in the Context of Latvia’s Circular Economy”) and O. Ribakovs, N. Griškjāne, DSP “Economics” doctoral students, – (“Green Economy: Elaboration of the Concept and Approbation of the Assessment Methodologies”).

DU cooperation partners are selected according to the following criteria:

- The higher education institution implements similar study programmes within the study direction (bachelor, master’s, doctoral study programmes in economics);
- The higher education institution academic staff members have common research interests and research projects (producing research publications and monographs);
- An opportunity to organize students’ participation in joint classes (for example, visits of doctoral students to a partner university, summer schools).

Cooperation partners of employers are selected taking into account the specifics of the sub-programmes of the professional bachelor and master study programmes. The selection of cooperation partners is determined by the demand of organizations for specialists in the relevant field of activity. These are companies, commercial banks and local governments represented in Latgale region.

Mechanism of attracting employers

At the request of the programme’s directors of the study direction “Economics”, the companies, commercial banks, local governments represented in the Latgale region recommend professionals who can be involved in the provision of study programmes and the implementation of internships. Upon agreement with the relevant specialists, a letter of intent is concluded between DU and the company represented by the employer. After the employers has been involved in the provision of the study programmes (conducting the study courses and participating in final examination commissions), DU concludes company agreements with representatives of employers on the performance of academic work.

Within the framework of the study direction “Economics”, agreements are concluded on the performance of academic work with guest lecturers, for whom Daugavpils University is not the main place of work.

[1]Nr.8.2.2.0/18/A/022 “Daugavpils Universitātes stratēģiskās specializācijas jomu akadēmiskā personāla profesionālās kompetences stiprināšana” <https://du.lv/projekti/projekti/es-fondu-projekti/esf-lidzfinansetie-projekti/daugavpils-universitates-strategiskas-specializācijas-jomu-akademiska-personala-profesionalas-kompetences-stiprināsana/>[pārlūkots 5.08.2019.]

5.2. Specify the system or mechanisms, which are used to attract the students and the teaching staff from abroad and provide a description of the dynamics of the number of the attracted students and the teaching staff.

Mechanisms of attracting foreign students and academic staff members

In order to attract foreign students and academic staff members, the following mechanisms are used:

- DU Erasmus+ coordinator at the beginning of the year send all partners an informative letter

Erasmus+ concerning the way foreign students and academic staff members can apply for studies, practice, teaching, or professional updating.

- DU Erasmus+ coordinator several times a year visits international *Staff Week*, where there is an opportunity to establish new contacts and sign contracts between universities on student and academic staff exchange within Erasmus+ programme.
- foreign academic staff is recruited within ESF project “professional competence strengthening of the academic staff of Daugavpils University strategic specialization spheres” No. 8.2.2.0/18/A/022.

Characteristics of the dynamic of the number of the attracted foreign students and academic staff members

During the reporting period, foreign students quite rarely went to DU within the framework of *Erasmus +* programme mobilities, because the offer of the study programmes in English was not large, while DU students like to use such an opportunity and go both to study and to practice abroad. In the reporting period, outbound mobility of the academic staff of DU study direction “Economics” has grown (see appendix). During outbound mobility, the academic staff members conduct classes in foreign higher education institutions stimulating the interest of students and academic staff members in the study direction “Economics” programmes and cooperation with DU in research.

5.3. In the event that the study programme entails a traineeship, provide a description of the traineeship options offered to the students, as well as the provision, and work organisation. Specify whether the higher education institution/ college provides assistance in finding traineeships.

Characteristics of students’ opportunities of practical placement, its provision and work organization

Professional qualification internship for the students of the study direction “Economics” is intended for:

- PBSP “Business and financial processes” (in the amount of 20 credit points);
- PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” (in the amount of 26 credit points).

Professional internship takes place outside the university, in companies and institutions under the guidance of experienced specialists. The aim of the study internship is to promote the strengthening and development of theoretical knowledge, professional skills and abilities. Duration and timing of the internship are determined in accordance with the plan and the study process schedule of the study programme.

In order to ensure the quality of the internship, the Internship Regulations have been developed and approved by the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences, which contain the formulation of the internship aims and objectives, as well as a list of skills that must be acquired during the internship. The organization of the internship is regulated by the internship regulations of the programme. The internship regulations are developed in accordance with the requirements of the study programme and in connection with its theoretical part. The internship is implemented in accordance with the Internship Agreement concluded between DU, the internship provider and the student. The agreements ensure the planning of the professional internship provided in the study programme and its successful implementation. The internship is organized by the head of the study

programme. The internship is coordinated by the teaching staff of the department – internship supervisors, but in the specific place of internship each intern also has an internship supervisor. During the internship, the student must complete the internship programme and prepare an internship report. The student develops an internship report in accordance with the internship regulations. The internship report is checked and assessed by a lecturer appointed by the department. The student achieves the aim of the internship based on the acquired knowledge, skills, abilities and previous work experience. Depending on the interests and possibilities, the student chooses the internship place in coordination with the director of the study programme, but DU promotes the selection of the most suitable internship place or offers it.

DU support to students in finding the practical placement location

Organization of the internship takes place in accordance with the internal regulatory enactments of DU (Internship Regulations, Study Regulations, etc.) and the internship programme. Students of PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” are free to choose an internship place according to their field of their research and interests. If a student fails to find an internship place independently, the administration of the study direction or the study programme provide it to him/her in accordance with the offer of internship places in public or private institutions. Taking into account the growing interest in the study programmes of the direction on the part of foreign students, as well as the tendency of internationalization of the economic sector (especially business), internships are offered in the companies of the region in both Latvian and English. The internship is planned in the institutions with which internship agreements are concluded. The person responsible for the internship on behalf of DU is the internship supervisor, who is appointed by the Department of Economics.

5.4. In the event that joint study programmes are implemented in the study direction, provide the justification of the creation of the joint study programmes and a description and assessment of the selection of the partnering higher education institutions by including information on the principles and the procedures for the creation and implementation of these joint study programmes. In the event that no joint study programmes are implemented in the study direction, provide a description and assessment of the plans of the higher education institution/ college for the creation of such study programmes within the study direction.

(Not applicable)

II - Description of the Study Direction (6. Implementation of the Recommendations Received During the Previous Assessment Procedures)

6.1. Assessment of the fulfilment of the plan regarding the implementation of the recommendations provided by the experts during the previous accreditation of the study direction, as well as the assessment of the impact of the given recommendations on the study quality or the improvement of the study process within the study direction and the relevant study programmes.

On March 10, 2012, during the visit of the experts for accreditation of the Daugavpils University study direction “Economics”, the programmes received a high assessment – 3-4 points in all

assessment criteria, all the study programmes were accredited for a maximum term of 6 years. The experts of the International Accreditation Commission provided assessments and recommendations:

The main recommendations expressed by the expert were as follows:

- strengthening of professional orientation in the study programmes of the direction;
- reducing the fragmentation of the study courses;
- more active use of *Moodle*;
- expanding research at international level;
- more intensive involvement of students in research work within the aims of the study programme;
- more active participation in international mobility, incl. ERASMUS + projects;
- increasing the number of lecturers' scientific publications in internationally recognized peer-reviewed scientific journals;
- improvement of the resources of the library.

The first field of the improvement of the study direction is related to the strengthening of professional orientation in the study programmes of the direction. In 2018-2019, within the framework of this priority, the work on the development of the professional master study programme "Smart Economics and Innovation" was started; in its structure, 2 sub-programmes with professional qualifications were envisaged - "Economist" (which, continuing the previous traditions of MSP "Economics", was modernized and adapted to the current labour market needs) and "Financial Analyst" (according to the needs of the graduates' employers and companies in the region). In its turn, in 2019-2020, a new PBSP "Business and financial governance" was developed, within the framework of which 2 professional qualifications are envisaged - "Business Manager" and "Financier". Recommendations received from students, lecturers and industry partners were included in the development of the study content of the new study programmes, thus aligning the aim of the programme with the demand of the labour market. Both programmes are currently being approved to adapt the study content to the remote learning process. Taking into account the recommendations of the experts of the international accreditation commission, in the development of the new study programmes, attention was paid to the mutual integration of the study courses with the aim to ensure a systemic approach to the acquisition of the study content and maximally systematize the knowledge and the learning outcomes. This requires that extensive study courses, which include several sub-courses, are offered. For example, the study course "Economics" (10 CP) includes basic study courses in Economic Theory - "Microeconomics" (4 CP), "Macroeconomics" (4 CP) and "Business Economics" (2 CP). The provision of such study courses is coordinated by several lecturers.

Improving the direction, the study e-environment has also been being gradually developed. The amount of the support materials for the study courses available in the *Moodle* system is gradually increasing. The materials placed in the *Moodle* environment are very diverse and include video collections, recordings of *Zoom* classes, worksheets, lecturers' publications, presentations, research reports, etc. The possibilities provided by the *Moodle* system to organize tests in the e-environment and submit independent works are also used. The study programmes of the direction offer a variety of remote learning opportunities, which were actively used by the lecturers and the students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Various other e-learning resources (*Webex*, *Zoom*, other interactive Web tools, open access resources) and their combinations are offered according to the aims, learning outcomes and peculiarities of a specific study topic, study course, study programme within the study direction. As a result, the exchange of information between lecturers and students has improved and the quality of the studies has been raised.

Starting from the academic year 2014/2016, in connection with the recommendations expressed by the experts, the following improvements were introduced in the study direction:

- Visiting lecturers, including from abroad (Germany, Bulgaria, Poland, Lithuania, Turkey, Belarus, Tajikistan), as well as industry experts and professionals from regional organizations (e.g., head of the LIAA business incubator, experts of the Bank of Latvia, heads of the department of Daugavpils City Council, etc.). Programme directors provide technical support to the guest lecturers in the placement of study course materials in *Moodle* and in making it accessible to the students.
- Students of the study programmes of the direction are motivated to get involved in Erasmus + activities and make a more extensive use of Erasmus + mobility opportunities. During the reporting period, within the framework of the exchange programme, students of the study direction "Economics" studied in Croatia, Bulgaria, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Lithuania, using both study and post-study internship opportunities. For example, J. Jefremova, a doctoral student, did an internship in the spring semester of 2016 in the Dutch transport company "Nijman-BelNed B.V."; in 2018, after having finished her MSP "Economics" studies, V. Aleksejeva had post-graduate internship mobility in France; in 2018, I. Alika, a BSP "Economics" student, in the autumn semester, studied at the University of Economics and Business in Poznań, Poland. As a result, during the reporting period, the outgoing mobility of the students in the study direction "Economics" has increased by at least 30%.
- During the reporting period, due to the active work of the lecturers and the opportunities provided by DU (e.g., within the framework of internal grants), the students of the study programmes of all levels were actively involved in research work, as well as in organization of scientific events and dissemination of the results of the research activities. In the academic year 2019/2020, R. Malnačš, a student of BSP "Economics", Mg.oec. A. Homutiņins, a doctoral candidate of DSP "Economics", and Bch.oec. O. Bindere, a student of MSP "Economics", took part in the activities of DU internal grants. In previous years, the students were involved in the development of DU internal research grants and the research carried out by other lectures in Latvia and abroad. Students in the study programmes of the direction actively participate in the research organized by the lecturers, publish joint articles, participate in the activities of the School of Science, the Science Festival, the School of Young Entrepreneurs.
- During the reporting period, the number of publications in internationally recognized peer-reviewed scientific journals indexed in *SCOPUS* and *WoS* has significantly increased (up to 70%). In 2019 alone, the lecturers of the direction have published 40 articles in internationally recognized peer-reviewed scientific journals, but for several lecturers the H-index has reached the level of 4-7 points.
- Purposeful work has been done to improve the collections of the DU library. During the reporting period, literature in economics, business, finance and other related fields in Latvian and English was regularly purchased, the share of e-resources was increased and remote access to e-resources was developed to provide users with remote access to resources; subscribed or offered for testing several multidisciplinary databases, incl. databases of internationally cited sources. The DU library has 8247 sources of information in the field of economics and finance: monographs, reference literature, press publications in Latvian and foreign languages. The library collection is created in accordance with the directions of the University's studies and scientific work, the requirements of the study programmes, thus providing information to all DU study levels – bachelor, master, doctoral, as well as scientific research directions. The library provides the purchase of books, magazines, databases and other publications upon the applications of DU faculties, which have been reviewed and approved by the DU Budget Commission.

In accordance with the recommendation of the previous accreditation commission, the influence of

the study direction "Economics" and co-operation with students was strengthened, incl. doctoral students. There is more work with students explaining the study programme, the methodological, methodological and didactic elements of the study courses. At the beginning of each study year, the descriptions of the study courses are updated and aligned with the current events of the respective field, which provide more complete information about the organization of the study process.

During the reporting period, one of the implementation languages of the newly established and licensed PBSP "Business and financial processes" and PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" is English, which will allow attracting foreign students, thus purposefully working on the further increase in the number of foreign students and promoting internationalization of the study direction in general.

6.2. Implementation of the recommendations given by the experts during the evaluation of the changes to the relevant study programmes in the respective study direction or licensed study programmes over the reporting period or recommendations received during the procedure for the inclusion of the study programme in the accreditation form of the study direction (if applicable).

PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" license (No. 04041-96) was issued on June 10, 2020. The report on the implementation of the recommendations provided by the Evaluation commission is attached.

PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" license (No. 0404-94) was issued on July 11, 2019. The report on the implementation of the recommendations provided by the Evaluation commission is attached.

The study direction "Economics" was accredited on June 30, 2021. The report on the implementation of the recommendations provided by the Evaluation commission is attached.

Annexes

I. Information on the Higher Education Institution/ College		
List of the governing regulatory enactments and regulations of the higher education institution/ college	List_EN.docx	Saraksts_LV.docx
Information on the implementation of the study direction in the branches of the higher education institution/ college (if applicable)		
Management structure of the higher education institution/ college	Structure_eng.pdf	parvaldibas_struktura.pdf
II. Description of the Study Direction - 1. Management of the Study Direction		
Plan for the development of the study direction (if applicable)	Studiju_virziena_Ekonomika_attistibas_plans_ENG.docx	Studiju_virziena_Ekonomika_attistibas_plans_LV.docx
Management structure of the study direction	Structure_of_study_direction_ENG (1).png	Studiju_virziena_parvaldibas_struktura (1).png
II. Description of the Study Direction - 3. Resources and Provision of the Study Direction		
Basic information on the teaching staff involved in the implementation of the study direction	Docetaju_saraksts_ENG.xlsx	Docetaju_saraksts_LV .xlsx
Biographies of the teaching staff members (in Europass Curriculum Vitae format)	CV_ENG.zip	CV_LV.zip
Summary of the statistical data on the incoming and outgoing mobility of the teaching staff over the reporting period	Docetaji_ienakosa_izejosa_mobilitate_ENG.zip	docetaji_ienakosa_izejosa_mobilitate_LV.zip
II. Description of the Study Direction - 4. Scientific Research and Artistic Creation		
List of the publications, patents, and artistic creations of the teaching staff over the reporting period	Publication_list_ENG_Final.docx	Mācībspēku publikāciju_saraksts_Final.docx
II. Description of the Study Direction - 5. Cooperation and Internationalisation		
List of cooperation agreements	sadarbibas_ligumu_saraksts_ENG.docx	Sadarbibas_ligumu_saraksts_LV.docx
Statistical data on the teaching staff and the students from abroad	arvalstu_studejosie_docetaji_ENG.rar	arvalstu_studejosie_docetaji_LV.rar
Statistical data on the mobility of students (by specifying the study programmes)	Mobilitate_ENG.xlsx	Mobilitate_LV.xlsx
Description of the organisation of the traineeship of the students	prakses_nolikumi_ENG.zip	Prakses_nolikumi.zip
Information on the agreements and other documents confirming the traineeship of the students in companies	Nodomu_ligumi_Kopsavilkums_ENG.zip	nodomu_ligumi.zip
II. Description of the Study Direction - 6. Implementation of the Recommendations Received During the Previous Assessment Procedures		
Overview of the implementation of the provided recommendations	Rekomendacijas_ENG.zip	Rekomendacijas_LV.zip
Description of the Study Programme - Other mandatory attachments		
Confirmation signed by the rector, director or the head of the study programme or the study direction of the higher education institution/ college which states that the official language proficiency of the teaching staff involved in the implementation of the relevant study programmes of the study direction complies with the regulations on the level of the official language knowledge and the procedures for testing official language proficiency for performing professional duties and office duties.	Docetaju_saraksts_valodas_prasmes_LV_ENG_ENG.xlsx	Docetaju_saraksts_LV_ENG_prasmes.xlsx
III. Description of the Study Programme - 1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme		
Compliance of the joint study programme with the provisions of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education (table)		
Statistics on the students over the reporting period		
III. Description of the Study Programme - 2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof		
Compliance of the study programme with the State Education Standard		
Compliance of the qualification to be acquired upon completion of the study programme with the professional standard (if applicable)		
Compliance of the study programme with the specific regulatory framework applicable to the relevant field (if applicable)		
Mapping of the study courses/ modules for the achievement of the learning outcomes of the study programme		
Curriculum of the study programme (for each type and form of the implementation of the study programme)		
Descriptions of the study courses/ modules		
Description of the Study Direction - Other mandatory attachments		
Sample of the diploma to be issued for the acquisition of the study programme.		
Description of the Study Programme - Other mandatory attachments		
Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college will provide the students with the options to continue the acquisition of education in another study programme or at another higher education institution/ college (a contract with another accredited higher education institution/ college), in case the implementation of the study programme is discontinued		

Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college guarantees to the students a compensation for losses if the study programme is not accredited or the licence of the study programme is revoked due to the actions of the higher education institution/ college (actions or failure to act) and the student does not wish to continue the studies in another study programme		
Confirmation of the higher education institution/ college that the teaching staff members to be involved in the implementation of the study programme have at least B2-level knowledge of a related foreign language according to European language levels (see the levels under www.europass.lv), if the study programme or any part thereof is to be implemented in a foreign language.		
If the study programmes in the study direction subject to the assessment are doctoral study programmes, a confirmation that at least five teaching staff members with doctoral degree are among the academic staff of a doctoral study programme, at least three of which are experts approved by the Latvian Science Council in the respective field or sub-field of science, in which the study programme has intended to award a scientific degree.		
If academic study programmes are implemented within the study direction, a document confirming that the academic staff of the academic study programme complies with the provisions set out in Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause three of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education		
Sample (or samples) of the study agreement		
If academic study programmes for less than 250 full-time students are implemented within the study direction, the opinion of the Council for Higher Education shall be attached in compliance with Section 55, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.		
Description of the Study Direction - Other mandatory attachments		
Electronically signed application form for assessment of a study direction	Application_Economics_ENG.doc	IESNIEGUMS studiju virziena Ekonomika novērtēšanai_edoc.edoc

Other annexes

Name of document	Document
Annex Nr.1_Quality_ENG.png	Annex Nr.1_Quality_ENG.png
Pielikums Nr. 1 kvalitāte_LV.png	Pielikums Nr. 1 kvalitāte_LV.png
Annex Nr. 2 Strategy_summary.pdf	Annex Nr. 2 Strategy_summary.pdf
Costs_management_ENG.docx	Costs_management_ENG.docx
PMSP_PBSP_DSP_izmaksas.docx	PMSP_PBSP_DSP_izmaksas.docx
Papildinformācija_DU_studiju_virziens_Ekonomika_30_03_2021.docx	Papildinformācija_DU_studiju_virziens_Ekonomika_30_03_2021.docx
CV-Europass-20191217-Oļehnoviča-EN_09.02.2021.pdf	CV-Europass-20191217-Oļehnoviča-EN_09.02.2021.pdf
PMSP_kvalifikāciju_pamatojums.docx	PMSP_kvalifikāciju_pamatojums.docx
PMSP_qualification_explanation.docx	PMSP_qualification_explanation.docx

Economics

Title of the higher education institution	<i>Economics</i>
ProcedureStudyProgram.Name	<i>Economics</i>
Education classification code	<i>51311</i>
Type of the study programme	<i>Doctoral study programme</i>
Name of the study programme director	<i>Olga</i>
Surname of the study programme director	<i>Lavriņenko</i>
E-mail of the study programme director	<i>olga.lavrinenko@du.lv</i>
Title of the study programme director	<i>Dr. oec.</i>
Phone of the study programme director	<i>26658797</i>
Goal of the study programme	<i>To improve the research and academic competence of Doctoral students for independent and innovative research and practical activities in economics for the improvement of economic theories, as well as to train highly qualified specialists for independent academic, research and practical work in the sub-branches of economics "Regional economics" and "Finance and credit".</i>
Tasks of the study programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. To implement research-based learning, promoting the acquirement and application of the methodology of theoretical and empirical research in economics, involving Doctoral students in research led by the academic staff and in other national and international research.</i> <i>2. To promote the development of topical research directions in economics in the scope of Latvian, European and world economics research, promoting the creation of new knowledge, approbation of research findings and their transfer in practice.</i> <i>3. To promote scientific communication, presentation and publication of the results of Doctoral research in the editions recognized in the field of economic science in Latvia and internationally.</i> <i>4. To promote the introduction of the latest findings and theories gained in economic research in state and local government institutions, commercial companies and other organisations.</i> <i>5. To promote Doctoral students' understanding of scientific and academic careers and to improve the competences required for academic work.</i> <i>6. To promote the mobility and experience of Doctoral students and academic staff by cooperating with foreign universities and international research organisations in attracting visiting professors and implementing joint research projects, promoting comprehensive and continuous growth opportunities in the scope of the European higher education space.</i>

Results of the study programme

Knowledge:

- 1. understanding of the historical experience of economic science development, current trends in Latvia, Europe and worldwide;*
- 2. understanding of current economic theories, scientific approaches and findings, as well as the context of their formation;*
- 3. understanding of theoretical and empirical research methods and methodologies in the field of economics and in contact with other fields of science, using an interdisciplinary approach in research;*
- 4. understanding the role of an economic researcher in the development of society, in solving socio-economic problems in the scope of national and regional policy.*

Skills:

- 1. ability to analyse, interpret the concepts of economic science, theories and topical issues of economic policy;*
- 2. ability to independently evaluate and reasonably select methods appropriate to scientific research in the field of economics (in the sub-branch of regional economics or finance and credit);*
- 3. ability to independently use theories of economic and related sciences, research methods in order to perform research activities in the field of economics in an international comparative context;*
- 4. ability to address topical issues in economics and interdisciplinary research and practice in order to broaden and provide new insights into existing knowledge and to offer research-based solutions for the improvement of professional practice;*
- 5. ability to communicate and discuss the field of economic sciences, the results of research conducted therein in Latvia and in the international environment;*
- 6. ability to take science-based decisions in solving economic problems and defend one's opinion with arguments;*
- 7. ability to promote and introduce research-based change in one's own institution, the economic sector as a whole, the sub-branch of regional economics and finance and credit.*

Competence:

- 1. carrying out the topical and independent critical analysis and evaluation of current, complex research problems in the field of economic science, contributing to the expansion and deepening of knowledge in the field of economic science;*
- 2. ability to independently, justifiably put forward innovative research ideas, critically evaluate and synthesize them in economics and in an interdisciplinary context;*
- 3. ability to independently and responsibly plan, structure and manage scientific projects;*
- 4. publishing the results of own's research in internationally recognized cited editions in Latvia and abroad;*
- 5. ability to solve important research tasks and tasks promoting innovation in one's sub-branch of economics, observing the ethical responsibility for the possible impact of economics on the development of society;*
- 6. ability to responsibly promote technological, social and cultural knowledge development in society in the context of the development of scientific and academic activities.*

Final examination upon the completion of the study programme	<i>Final Doctoral examination in economics</i> <i>Final Doctoral examination in a foreign language</i>
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Study programme forms

Full time studies - 3 years - latvian

Study type and form	<i>Full time studies</i>
Duration in full years	3
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>latvian</i>
Amount (CP)	120
Admission requirements (in English)	<i>Master's degree in social sciences, humanities, education, or natural sciences, or equivalent higher education. Report on the research topic and discussion about it; Test in a foreign language (English).</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>doctor of Science (Ph.D.) in Economics and Business</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	–

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIEŅĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Part time studies - 4 years - latvian

Study type and form	<i>Part time studies</i>
Duration in full years	4
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>latvian</i>
Amount (CP)	120
Admission requirements (in English)	<i>Master's degree in social sciences, humanities, education, or natural sciences, or equivalent higher education. Report on the research topic and discussion about it; Test in a foreign language (English).</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>doctor of Science (Ph.D.) in Economics and Business</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	–

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIEŅĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Part time studies - 4 years - english

Study type and form	<i>Part time studies</i>
Duration in full years	4
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>english</i>
Amount (CP)	120

Admission requirements (in English)	<i>Master's degree in social sciences, humanities, education, or natural sciences, or equivalent higher education. Report on the research topic and discussion about it; Test in a foreign language (English).</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>doctor of Science (Ph.D.) in Economics and Business</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	-

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Full time studies - 3 years - english

Study type and form	<i>Full time studies</i>
Duration in full years	3
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>english</i>
Amount (CP)	120
Admission requirements (in English)	<i>Master's degree in social sciences, humanities, education, or natural sciences, or equivalent higher education. Report on the research topic and discussion about it; Test in a foreign language (English).</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>doctor of Science (Ph.D.) in Economics and Business</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	-

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme)

1.1. Description and analysis of changes in study programme parameters that have taken place since the issue of the previous accreditation certificate of study direction or the license of study programme if study programme is not included in the accreditation page of the study direction

Since the previous accreditation of the study direction in accordance with the amendments to the Cabinet Regulations No. 322 "Regulations on the education classification of Latvia", the code of the DSP (Doctoral study programme) "Economics" has been changed from 51310 to 51311. Since the previous accreditation of the study direction, the title of the degree to be awarded upon completion of the DSP "Economics" has been changed in accordance with the changes in the Cabinet Regulations No. 202 "Procedures by which state recognised education documents certifying higher education are issued" from "Doctor of Economics" to "Doctor of Science (Ph.D.) in Economics and Business".

DU has sufficient academic capacity for the implementation of the doctoral study programme (five professors and four associate professors are involved in the implementation of the programme, for 80% of them the proficiency level of English is equal to standard C1 according to CEFRL). The study programme in English will allow for attracting foreign students. In the period since the previous accreditation, three have been three foreign doctoral students in the doctoral study programme.

1.2. Analysis and assessment of the statistical data on the students of the respective study programme, the dynamics of the number of the students, and the factors affecting the changes to the number of the students. The analysis shall be broken down in the different study forms, types, and languages.

The DSP "Economics" of DU has been implemented since 2004. From academic year 2013/2014 to 2020/2021 the number of students in the Doctoral study programme "Economics" has in general remained approximately at the same rate of: In total, there are 9 - 11 doctoral students in the study years 1 - 3 of the study programme. This testifies to a stable demand for the study programme. Since the previous accreditation, in the period from the study year 2013/2014 until the study year 2019/2020 there were three foreign and nineteen Latvian doctoral students in the programme

During this period, sixteen Doctoral theses were defended, but since the establishment of the Doctoral programme, a total of 21 theses have been defended. From 2008 to 2013, Doctoral students had access to funding from the ESF project "Support for Doctoral programme" (No. 2009/-0140/1DP/1.1..2.1.2/09/IPIA/VIAA/o15), thus the proportion of the defended theses was relatively higher during this period.

Within the framework of the European Social Fund project No. 8.2.2.0/18/A/022 "Strengthening the professional competence of the academic staff in the areas of strategic specialization at Daugavpils

University" [1], in 2020 the Doctoral candidates E.Čižo (already submitted the work to the State scientific qualification commission) and A. Homutiņins received support for the defence of their theses.

The demand for studies for budget funds is stable and high enough. The main applicants for state-funded places are graduates of Master's study programmes who want to continue their studies, as well as university lecturers who are motivated by the opportunity to apply for a higher academic position in case a scientific degree is obtained.

Full-time form of learning is in most demand. The form of part-time studies is used only by students from abroad. Learning is conducted in Latvian, implementation of the study programme in English has been applied for accreditation, because the capacity and competence of the lecturers involved in the DSP "Economics" allow it to be successfully implemented.

[1]Nr.8.2.2.0/18/A/022 "Daugavpils Universitātes stratēģiskās specializācijas jomu akadēmiskā personāla profesionālās kompetences stiprināšana"
<https://du.lv/projekti/projekti/es-fondu-projekti/esf-lidzfinansetie-projekti/daugavpils-universitates-strategiskas-specializācijas-jomu-akademiska-personala-profesionalas-kompetences-stiprināsana/>[pārlūkots 5.08.2019.]

1.3. Analysis and assessment of the interrelation between the name of the study programme, the degree or professional qualification to be acquired or the degree and professional qualification to be acquired, the aims, objectives, learning outcomes, and the admission requirements.

As shown by the Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 345 "On the Conceptual Report "On the Implementation of a New Doctoral Model in Latvia" of 25.06.2020", the number of persons employed in research in Latvia is currently still critically low (both in total and in the share of the total national workforce), reaching only ~ 50% of the EU average[1]. Firstly, it is a significant obstacle to Latvia's competitiveness and participation in the EU innovation processes and programmes, and secondly, it hinders the creation of new knowledge, transfer and development of innovations in Latvia. In order for companies to create new higher value-added products and services by implementing innovative solutions, they need human resources with appropriate research and innovation capacity. In addition, there is a growing demand for appropriately educated academic staff for Doctoral training and research. Thus, the DSP "Economics" is an essential condition for further education and professional development in the field of economics.

The aim and tasks of the DSP "Economics", as well as the learning outcomes obtained during the studies correspond to the eighth EQF level (Cabinet Regulation No. 322 "Regulations on the classification of Latvian education"), which is the Doctoral study level.

The title of the DSP "Economics", the degree to be awarded, the aim and tasks, the learning outcomes to be achieved, as well as the admission requirements are interrelated and aligned. For foreign applicants, the English language proficiency test is carried out in compliance with Cabinet Regulation No. 846 "Regulations Regarding the Requirements, Criteria and Procedures for Admission to Study Programmes" (detalizētāka informācija par uzņemšanas noteikumiem ārvalstniekiem pieejama DU mājaslapā <https://du.lv/en/studies-admission/admission/>).

The study programme in the form of full-time learning is implemented within three years, part-time studies - within four years.

In compliance with the regulatory documents of the Republic of Latvia, after passing the doctoral examination, the doctoral student receives an academic certificate on the acquisition of study courses envisaged in the DSP, which is the document certifying the successful acquisition of the DSP. Upon completion of the doctoral study programme the student transfers to the status of a *degree applicant* ("*Law on Scientific Activity*"). The status of the degree applicant envisages that the applicant prepares the doctoral thesis for pre-defence, publishes the results related to the doctoral thesis in the form of research publications and presents them at scientific conferences and congresses both at the national and international level.

The doctoral thesis is prepared for pre-defence (see Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia (No. 1001, 27.12.2005) "Procedure and Criteria for Awarding a Doctoral Degree (Promotion)", p. 15.1) and its defence is not to be envisaged as a mandatory requirement in the DSP. The degree applicant has the right to choose any Promotion Council for the defence procedure, be it in Latvia, any of the European Union member states or elsewhere, and to submit the thesis for pre-defence in the respective Promotion Council. Upon the successful defence of the Doctoral thesis in presence of DU Promotion Council of Economics and Business, the candidates for a scientific degree are awarded a Doctoral degree of the Doctor of Science (PhD) in Economics and Business.

Persons with a Master's degree in social sciences, humanities, education, or natural sciences, or equivalent higher education are admitted to the Doctoral study programme.

Most Doctoral students do academic or research work in higher education institutions or have a potential opportunity to get a post of docents. Therefore, the knowledge, skills and competences acquired in the Doctoral programme are a means of professional development. Modern scientific research methods are mastered, the latest information and communication technologies are used, students regularly participate in scientific conferences in Latvia and abroad, participate in the work of DU International Conference Organizing Committee, have practical placement at other universities and research centers, publish their research results in internationally peer-reviewed scientific editions, conduct in-depth research, improve the quality of academic work, as well as promote the introduction of the latest economic findings and theories in state and local government institutions, commercial companies and other organisations.

The number of enrolled students in the period from the study year 2013/2014 until the study year 2019/2020 on average was 2-5 people in one study year.

The systematic implementation of the content of the study programme, purposeful planning of the study process, diversification and improvement of study forms and methods, provision of independent learning, as well as regular assessment and improvement of study quality contribute to the achievement of the aim and tasks set in the DSP "Economics".

The aim and tasks of the study programme correspond to the aims set in the "Daugavpils University Development Strategy for 2015 - 2020", ensuring the emphasis on the acquirement of professional competences and attracting industry professionals, emphasizing opportunities of practical classes and independent learning, establishing closer cooperation with employers, improving the evaluation process, as well as intensifying the use of information and communication technologies in the study process, research and scientific communication activities.

[1] 25.06.2020. Ministru kabineta rīkojums Nr.345 „Par konceptuālo ziņojumu "Par jauna doktorantūras modeļa ieviešanu Latvijā"<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/315685-par-konceptualo-zinojumu-par-jauna-doktoranturas-modela-iev>

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof)

2.1. Assessment of the relevance of the content of the study course/ module and the compliance with the needs of the relevant industry and labour market and with the trends in science. Provide information on how and whether the content of the study course/ module is updated in line with the development trends of the relevant industry, labour market, and science. In case of master's and doctoral study programmes, specify and provide the justification as to whether the degrees are awarded in view of the developments and findings in the field of science or artistic creation.

The topicality of the study programme is confirmed by several aspects.

- The need for more intensive renewal of research human capital, which is emphasized in the Guidelines for Science, Technology Development and Innovation for 2021-2027[1], in order to promote both the branches of science, incl. economic development, and closer links with industry and full participation in international research projects, especially within the new Doctoral model (including a significantly higher number of degree holders).
- the demand for higher level professionals in the field of economics is systematically emphasized in Latvian and international researches[2], as well as in planning documents[3], as it is necessary for successful competitiveness in the labour market, which is also confirmed by the demand of regional organisations for financial, development, innovation and change managers.
- Training human resources for smart and sustainable growth. The European Union prioritises smart growth[4], which calls for the development of the economics based on knowledge and innovation. Based on the priorities of the smart specialization strategy and the key points in the Guidelines for Science, Technology Development and Innovation[5], it is important to ensure training of human resources for use and implementation of new innovations and technological opportunities, finding new market niches and adapting types and forms of economic activities, especially in Latgale region. Several documents[6] emphasize the need to establish RIS3[7] research and innovation centres of excellence in order to develop RIS3 areas of specialization, ensuring both the sharing of research infrastructures and resources and open access to innovation, provided that regional universities have a role of an excellence leader, which cannot be achieved without higher level of studies.
- Improving knowledge and technology transfer, including the digital transformation of the R&D (research and development) system, developing an open science culture and making research data and results widely available and usable in society, while fostering collaboration between public research and the business sector in developing innovation (emphasized in the "Guidelines for Science, Technology Development and Innovation for 2021-2027"). DU as a regional university performs the function of knowledge and technology transfer within the study programmes.

The structure of the DSP "Economics" complies with the laws and regulatory enactments in force in the Republic of Latvia, which determine and regulate the procedure for obtaining a scientific

degree. The development of the study programme is purposefully aimed at training the highest level specialists for the Latvian labour market, who will be competent researchers and lecturers and professional economists. The total amount of studies is comprised of theoretical courses and courses in the acquirement of practical skills in the amount of 34 credit points (hereinafter - CP) (including 4 CP added to Doctoral students from abroad for the Latvian language study courses), elaboration of the Doctoral thesis in the amount of 72 CP, methodological seminars on Doctoral theses 18 CP, i.e. a total of 120 CP (4 CP added to Doctoral students from abroad). Acquirement of theoretical courses and practical skills makes up 30% of the total amount of Doctoral studies, research activities aimed at the elaboration of the Doctoral thesis - 70%.

The DSP "Economics" consists of three parts: Part A - compulsory for all Doctoral students 40 CP, Part A specialization (individual research work according to the sub-branch of the Doctoral study programme in economics) - 68 CP, optional part B according to the sub-branch of economics - 12 CP.

In the first year of studies, Doctoral students from abroad are offered the opportunity to learn the basics of the Latvian language and get acquainted with the economic terminology in the Latvian language. Time is allocated to the systematization of theoretical aspects and regularities of economic development and organization of scientific research, study courses in the development of analytical skills and abilities are acquired ("Modern research methods in economic science", "Topical theories and methodologies of economic and financial research"), assigning a significant place to the elaboration of the thesis ("Elaboration of the Doctoral thesis I", "Elaboration of the Doctoral thesis II", "Methodological seminar on the Doctoral thesis I", "Methodological seminar on the Doctoral thesis I II"). The final examination "Doctoral examination in English" is to be taken.

In the second year of studies the improvement of skills of scientific data acquisition continues (basic courses "Smart data analysis in economics", "Topical theories and methodologies of economic and financial research"), the skills of carrying out a research and elaborating a Doctoral thesis are developed ("Elaboration of the Doctoral thesis III", "Elaboration of the Doctoral thesis IV"), with a significant emphasis on aspects of specialization, acquiring study courses, according to the chosen sub-branch (finance and credit or regional economics). In the third year of studies, students deepen their knowledge, skills and competences in their original research, specialization study courses are acquired in accordance with the chosen sub-branch ("Modelling a company's financial risk", "Topical issues in finance", "Contemporary theory and practice of regional development", "Strategic planning of regional development"). The exam is taken in the sub-branch (finance and credit or regional economics).

The study courses "Modern research methods in economic science", "Smart data analysis in economics" are constantly updated, because changes in the field of information technologies are taking place very rapidly, the possibilities of using technical means and computer software tools in scientific research are significantly expanding. Methodological and theoretical issues, as well as cyclical processes of economic development, which are characterized by changes in quantitative and qualitative indicators of different national economies, are reflected in the following study courses: "Topical theories and methodologies of economic and financial research", "Modelling a company's financial risk", "Interregional innovation systems". The problems specific to different regions and the possibilities of solving them are revealed in the study course "Contemporary theory and practice of regional development", with special emphasis on the European Union. Continuous changes in society and economics are reflected in the content of all courses, which are periodically improved accordingly. Every year the lecturers involved in the programme review the content of their delivered courses, update the list of information sources in accordance with the latest trends in the field of economics and related sciences.

The Doctoral theses are elaborated in accordance with the latest achievements in the field of economics, research methodology is developed using the latest methods, scientific articles are prepared and research results are approved at international scientific conferences and seminars. The compliance of the DSP "Economics" with the demand of the labour market is ensured by consistently focusing on the Cabinet of Ministers Order No. 345 "On the Conceptual Report "On the Implementation of a New Doctoral Model in Latvia" of 25.06.2020", international standards regarding the acquirement of social sciences, current trends in economics. In accordance with the key points of the Guidelines for Science, Technology Development and Innovation[8], and taking into account the progression towards the introduction of the new Doctoral model[9], mutual cooperation of Doctoral students and closer cooperation with academic staff in Latvia and abroad is promoted. Within the framework of the study courses, time is allocated to the cooperation of Doctoral students with scientific advisors, emphasizing its connection with the research performed by the Doctoral student.

Doctoral students and degree candidates elaborate and publish joint articles and are engaged in working groups within projects. For example, in cooperation of several Doctoral students, postdoctoral students, the academic staff of DU and Rezekne Academy of Technologies, an article has been published: Selivanova-Fyodorova N., Komarova V., Lonska J., Mietule I. (2019) Differentiation of internal regions in the EU countries. In: Insights into Regional Development, Vol. 1.

In the course of studies, the Doctoral student V.Šipilova participated in an interdisciplinary inter-university research network, engaging in the project of the National Research Programme "Transformation of Economy, Smart Growth, Governance and Legal Framework for Sustainable Development of the State and Society - A New Approach to Creation of a Sustainable Knowledge Society (EKOSOC-LV)", which resulted in the publication of scientific results in international editions.

The structure and content of the DSP "Economics" integrate and incorporate current issues in the development of modern economics, the experience and knowledge of cooperation partners gained through long-term cooperation with companies, municipalities and education institutions, as well as scientific research findings of working group representatives gained from participation in international conferences, congresses, seminars, the results of the professional competence development from ERASMUS + mobilities.

The prospects of the study programme are determined by the "National Development Plan (NDP) of Latvia for 2021-2027, "Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030", "The Smart Specialization Strategy for Latvia", which are also included in the tasks to be implemented by the DSP "Economics" - human capital development in the region, increasing productivity through involvement of qualified human resources and wider dissemination of innovations, including intensifying the cooperation of DU staff and students with employers' representatives. Close interaction between the academia and the private sector is needed for more successful knowledge transfer between companies and universities, as well as between the public and private sectors.

Graduates of the study programme have the opportunity to defend their Doctoral thesis in the session of DU Promotion Council of Economics and Business. The award of a scientific degree is based on the achievements and findings in the relevant branch of science and the applicant must prove the novelty of his / her research and the possibilities for the practical application of the results.

The DSP "Economics" trains human resources in accordance with the topical points of the regional development paradigm, because Sustainable Development Strategy of Daugavpils for 2014-2030[10] states that Daugavpils has a leading role in the Eastern Baltic region in education, science and innovation. Therefore, it is important for Daugavpils University to offer quality education that complies with international standards and is competitive, incl. at the Doctoral level.

Within the framework of the DSP “Economics”, the transfer of smart knowledge is promoted, ensuring a fuller use of local resources. This is confirmed by feedback from employers, which emphasizes the demand for the programme and the growing trend of employment opportunities for graduates. The heads of several state and local government institutions are graduates or students of the DSP “Economics” (e.g. G. Vanags, the head of *Altum* Daugavpils branch, J. Kudiņš, DU vice-rector for the development affairs, I. Jakovļeva, the head of *Daugavpils housing facilities and public utilities* enterprise, S. Ežmale, the manager of Rēzekne Special Economic Zones and others). A.Zelčš, the head of the LIAA Business Incubator, and I.Malina-Tabūne, the manager of the Latgale Special Economic Zone, emphasize that the demand for Doctoral level specialists in Latgale is high enough. Approximately 80% of the DSP “Economics” students are employed in Eastern Latvia, thus strengthening the competitiveness and potential of the region in the interregional and European context.

[1]Zinātnes, tehnoloģijas attīstības un inovācijas pamatnostādnes 2021.-2027.gadam [pārlūkots 10.10.2020.]

https://www.izm.gov.lv/images/1_ZTAIP2027_priek%C5%A1likuma_dokuments_uz_16_07.pdf

[2]Jobs of Tomorrow Mapping Opportunity in the New Economy. World Economic Forum, 2020 [pārlūkots 15.05.2020.] http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Jobs_of_Tomorrow_2020.pdf

OECD Employment Outlook 2019. OECD, 2019. [pārlūkots 14.11.2019.] <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9ee00155-en.pdf?expires=1588342349&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=3570100D5466B3848CAE609AA9483827>

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[10]Daugavpils pilsētas ilgspējīgas attīstības stratēģijā 2014.-2030. gadam [pārlūkots 20.09.2019.]
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2.2. Assessment of the interrelation between the information included in the study courses/ modules, the intended learning outcomes, the set aims and other indicators, the relation between the aims of the study course/ module and the aims and intended outcomes of the study programme. In case of a doctoral study programme, provide a description of the main research roadmaps and the impact of the study programme on research and other education levels.

The mapping of the results of the study programme and study courses shows that the Doctoral study programme and study courses comply with the eighth EQF / LQF level and the requirements specified in regulatory enactments. The results of the study courses and the study programme are mutually coordinated and logically connected. Study courses ensure full-fledged student-centered implementation of the study programme. The research directions of the Doctoral programme are “Regional economics”, “Finance and Credit”, which is logically coordinated with lower level programmes within DU study direction “Economics”. At the same time, Doctoral students are prospective young scientists who are educated through carrying out scientific research and professionals who make a significant contribution to the creation of new knowledge, products, methods and systems, as well as to the transfer of knowledge.¹¹

The integrity of practice and science is ensured by the close cooperation of the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Social Sciences with the Social Research Centre of the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as other DU research centres. Within the framework of cooperation, the elaboration of Doctoral theses, applied research, independent work, is carried out through implementation of interdisciplinary research (in the fields of economics, sociology, psychology, management science, law).

DU Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences publishes two journals: the Journal of Social Sciences and the Regional Review (in the English language), which are included in various internationally cited databases, such as ERIH +, EBSCO, ProQuest, etc. Doctoral students publish the results of their research in internationally available databases, LCS-recognized and other scientific publications with the aim of faster integration into the local and international scientific community. During the implementation of the DSP “Economics” Doctoral students published more than 120 publications, incl. as co-authors together with lecturers in scientific publications indexed in *SCOPUS* and other databases; the results of the research of many Doctoral theses are used in the practice of various institutions, which is confirmed by the references of the institutions submitted to the Doctoral Council. For example, as a result of interdisciplinary and international cooperation involving Doctoral students, postdoctoral students and academic staff, an article indexed in the Scopus database was elaborated: Lavrinenko, O.; Ignatjeva, S. ; Ohotina, A.; Rybalkin, O.; Lazdans, D. 2019. “The Role of Green Economy in Sustainable Development (Case Study: The EU States),” In: *Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues* 6 (3): 1113-1126.

Doctoral students of the DSP "Economics" participate in scientific and scientific-practical conferences, for example, annual DU international scientific conferences, Doctoral student conferences organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as foreign scientific conferences. One of the factors promoting research is the involvement of Doctoral students in research projects both together with lecturers and independently. Postdoctoral students are also regularly involved in projects implemented by the academic staff, for example, the Doctoral students of the DSP "Economics" J.Kudiņš and Leikuma-Rimicāne participated in the *Interreg* Latvia-Lithuania programme project "Mentoring for Youth Entrepreneurship Support, BONUS LT-LV" along with representatives of Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania) and industry representatives, while the Doctoral candidate A.Homutiņins when elaborating his Doctoral thesis participated in the activities within the framework of DU internal grant No.14-95/10 "Assessment of smart growth opportunities in Latgale regions".

Doctoral and postdoctoral students are regularly engaged in the implementation of study courses, supplementing the content of study courses (descriptions) with newly acquired research results, delivering study courses or their parts in cooperation with the academic staff.

Doctoral students participate in various scientific activities. The Doctoral student A.Homutiņins regularly participates in scientific communication events organized by DU, e.g., activities of the Day of Young Entrepreneurs, scientific and practical seminars (incl. with the participation of local governments and business representatives), thus enriching the study process at the Bachelor's level in the study direction "Economics".

DU provides support for the scientific and practical activities of lecturers by annually organizing the "Daugavpils University research project competition", which ensures the development of DU's scientific activities and scientific excellence; promotes the research growth of DU academic, scientific staff and students; promotes the practical applicability of scientific results, cooperation with the private sector and attraction of additional external funding; promotes the formation of innovative interdisciplinary research groups for the implementation of topical researches. Lecturers of the DSP "Economics" L.Aleksejeva, O.Lavriņenko, A.Ohotina (Daņiļeviča), A.Čaplinska regularly participate in this project competition.

[1]¹25.06.2020. Ministru kabineta rīkojums Nr.345 „Par konceptuālo ziņojumu "Par jauna doktorantūras modeļa ieviešanu Latvijā"<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/315685-par-konceptualo-zinojumu-par-jauna-doktoranturas-modela-ieviesanu-latvija>

2.3. Assessment of the study implementation methods (including the evaluation methods) by providing the analysis of how the study implementation methods (including the evaluation methods) used in the study courses/ modules are selected, what they are, and how they contribute to the achievement of the learning outcomes of the study courses and the aims of the study programme. Provide an explanation of how the student-centred principles are taken into account in the implementation of the study process.

The main element that distinguishes Doctoral studies from first and second level studies is the performance of original scientific research in the study process, creating new knowledge. [1]

In accordance with the aim of the study programme and the clearly formulated learning outcomes to be achieved, the appropriate (including evaluation) methods of implementing the studies are

used in the process of the study course elaboration.

Various teaching methods are used in the implementation of the programme: lectures, seminars, group work, consultations, individual work (time allotted to research, when elaborating the Doctoral thesis and publications occupies 70% of full-time study time). Through scientific research, Doctoral students acquire new knowledge, products, methods and systems, as well as skills in problem solving, develop innovative, creative and critical thinking, acquire in-depth study of knowledge analysis and synthesis, development of strategies, elaboration of internationally recognized scientific publications. The study process is based on the independent work of Doctoral students, which is supplemented with various individual and group work methods. Independent work implies work with scientific and methodological sources, compilation of research materials, etc., at the same time moving towards in-depth study of the topic of the Doctoral thesis in the specific field within the requirements of study courses. Independent work of Doctoral students in cooperation with lecturers, as well as through involvement of students of other levels and other Doctoral research groups takes place by developing and implementing projects, conducting research activities (e.g., creating databases, processing research data), preparing for seminars, as well as working on scientific publications and presentation of reports at conferences. Thus, the acquirement of knowledge through research is ensured, the interdisciplinarity of research, as well as further development of the acquired skills is formed.

Doctoral students in cooperation with lecturers, incl. within the framework of interdisciplinary research groups, regularly present the results of their research at international scientific conferences, e.g. in November, a 1st-year Doctoral student Z.Vitols in cooperation with assoc. prof. L.Aleksejeva and doc. I.Ostrovskaja participated in the 9th International Scientific Conference "Public Management 2020. The Contemporary Problems of Management, Defense and Security" (Warsaw, Poland), presenting the report "The EU Multi-Annual Budget Performance Analysis Under Program "Security And Citizenship" In The Baltic States". In some theoretical courses, such as "Topical theories and methodologies of economic and financial research", Doctoral students participate in theoretical lectures, analyze the original works of economic theorists, as well as prepare reports, which are read and discussed together in seminars. Lecturers plan the content of contact classes observing the phases of introduction, comprehension and reflection, thus ensuring the full acquirement of knowledge, skills and competences.

Special attention is paid to the observance of the principles of student-centred learning in the programme, respectively, increased value is given to the professional and personal experience of a Doctoral student, diversity of needs, provision of options, evaluation and self-evaluation, comprehensive feedback between the Doctoral student and lecturer. The Doctoral student is an active participant of the study process, who activates learning in order to be able to independently manage his/her study process: to set goals, plan the fulfillment of tasks, develop evaluation principles, etc. Aware of their participation in the maintenance of the principles of student-centered learning, the lecturers of the programme are welcoming, participation and cooperation-oriented, which is confirmed by the consultations provided by lecturers and encouraging Doctoral students to actively participate in scientific discussions, seminars and lectures. Providing feedback is an important source of improvement for the Doctoral student, lecturer and the programme as such. One of the principles of student-centered learning concerns aspects of evaluation. Within the framework of the programme, the content of each study course includes clear requirements for obtaining credit points and criteria for the elaboration and evaluation of a test or examination paper, about which each Doctoral student of the programme is informed. In order to ensure the achievement of the learning outcomes of the programme and to make the necessary improvements in the content of the programme, at the end of each academic year Doctoral students evaluate the quality of the study courses and provide their recommendations for the improvement of the study

courses.

[1]25.06.2020. Ministru kabineta rīkojums Nr.345 „Par konceptuālo ziņojumu ”Par jauna doktorantūras modeļa ieviešanu Latvijā”<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/315685-par-konceptualo-zinojumu-par-jauna-doktoranturas-modela-ieviesanu-latvija>

2.4. If the study programme entails a traineeship, provide the analysis and assessment of the relation between the tasks of the traineeship included in the study programme and the learning outcomes of the study programme. Specify how the higher education institution/ college supports the students within the study programme regarding the fulfilment of the tasks set for students during the traineeship.

2.5. Analysis and assessment of the topics of the final theses of the students, their relevance in the respective field, including the labour market, and the evaluations of the final theses.

Since the previous accreditation, 17 Doctoral Theses have been defended in the period from the study year 2013/2014 until the study year 2019/2020. The topics of the theses relate to various topical areas. In the sub-branch “Regional economics” 18 Doctoral theses were defended, the following topical problems were studied: convergence (divergence) of socio-economic development of European Union regions, development and spatial planning of Latvian regions in the context of EU policies, assessment of competitiveness of Latvian regions and the potential increase in the EU, income and living standards of residents of regions, polycentrism, interregional migration, assessment of attractiveness of regional investment, cross-border cooperation, innovations in regions, development of tourism as a factor of territorial development, aspects of the regional labour market, socio-economic and energy security, structural changes in manufacturing and their impact on the economic growth, research of the efficiency of the Latvian higher education system and medium-term development models. The topicality of the research topics is determined by the most important problems of the regions and their uneven development, which is the result of the influence of various factors. In the sub-branch “Finance and credit” 3 Doctoral theses were defended, their topics relate to solvency and the issues of bank loan portfolio formation in Latvia, management of company assets, their assessment and financial efficiency, development of express assessment models for Latvian companies for the groups of users, financial development of the country and its impact on the economics. The research topics of this direction are potentially related to the problems of economic growth, which are determined by financial development at both macro and micro levels.

The Doctoral theses elaborated at DU are dedicated to the research of topical social, economic and financial problems both on the scale of Latvian and world economics, offering an original developed methodology and valuable empirical results that can make a significant contribution to the development of the industry in the country. Most graduates of the DSP “Economics” demonstrate examples of good practice, combining scientific and academic capacity with highly qualified

professional activities based on the latest achievements in the economic science. Thus, the compliance of research work with the new challenges of the national economy and involvement in the development of professional career is ensured.

2.6. Analysis and assessment of the outcomes of the surveys conducted among the students, graduates, and employers, and the use of these outcomes for the improvement of the content and quality of studies by providing the respective examples.

DU annually conducts a survey of Doctoral students, graduates and employers with the aim to check the quality of the study programme and satisfaction of Doctoral students with the programme in general, the offered study courses, as well as other aspects related to the study process.

Students are thus involved in the evaluation and analysis of learning outcomes. Also during the acquirement of each course, lecturers receive feedback from Doctoral students on the need for the course, teaching quality, satisfaction with classes, provision of teaching aids, quality and quantity of requirements, effectiveness of the lecturers' work style, psychological climate during classes, etc.

The results of the survey are used to improve the content and quality of studies. Taking into consideration the results of student surveys and the formal indicators of student success, the content of each study course and the quality of teaching them are thoroughly analysed. Afterwards it is decided on the changes to be introduced into the content of study courses or in the organization of the study process; if necessary, these issues are also considered in the study direction council. As a result, the content of DSP courses is being regularly improved. When delivering a study course, the students research interests and topicalities in the field are taken into account, i.e. what the students expect from the study course, what knowledge they have received, what is their satisfaction with the study programme, and what should be improved.

According to the results of the 2019 survey, two thirds of Doctoral students are completely or basically satisfied with the overall structure of the study programme, one third of the respondents have a neutral evaluation. Two thirds of the respondents agree with the statement "Teaching quality is at a high level", one third of the respondents have a neutral evaluation. The majority of students agree that the content of the study courses mostly does not duplicate each other.

The survey of graduates showed that the absolute majority (80%) are completely satisfied with the programme, 15% - basically satisfied, 5% - partially satisfied. 70% evaluate the supply of the programme with study literature, methodological materials at a sufficient level, 30% consider it necessary to improve the availability of used information sources and their diversity. 62% believe that the programme is sufficiently provided with visiting lecturers, the rest made a proposal to invite more foreign lecturers. The elaborators of the programme take into account the desire expressed in the survey of graduates to pay more attention to the connection of theoretical material with practical research activities. Graduates are satisfied with cooperation with lecturers. It should be noted that 86% of graduates consider the choice of DU Doctoral programme to be correct.

The data of surveys of Doctoral students, graduates and employers are carefully collected and analyzed (at the Department of Economics, Council of the study direction "Economics"), providing additional anonymous feedback, with the aim to improve the quality and efficiency of the programme and to facilitate the improvement of the content and form of the programme.

The graduates of the DSP “Economics” are in demand in the labour market. Taking care of the connection between science and professional activity, several graduates of the DSP “Economics” perform scientific and academic activities at DU Faculty of Social Sciences (for example, L. Aleksejeva, A. Čaplinska), Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (O. Lavriņenko, O. Ruža, A. Ohotina, V. Špilova), ensuring the qualified delivery of study courses in accordance with the standards of science and practice and conducting scientific research in economics. The graduates of the DSP work at Rezekne Academy of Technologies (for example, I. Arbidāne, S. Ežmale, J. Lonska), the Baltic International Academy (S. Ignatjevs) and other higher education institutions, local governments (N. Jefimovs), state institutions and municipal companies (E. Račko, I. Jermaļonoka), commercial banks (E. Užens), private companies (E. Čižo, R. Renemanis, A. Vanags).

Employers highly value the graduates of the programme, because the deepening of knowledge in the field of scientific research has a positive effect on the motivation of Doctoral students. In Doctoral studies, lecturers and researchers fascinate and involve Doctoral students in their research process, which helps to pass on experience, elaborate joint articles, speak at international scientific conferences, implement joint projects. In turn, research results, including scientific publications, are incorporated into the descriptions of study courses in the direction “Economics” (e.g., bibliographic lists), thus ensuring the transfer and integration of research results into the study process.

Given the importance of fostering collaboration between universities, business and the state, Doctoral students and graduates of the programme often represent all three of these parties and can form contacts and collaborations that have a positive impact on the development of innovative systems in the region. An example of such cooperation is the international consortium established at the initiative of Daugavpils University researchers, the aim of which is to promote cooperation in the field of innovation in order to improve sustainable development in ecology in the regions of Central and Eastern Europe. The members of the consortium are entrepreneurs and researchers, lecturers from Daugavpils University (Latvia), Vitebsk State University (Belarus), Kazimieras Simonavičius University (Lithuania), as well as graduates of Doctoral and Master’s programmes and students of economics, law, ecology, entrepreneurs and representatives of other areas. Thus, a contribution to the improvement of the study content and quality will be made.

2.7. Provide the assessment of the options of the incoming and outgoing mobility of the students, the dynamics of the number of the used opportunities, and the recognition of the study courses acquired during the mobility.

Analyzing the incoming and outgoing mobility opportunities of the DSP “Economics” for students, it should be emphasized that during the reporting period Doctoral students used outgoing mobility opportunities within the programme. In 2015 (01.07.2015-30.09.2015) and 2016 (01.02.2016-31.08.2016) the Doctoral student J. Jefremova participated in the learner mobility programme, having a practical placement in the Netherlands in the transport company “Nijman-BelNed B.V.”.

In academic year 2018/2019 (09.10.2018-15.02.2019) V. Aleksejeva studied at the University of Rijeka, Croatia. Study courses acquired during mobility are recognized in accordance with the requirements of the Erasmus + programme. Doctoral students obtain full academic recognition from DU for successfully completed study courses during mobility, based on the Learning Agreement. During her mobility at the University of Rijeka, V. Aleksejeva acquired the study courses “Environmental economics and policy” and “Research methodology”, which were

academically fully recognized and equated to DU study courses. The lecturers of the equated DU study courses and the director of the study programme were involved in the equating and recognition procedure in order to ascertain the need to study the courses acquired at the University of Rijeka in accordance with the Doctoral student's level and / or the content, volume and learning outcomes. The director of the study programme and the lecturers confirm the recognition of the respective study courses with their signatures.

Students are regularly informed about outgoing mobility opportunities of *ERASMUS+*, the coordinators organize informative seminars, meetings aimed at sharing the experience, provide information on DU website.

It can be concluded that outgoing mobility in the reporting period in the DSP "Economics" was not regular mainly due to personal circumstances of Doctoral students, because almost all DU Doctoral students combine the study process with the work in public institutions and private companies. In turn, incoming mobility was not implemented, because in the reporting period the DSP "Economics" was implemented only in Latvian.

During the reporting period, a foreign student from Azerbaijan, Naila Musayeva, studied in the programme, who prior to her Doctoral studies at DU had acquired the Latvian language at Rezekne Academy of Technology and in 2017 successfully defended her Doctoral thesis "Development of Regional Tourism in Azerbaijan".

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (3. Resources and Provision of the Study Programme)

3.1. Assessment of the compliance of the resources and provision (study provision, scientific support (if applicable), informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision) with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the learning outcomes to be achieved by providing the respective examples. Whilst carrying out the assessment, it is possible to refer to the information provided for in the criteria set forth in Part II, Chapter 3, sub-paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3.

The resources and provision of the study programme (see the information provided in Criteria 3.1-3.3 of Chapter 3) fully comply with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the achievement of learning outcomes.

The DSP "Economics" is ensured by the following infrastructure elements: tools and equipment (for preparation, combination (from several sources) and integration, visualization and distribution of study and research materials), information networks (Internet, DU intranet, Moodle), databases (library network, databases of DU research centres, free access databases, database of book resources), materials (research materials, scientific publications, including Scopus publications, archives), services (administrative, financial, IT and network support services, access to data of official statistics), computer applications and software (Standard Office, SPSS, VISIO, AllFusion Process Modeler (BPwin), PDF (PortableDocumentFormat), Vensim, MatLab, GIS, online data visualization tools and software, online communication tools) that allow research at various stages and provide a flexible and student-oriented environment.

In order to ensure the study process, scientific research, elaboration of projects and Doctoral theses, the Doctoral students matriculated in the study programme use modern and technically equipped classrooms, computer classes, a library and a reading room. DU infrastructure corresponds to the provision of the study programme and the implementation of the study process. Within the research infrastructure of DU, the expert evaluation of the study programme and the independent work of Doctoral students is ensured. In cooperation with the scientific advisor, as well as the academic staff involved in the implementation of the study programme, the topic is elaborated in depth, based on research of scientific sources in the DU library, research centres and the department, through wider contacts with local researchers and professionals, acquaintance with the ongoing research and projects. The technically equipped study classrooms provide for the use of the Internet, audio, video and projection equipment, multimedia devices and software, as well as computers for the needs of Doctoral students. There are several computer classes. The material, technical and methodological provision of the study programme corresponds to the aims and tasks of the study programme. DU has computer classes, which are supplied with the necessary software and internet connection. The Faculty of Social Sciences has video/data projectors and graphic projectors, which are used to demonstrate lecture and seminar materials. In order to improve the quality of teaching and ensure independent learning of Doctoral students, lecturers are invited to become more actively involved in the preparation of study materials in the Moodle environment. Doctoral students can communicate with lecturers via e-mail, Skype, Zoom or Moodle environment.

At the end of 2015, the project "Improving the quality of Daugavpils University study programmes and ensuring accessible environment", co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), was completed at Daugavpils University. Within the framework of the project, the modernization and adaptation of the infrastructure of Daugavpils University for persons with special needs was implemented, thus improving the accessibility of the environment for persons with functional disorders (movement, vision, hearing impairments). In the university buildings at Vienības Street 13, Parādes Street 1, DU training facilities "Ilgas", the premises were adapted for persons with special needs. Classrooms are accessible to people in wheelchairs - elevators and lifts have been installed, thresholds have been removed, door widths have been adjusted. Information is accessible to visually impaired and hearing impaired - projection devices, sound amplifying equipment have been installed; children's rooms have been created for students - young parents - for changing and feeding the baby, and a playroom - for childminding while young parents study.

3.2. Assessment of the study provision and scientific support, including the resources provided within the cooperation with other science institutes and institutions of higher education (applicable to the doctoral study programmes).

Cooperation with other scientific institutions and higher education institutions takes place within the framework of various activities: organisation of joint international scientific conferences and seminars, review of scientific articles and projects, review of Doctoral theses, participation in editorial boards of scientific journals and article collections, delivery of lectures, participation in Doctoral councils, project elaboration and implementation, writing joint articles with co-authors, participation in Erasmus+ activities, etc. Cooperation agreements have been concluded with several research and educational institutions of Latvia (University of Latvia, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, etc.) and other countries (International Business School of Kaunas University and Kazimieras Simonavičius University in Lithuania, European University in Georgia, Nikolaus Copernicus University in Poland, Saint Petersburg State University in Russia, Vitebsk State

University in Belarus, etc.). For example, in cooperation with Kazimieras Simonavičius University in 2020, Doctoral students of the DSP “Economics” were involved in the elaboration of 2 project applications for the third Baltic research programme competition “Baltic Tourism Industry Transformation and Innovation Driven Smart Sustainability Approach in Disruptive Markets Environment”.

Members of the International Consortium (Consortium Agreement “Cooperation for Carrying out Innovative Activities that Contribute to Ecology for Sustainable Development in Central and Eastern European Regions”) – researchers, lecturers, Doctoral students of Daugavpils University (Latvia), Vitebsk State University (Belarus), Kazimieras Simonavičius University (Lithuania) in cooperation with entrepreneurs (Apple Press Ltd (Latvia), JSC Akvamarin (Lithuania), ROLS Ltd. (Latvia), Latgales Metals Ltd. (Latvia)) purposefully promote cooperation in the field of innovation to improve sustainable development in ecology in Central and Eastern European regions. The members of the consortium are also entrepreneurs and researchers and lecturers of these universities, Doctoral students.

Every year an international scientific conference “Social Sciences for Regional Development” is organized, which promotes active cooperation in the field of scientific research, as well as provides an opportunity for Doctoral students to seek contacts with students of similar programmes at other universities, establish their scientific links with researchers and scientists from different countries.

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (4. Teaching Staff)

4.1. Analysis and assessment of the changes to the composition of the teaching staff over the reporting period and their impact on the study quality.

During the reporting period, several changes took place in the structure of the teaching staff. 15 highly qualified lecturers are engaged in the implementation of the DSP “Economics”: 5 professors, 4 associate professors, 2 docents, 4 leading researchers and researchers, including 12 lecturers whose primary employment is DU. The main criteria for selecting lecturers for the provision of study courses in the programme: appropriate education, academic or scientific degree, professional experience, research and creative activities (publications in the relevant field, research in the field of economics and finance, participation in projects).

Nine lecturers are experts of the Latvian Council of Science in the field “Social sciences. Economics and Entrepreneurship”, one is an LCS expert in the field “Social sciences - law” and one – an LCS expert in the field “Social sciences - psychology”.

In 2017, Dr.hab.oec., prof. V. Kosiedowski (Poland) retired and was replaced by Dr.oec., prof. M. Tvaronavičiene (Lithuania) in teaching the study course “Contemporary theory and practice of regional development”. In 2018, another lecturer, Dr.oec., researcher A. Daniļeviča, joined in the delivery of the course.

Doctoral students of the DSP “Economics” were involved in scientific research in the project “The Establishment of the United Entrepreneurship Support and Networking System for the Sustainable Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross Border Cooperation (B2B)” within the programme of cross border cooperation Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus. Participation in the project promoted elaboration of

two Doctoral theses: “Investment Climate in the Border Regions of Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus” and “Innovation Potential of Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarus regions” (scientific advisor of Doctoral theses and the project manager - Dr.oec. Olga Lavrinenko).

In order to attract lecturers from other countries, increase the qualifications and gain experience, the opportunities offered by the *ERASMUS +* programme are intensively used. In addition, the participation of lecturers in international scientific conferences and seminars promotes the establishment of new contacts and exchange trips between educational institutions. For example, PhD J.Mioduševskis, PhD K.Krukovskis, PhD M.Olinskis from the University of Warmia and Masuria in Olsztyn after participating in the conference “Social Sciences for Regional Development” organized by DU Faculty of Social Sciences together with the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, had visited DU several times (2016, 2017, 2018) to deliver lectures to the students of the DSP “Economics”. In 2018 and 2019, PhD J.Mioduševskis hosted representatives of the DSP “Economics” (Dr.oec. O. Lavrinenko, Dr.oec. A.Ohotins and Doctoral candidate O.Volkovs) in Olsztyn, where there was an exchange of experience and ideas regarding the possibilities of improving the study process and research cooperation.

4.2. Assessment of the compliance of the qualification of the teaching staff members (academic staff members, visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers, and visiting assistants) involved in the implementation of the study programme with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the provisions set out in the respective regulatory enactments. Provide information on how the qualification of the teaching staff members contributes to the achievement of the learning outcomes.

The structure of the teaching staff employed in the study programme complies with the requirements specified in the Law on Higher Education Institutions. The staff involved in the implementation of the DSP “Economics” have at least 5 years of experience in the relevant industry. The qualification of the academic staff involved in the implementation of the study programme is appropriate for achieving the results of the study programme, as well as for meeting the aims and tasks of DU.

The implementation of the programme is based on the longstanding experience of the management and lecturers of the DU study direction of Economics of the Faculty of Social Sciences (including the methodological and scientific-practical provision of studies), as well as on the intensive cooperation of Doctoral students and lecturers. Lecturers are professionals in their field of science, who have proven their competence in research, as well as have participated in international projects and developed teaching aids and materials. For example, prof. Dr. Manuela Tvaronavičienė is the editor-in-chief of several scientific journals indexed in the SCOPUS database, so she has extensive experience in the elaboration and review of scientific articles, which generally has a positive effect on the quality and the number of scientific publications of Doctoral students, which is one of the most significant results of the DSP “Economics”. Assoc. professor A.Čaplinska in cooperation with assoc. visiting professor N. Konovalova within the DU research project (registration No. 14-95/17) in 2020 developed a teaching tool “Banking for entrepreneurs”. Aspects of lecturers’ scientific and practical activities are presented in the study courses, thus developing students’ professional skills and abilities that result in specific competences, for example, Doctoral students

publish the results of their research in internationally recognized, including internationally cited, editions in Latvia and abroad; carry out independent, critical analysis and evaluation of topical, complex research problems in the field of economic science, contributing to the expansion and deepening of knowledge in the field of economic science.

The study direction "Economics", incl. the lecturers of the Doctoral programme, were also provided with an opportunity to increase their professional qualification. For example, in 2019, within the framework of the European Social Fund project no. 8.2.2.0/18/A/022 "Strengthening the professional competence of the academic staff in the field of strategic specialization of Daugavpils University", the lecturers had the opportunity to implement internships in companies (in the amount of 200 hours). In turn, in 2020, within the framework of the mentioned ESF project, the lecturers of the Doctoral programme L. Aleksejeva, S. Ignatjeva, A.Čaplinska, A.Daņileviča improved their skills of the professional English language.

4.3. Information on the number of the scientific publications of the academic staff members, involved in the implementation of the doctoral study programme, as published during the reporting period by listing the most significant publications published in Scopus or WoS CC indexed journals. As for the social sciences, humanitarian sciences, and the science of art, the scientific publications published in ERIH+ indexed journals may be additionally specified (if applicable).

During the reporting period, the teaching staff of the DSP "Economics" published over 100 articles in scientific editions, which are indexed in the databases *SCOPUS* or WoS. The publications of the lecturers involved in the DSP "Economics" have earned international recognition, because several lecturers has a rather high science evaluation criterion Hirsch index, for example, prof. M. Tvaronavičienė (h-index = 25), leading researcher O. Lavriņenko (h-index = 6), assoc. prof. A.Ruža and docent S. Ignatjeva (h-index = 4), assoc. prof. L.Aleksejeva (h-index = 3), assoc. prof. A.Čaplinska (h-index = 2). See the appendix for more detailed information.

Significantly, many highly regarded publications were made in close collaboration with Doctoral students. The co-authors of the publications were the following Doctoral students and degree candidates: A. Smirnovs, O. Rybalkin, J. Gladevičs, E. Čižo, J. Amosova, L. Sinica, O. Volkova, etc. Scientific articles of the lecturers of the programme have been published in many scientific editions, for example, "Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues", "Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues", "Philosophy, Sociology", "Technological and Economic Development of Economy", "Economics and Sociology", "Actual Problems of Economics "etc.

The information on the scientific publications of the academic staff involved in the implementation of the Doctoral study programme during the reporting period is presented in the appendices.

4.4. Information on the participation of the academic staff, involved in the implementation of the doctoral study programme, in scientific projects as project managers or prime contractors/ subproject managers/ leading researchers by specifying the name of the relevant project, as well as the source and the amount of the funding. Provide information on the reporting period (if applicable).

The directions of research work of the academic staff involved in the DSP “Economics” are focused on the successful implementation of the study programme and in most cases are related to the specialization of lecturers within the programme. Lecturers prepare scientific articles, including in internationally peer-reviewed journals, participate in conferences and workshops, trainings, internships and various other scientific events, publish textbooks and elaborate methodological materials, participate in international and national research projects. In cooperation with students, as well as other Latvian and foreign academic staff, practice-oriented research is constantly carried out.

The participation of the academic staff of the DSP “Economics” in research projects as project managers takes place mainly in the following directions:

1) aspects of business and investment climate:

- 01.2015-31.12.2017. The programme of cross border cooperation Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus, project “The Establishment of the United Entrepreneurship Support and Networking System for the Sustainable Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross Border Cooperation (B2B)” No. LLB-2-256; the allocated amount 437 445 EUR, project manager – the leading researcher O. Lavrinenko.
- In 2017 the EU-funded project “Mentoring for Youth Entrepreneurship Support” within the framework of the programme of cross border cooperation Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus for 2014-2020 was implemented; the allocated amount 523 818, 37 EUR, project manager – the head of the Department of Economics, assoc. professor L. Alekseyeva.
- 03.2018-31.10.2018. DU research project “Establishment of an Interdisciplinary Consortium for Monitoring Investment Climate” No.14-95/16; the allocated amount 2000 EUR, project manager – the researcher A. Daņileviča.

2) smart growth in the context of the knowledge economy:

- 2015, LR VPP EKOSOC LV project No. 5.2.3. “Latvian Rural and Regional Development Processes and Opportunities in the Context of Knowledge Economy”; amount of funding allocated 12 678 EUR, project manager – the head of the Department of Economics, assoc. professor L. Alekseyeva.
- 03.2018-31.10.2018. DU research project “Green Economy: Elaboration of the Concept and Approbation of the Assessment Methodologies on the Basis of the EU Data”, No. 14-95/18, the allocated amount 2000 EUR, project manager – the leading researcher O. Lavriņenko.
- Project of EEA-Norwegian Government Financial Instrument (01.10.2015 - 30.09.2016) “Role of Social and Economic Network Interterritorial Development (Network-Based Development); the allocated amount 34 026 EUR, project manager – the leading researcher of the Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences V. Komarova.

Lecturers of DU study direction “Economics” and the DSP are involved in the implementation of the project within the national research programme “RECOVERY-LV”, in cooperation with researchers of Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies in the sub-project “Opportunities to Increase the Productivity and Competitiveness of the National Economy as an Economic System in the Conditions of the Covid-19 Pandemic” (the amount allocated 495 000 EUR), managed by the leading researcher Dr.habil.oec. Baiba Rivža.

4.5. Provide examples of the involvement of the academic staff in the scientific research and/or artistic creation activities both at national and at international level (in the fields related to the content of the study programme), as well as the use of the obtained

information in the study process.

The research performed by the academic staff of the DSP “Economics” is a significant contribution both to the development of the industry, as well as to the development of the study programme, improvement and updating of the study content. The research covers both theoretical aspects and topicalities and novelties of the industries, which is used in the study courses of lecturers, thus promoting the interaction of the research and study process, significantly improving the quality of the study process. Within the framework of the study direction, cooperation with Latvian and foreign institutions, non-governmental organisations, scientific institutes, etc. is implemented, which promotes the achievement of the aims and study results of the study direction and the corresponding study programmes. Cooperation partners are selected according to the specificity of the study direction and study programmes within it.

For example, the project “Green Economy: Elaboration of the Concept and Approbation of the Assessment Methodologies on the Basis of the EU Data”, No. 14-95/18 (manager O. Lavriņenko) was implemented with the participation of lecturers S. Ignatjeva, A. Daņileviča and the Doctoral students O. Rybalkin, N. Griškjāne. As a result, the Doctoral students gained experience in developing research methodology, creating a database of statistical indicators, preparing publications, as well as participated in the Science Festival with a popular science lecture on the green economy. O. Rybalkin prepared a statistical database in the SPSS software, which he will use when forming the empirical part of his thesis “Green Economy as a Determinant of Sustainability”. In the course of researching the topic, the Doctoral student synthesized the research experience and together with co-authors worked on a scientific article, which was published in the SCOPUS database: Lavriņenko O., Ignatjeva S., Ohotina A., Rybalkin O., Lazdāns D. 2019. The Role of Green Economy in Sustainable Development (Case Study: The EU States), *Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues* 6 (3): 1113-1126.

The Doctoral student J. Gladevičs participated in the implementation of the project “Establishing of an Interdisciplinary Consortium for Monitoring of the Investment Climate” No 14-95/16 (project manager A. Ohotina). J. Gladevičs was also synthesizing research experience during the research of the topic and together with co-authors worked on a scientific article, which was then published in the SCOPUS database: Ohotina A., Lavriņenko O., Gladevičs J., Lazdāns D. 2018. The investment climate in Latvia's, Lithuania's and Belarus's cross-border regions: the subjective-objective assessment, *Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues* 6(2): 767-780.

Within the framework of the project “The Establishment of the United Entrepreneurship Support and Networking System for the Sustainable Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus Cross Border Cooperation (B2B)” of the programme of cross border cooperation Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus for 2007-2013, the survey of Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarus entrepreneurs was conducted and gathering the statistical information positively influenced the quality of the study process, as the Doctoral students of the programme were involved in the implementation of the project and as a result two Doctoral theses were elaborated: “Investment Climate in the Border Regions of Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus” (Doctoral student A. Ohotina (Daņileviča)) and “Innovation Potential of Latvian, Lithuanian and Belarus regions” (Doctoral student J. Gladevičs). The manager of the project and scientific advisor of both Doctoral theses is Dr.oec. Olga Lavriņenko. Thus, the Doctoral students gained the necessary experience in the preparation, implementation, approbation and publication of the obtained results, as a number of articles were published in several editions.

1. Lavrinenko O., Ohotina A., Ruzha O., Shmarlouskaya H., Tumulavičius V. (2015). Cross Border Cooperation of Small and Medium Enterprises: Problems, Opportunities, Prospects. Monograph. Rezekne Higher Education Institution, 308 p. ISBN 978-9984-44-181-8,
2. Lavrinenko O., Ohotina A., Amosova J., Teivāns-Treinovskis J. 2017. Intercompany networks of the cross-border region (Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus), Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues 7 (1): 39-54. [https://doi.org/10.9770/jssi.2017.7.1\(4\)](https://doi.org/10.9770/jssi.2017.7.1(4)) (SCOPUS),
3. Lavrinenko O., Ohotina A., Tumulavičius V., Pidlisna O.V. Assessment Of Partnership Development In Cross-Border Regions' Innovation Systems (Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus). Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues 6(1):155. (SCOPUS),
4. Lavrinenko O., Ruža O., Ohotina A. (2015). Innovative activities of SMES of the cross-border regions (Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus). The proceedings of Annual 21st International Scientific Conference "Research for Rural Development 2015". Volume 2. Latvia University of Agriculture. p. 244-249.(SCOPUS),
5. Gladevics J. Estimation of innovative cooperation of Triple Helix Model. Моделирование в технике и экономике: материалы международной научно-практической конференции, Витебск, 23-24 марта 2016 года / УО «ВГТУ». Витебск, 2016. – с. 475-477
6. Gladevičs J. Innovation: problems of definition. Daugavpils Universitātes 58. starptautiskās zinātniskās konferences rakstkrājums. B. daļa "Sociālās zinātnes" = Proceedings of the 58th International Scientific Conference of Daugavpils University. Part B "Social Sciences". Daugavpils: Daugavpils Universitāte, 2016 – 17.-24.lpp. ISBN 978-9984-14-779-6
7. Gladevičs J. Innovative development problems nowadays. Daugavpils Universitātes 58. Starptautiskās zinātniskās konferences rakstu krājums. B. daļa "Sociālās zinātnes" = Proceedings of the 58th International Scientific Conference of Daugavpils University. Part B "Social Sciences". Daugavpils: Daugavpils Universitāte, 2016 – 25.-35.lpp. ISBN 978-9984-14-779-6
8. Gladevičs J. Methodological and theoretical aspects of innovation capacity. Daugavpils Universitātes 58. Starptautiskās zinātniskās konferences rakstu krājums. B. daļa "Sociālās zinātnes" = Proceedings of the 58th International Scientific Conference of Daugavpils University. Part B "Social Sciences". Daugavpils: Daugavpils Universitāte, 2016 – 36.-45.lpp. ISBN 978-9984-14-779-6

In addition, the results of the aforementioned project had a positive effect on the content of the study course "The latest research methods in management and economics", as the Doctoral students had the opportunity to use an example of how to create an integral indicator from subjective indicators in regions of three countries - Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus.

Another example is the participation of the Doctoral student I. Jakovļeva in the project "Preventing Youth Unemployment of Border Territories of Latvia and Belarus in Conditions of Overcoming the Crisis" (the topic of the Doctoral thesis "Economic and Mathematical Modelling and Forecasting of the Regional Youth Labour Market in Latvia", scientific advisor prof. V. Meņšikovs). The results of the survey conducted within the project served the basis for publications, the elaboration of which gave the Doctoral student invaluable experience.

4.6. Assessment of the cooperation between the teaching staff members by specifying the

mechanisms used to promote the cooperation and ensure the interrelation between the study courses/ modules. Specify also the proportion of the number of the students and the teaching staff within the study programme (at the moment of the submission of the Self-Assessment Report).

The teaching staff involved in the Doctoral study programme cooperate with each other in research by writing and publishing joint scientific works and teaching aids, as well as in creating, improving and delivering joint study courses within the study programme. Each study course is elaborated and implemented by several lecturers. Their mutual cooperation promotes the quality of the study courses both in the elaboration and implementation stages. The published monographs and scientific articles (see examples in section 4.3 and appendices in the summary of publications) are used in the study process. Doctoral students are well informed about the publishing activity of both their scientific advisors and other lecturers of the programme, as most of the students in the programme have intensive scientific cooperation with the lecturers of the programme.

The Department of Economics of the Faculty of Social Sciences and DU Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences jointly organize the annual international scientific conference “Social Science for Regional Development”, which is attended by about 100 scientists from different countries of the world, DU lecturers and Doctoral students, which testifies to the mutual cooperation in promoting scientific research. In cooperation with partners from Lithuania, Poland, Turkey, a joint international conference “Science and Education in Globalization (SCEDU’20...)” is organized annually in Panevėžys (Lithuania), where the lectures and Doctoral students of the study direction present their reports in working groups and plenary sessions.

During the reporting period, several foreign visiting professors were involved in the study programme and provided courses or parts of courses in cooperation with DU lecturers (for example, Prof. V. Kosiedowski (Poland), Prof. M. Tvaronavičiene (Lithuania)).

Doctoral students and degree candidates are regularly involved not only in the provision of study courses in the study direction “Economics”, but also in the study courses of other study programmes, enriching the study content with topical research results. Also within the methodological seminars of the DSP “Economics” on Doctoral theses, Doctoral students share their experience in interdisciplinary discussions, presenting the results of their research, achievements, methodological approaches. Doctoral students are also involved in the improvement of the study content, participating not only in the elaboration of the Doctoral study programme, but also in the elaboration of other study programmes. For example, the Doctoral degree candidate A. Homutiņins participated in the elaboration of the PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” content.

A total of 15 lecturers are engaged in the Doctoral study programme implementation. At the time of submitting the self-evaluation report, 9 Doctoral students are studying in the programme.

Annexes

III. Description of the Study Programme - 1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme		
Compliance of the joint study programme with the provisions of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education (table)		
Statistics on the students over the reporting period	Statc - Ekonomika v_.xlsx	Statistika_par_studejosajiem_parskata_perioda_LV.xlsx
III. Description of the Study Programme - 2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof		
Compliance of the study programme with the State Education Standard		
Compliance of the qualification to be acquired upon completion of the study programme with the professional standard (if applicable)		
Compliance of the study programme with the specific regulatory framework applicable to the relevant field (if applicable)		
Mapping of the study courses/ modules for the achievement of the learning outcomes of the study programme	DSP_Ekonomika_kartejums_ENG.docx	DSP_Ekonomika_kartejums.docx
Curriculum of the study programme (for each type and form of the implementation of the study programme)	Studiju_Plans_DSP_Ekonomika_ENG.xlsx	DSP_Ekonomika_studiju_plans_LV.xlsx
Descriptions of the study courses/ modules	DSP_kursa_apraksti_ENG.zip	DSP_kursa_apraksti_LV.zip
Description of the Study Direction - Other mandatory attachments		
Sample of the diploma to be issued for the acquisition of the study programme.	DSP_Ekonomika_diplomi_ENG.zip	DSP_diplomi_LV.zip
Description of the Study Programme - Other mandatory attachments		
Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college will provide the students with the options to continue the acquisition of education in another study programme or at another higher education institution/ college (a contract with another accredited higher education institution/ college), in case the implementation of the study programme is discontinued	LU_DU_ligums_EN.docx	LU un DU_ligums_LV.docx
Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college guarantees to the students a compensation for losses if the study programme is not accredited or the licence of the study programme is revoked due to the actions of the higher education institution/ college (actions or failure to act) and the student does not wish to continue the studies in another study programme	Ekonomika_Guarantee_ENG_doc	APLIECINĀJUMS_kompensacijai_studejosajiem (4).edoc
Confirmation of the higher education institution/ college that the teaching staff members to be involved in the implementation of the study programme have at least B2-level knowledge of a related foreign language according to European language levels (see the levels under www.europass.lv), if the study programme or any part thereof is to be implemented in a foreign language.	DSP_Ekonomika.zip	DSP_Ekonomika.zip
If the study programmes in the study direction subject to the assessment are doctoral study programmes, a confirmation that at least five teaching staff members with doctoral degree are among the academic staff of a doctoral study programme, at least three of which are experts approved by the Latvian Science Council in the respective field or sub-field of science, in which the study programme has intended to award a scientific degree.	Apliecinajums_ka_ir_doktori_ENG.docx	APLIECINĀJUMS_1.edoc
If academic study programmes are implemented within the study direction, a document confirming that the academic staff of the academic study programme complies with the provisions set out in Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause three of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education	Apliecinajums_atbilstibai_MK_noteikumiem_ENG.docx	APLIECINĀJUMS.edoc
Sample (or samples) of the study agreement	AGREEMENT_STUDIES_ENG.docx	Ligums_par_studijam.docx
If academic study programmes for less than 250 full-time students are implemented within the study direction, the opinion of the Council for Higher Education shall be attached in compliance with Section 55, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.	Eng_DU_doktora_ekonom_250_stud.docx	AIP_atzinums_par_DSP_istenosanu.docx

Smart Economics and Innovation

Title of the higher education institution	<i>Economics</i>
ProcedureStudyProgram.Name	<i>Smart Economics and Innovation</i>
Education classification code	<i>47311</i>
Type of the study programme	<i>Professional master study programme</i>
Name of the study programme director	<i>Ludmila</i>
Surname of the study programme director	<i>Aleksejeva</i>
E-mail of the study programme director	<i>ludmila.aleksejeva@du.lv</i>
Title of the study programme director	<i>Dr. oec.</i>
Phone of the study programme director	<i>26153350</i>
Goal of the study programme	<i>To provide students at the national and international level with competitive knowledge, relevant skills and competences for analytical evaluation of economic and financial processes in the context of smart development, emphasizing research skills for scientific and academic work and training highly qualified specialists in accordance with professional standards "Financial analyst" (profession code PS-118) and "Economist" (profession code PS-113).</i>
Tasks of the study programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• to provide students with the opportunity to obtain a competitive, high-quality professional higher education that meets modern requirements and is in demand in the international labour market, which includes comprehensive and innovative knowledge and understanding of economics, finance, etc.;</i> <i>• to prepare students for work in the profession, having integrated various sub-sectors of economics and other branches of science in the study process;</i> <i>• to develop students' competences of research work, creative work skills and abilities;</i> <i>• to develop knowledge and skills needed for the managers of the organisation, who are able and competent to take responsibility and solve financial and economic problems of a high degree of complexity;</i> <i>• to ensure the achievement of learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences) in accordance with the knowledge, skills and competence of level 5 of the European Qualifications Framework (hereinafter - the Framework) and level 7 of the Latvian Qualifications Framework (LQF) specified in the Latvian education classification;</i> <i>• to promote flexible acquirement and further improvement of the study programme and the study content in accordance with the changing processes of national economy, international market and technology development;</i> <i>• to develop students' skills, abilities and professional competences in the field of economics and finance, practical skills in working with modern technologies, general competences required in today's labour market, choosing advanced methods and techniques that provide a learning environment favourable for personal and professional growth;</i> <i>• to prepare professional Master's degree holders for studies in Doctoral study programmes.</i>

Results of the study programme	<p>Knowledge</p> <p>1. To show specialized in-depth knowledge (including the one based on the latest discoveries in the field) characteristic of the economic and finance sector, as well as understanding of concepts and regularities, incl. cross-sectoral aspect.</p> <p>Skills</p> <p>2. Able to use professional theoretical concepts and IT solutions, perform professional, innovative or research activities, creatively obtain, select and analyse information and use it in the interpretation of economic processes.</p> <p>3. To explain and discuss the professionally applied aspects of systemic economics and finance field with arguments, both with specialists and non-specialists.</p> <p>4. Independently promote the development and specialization of their competencies, introduce innovations in the profession, acquire new knowledge, analyse, systematize and integrate the acquired information or further learning in complex and unpredictable conditions.</p> <p>Competences</p> <p>5. Independently formulate and critically analyse complex scientific and professional problems in the field of economics or finance, justify decisions, take responsibility, lead a team, delegate and co-ordinate the performance of duties, effectively plan and organize their own work.</p> <p>6. Integrate knowledge from different fields, contribute to the creation of new knowledge, development of research or applied methods of operation, participate in the development of economic branches and sub-branches.</p> <p>7. Demonstrate understanding and ethical responsibility for the potential impact of scientific results or professional activities on the environment and society.</p>
Final examination upon the completion of the study programme	Master's thesis

Study programme forms

Full time studies - 2 years - latvian

Study type and form	<i>Full time studies</i>
Duration in full years	2
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>latvian</i>
Amount (CP)	80

Admission requirements (in English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degree or 2nd level professional higher education in economics, finance, business, management or related thematic areas: sociology, mathematics, computer science, information technology, physics or engineering, as well as humanities, if the study courses in the field of economics have been acquired in the amount of at least 10 CP; • DU Admission Committee may review certain applications for studies received from graduates of Bachelor's or 2nd level higher professional study programmes in other thematic areas of education, if the applicant has at least 2 years of work experience in economics, finance, business or management, confirmed by an employer's proof of employment; participation in the competition with an average mark received for final / national tests.
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	professional Master's degree in economics
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	Financial analyst or economist

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Part time studies - 2 years, 6 months - english

Study type and form	Part time studies
Duration in full years	2
Duration in month	6
Language	english
Amount (CP)	80
Admission requirements (in English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degree or 2nd level professional higher education in economics, finance, business, management or related thematic areas: sociology, mathematics, computer science, information technology, physics or engineering, as well as humanities, if the study courses in the field of economics have been acquired in the amount of at least 10 CP; • DU Admission Committee may review certain applications for studies received from graduates of Bachelor's or 2nd level higher professional study programmes in other thematic areas of education, if the applicant has at least 2 years of work experience in economics, finance, business or management, confirmed by an employer's proof of employment; • Participation in the competition with an average mark received for final / national tests.
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	professional Master's degree in economics
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	Financial analyst or economist

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Full time studies - 2 years - english

Study type and form	<i>Full time studies</i>
Duration in full years	2
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>english</i>
Amount (CP)	80
Admission requirements (in English)	<i>• Bachelor's degree or 2nd level professional higher education in economics, finance, business, management or related thematic areas: sociology, mathematics, computer science, information technology, physics or engineering, as well as humanities, if the study courses in the field of economics have been acquired in the amount of at least 10 CP; • DU Admission Committee may review certain applications for studies received from graduates of Bachelor's or 2nd level higher professional study programmes in other thematic areas of education, if the applicant has at least 2 years of work experience in economics, finance, business or management, confirmed by an employer's proof of employment; • Participation in the competition with an average mark received for final / national tests.</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>professional Master's degree in economics</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	<i>Financial analyst or economist</i>

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Part time studies - 2 years, 6 months - latvian

Study type and form	<i>Part time studies</i>
Duration in full years	2
Duration in month	6
Language	<i>latvian</i>
Amount (CP)	80
Admission requirements (in English)	<i>• Bachelor's degree or 2nd level professional higher education in economics, finance, business, management or related thematic areas: sociology, mathematics, computer science, information technology, physics or engineering, as well as humanities, if the study courses in the field of economics have been acquired in the amount of at least 10 CP; • DU Admission Committee may review certain applications for studies received from graduates of Bachelor's or 2nd level higher professional study programmes in other thematic areas of education, if the applicant has at least 2 years of work experience in economics, finance, business or management, confirmed by an employer's proof of employment; participation in the competition with an average mark received for final / national tests.</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>professional Master's degree in economics</i>

Qualification to be obtained (in english)	<i>Financial analyst or economist</i>
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Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Full time studies - 1 years, 6 months - latvian

Study type and form	<i>Full time studies</i>
Duration in full years	<i>1</i>
Duration in month	<i>6</i>
Language	<i>latvian</i>
Amount (CP)	<i>60</i>
Admission requirements (in English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Professional Bachelor degree or Second-level professional higher education (at least 4 years) in Economics, Finance, Entrepreneurship or Management; - participation in the competition with an average mark received for final / national tests.</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>professional Master's degree in economics</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	-

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Full time studies - 1 years, 6 months - english

Study type and form	<i>Full time studies</i>
Duration in full years	<i>1</i>
Duration in month	<i>6</i>
Language	<i>english</i>
Amount (CP)	<i>60</i>
Admission requirements (in English)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Professional Bachelor degree or Second-level professional higher education (at least 4 years) in Economics, Finance, Entrepreneurship or Management; • Participation in the competition with an average mark received for final / national tests.</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>professional Master's degree in economics</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	-

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Part time studies - 2 years - english

Study type and form	<i>Part time studies</i>
Duration in full years	<i>2</i>
Duration in month	<i>0</i>

Language	<i>english</i>
Amount (CP)	60
Admission requirements (in English)	• <i>Professional Bachelor degree or Second-level professional higher education (at least 4 years) in Economics, Finance, Entrepreneurship or Management; • Participation in the competition with an average mark received for final / national tests.</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>professional Master's degree in economics</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	-

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Part time studies - 2 years - latvian

Study type and form	<i>Part time studies</i>
Duration in full years	2
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>latvian</i>
Amount (CP)	60
Admission requirements (in English)	• <i>Professional Bachelor degree or Second-level professional higher education (at least 4 years) in Economics, Finance, Entrepreneurship or Management; • Participation in the competition with an average mark received for final / national tests.</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>professional Master's degree in economics</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	-

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme)

1.1. Description and analysis of changes in study programme parameters that have taken place since the issue of the previous accreditation certificate of study direction or the license of study programme if study programme is not included in the accreditation page of the study direction

In compliance with “Study Programmes Development and Consolidation Plan” of Daugavpils University, PMSP “Smart Economy and Innovation” at DU was licensed in 2019 and is being implemented since the academic year 2019/2020.

At the beginning of 2019, when preparing the study programme for licensing, the following documents were taken into account: the professional standard “PS 0223 Financial Analyst” corresponding to the professional qualification Level 5 (PQL) approved on December 29, 2003; the professional standard “2631 02 Economist” corresponding to the professional qualification Level 5 (PQL), as well as the draft professional standards of the newly developed qualifications “PS-113 Economist” and “PS-118 Financial Analyst”.

On September 18, 2019, the professional standard “PS-113 Economist” corresponding to professional qualification level 5 (PQL) and Level 6 of the Latvian Qualifications Framework (LQF) was approved (<https://registri.visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-113.pdf>). On October 16, 2019, the professional standard “PS-118 Financial Analyst” corresponding to professional qualification Level 5 (PKL) and Level 7 of the Latvian Qualifications Framework (LQF) was approved (<https://registri.visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-118.pdf>). In compliance with the new standards, in autumn of 2019 the content of the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” was specified.

Upon entering the studies, the applicant makes a choice as to which qualification – Financial Analyst or Economist – they will acquire in the study programme. During the development of the study programme, the views of employers were considered. [1] Employers in the region, both in the private and public sectors (especially small and medium-sized enterprises), emphasize that economics professionals employed by organizations often act as economists, financiers or even accountants. [2] This means that employees should understand the interrelationships in economics, finance and management that are necessary for the growth of companies and the achievement of long-term strategic goals. In addition, the holism of economic processes and the related integration of financial and economic competences determine the need for specialists who will solve complex economic problems by using interdisciplinary, innovative approaches and methods.

At the master’s level, the qualification of an economist in Latvia is offered only in the professional master’s study programme “Accounting and Audit” of the University of Latvia. In Europe, the qualification of economist is awarded by a number of universities, for example:

- the study programme mentioned in the comparison of the programme, namely, PMSP “Economics” (Kaunas University of Technology (KTU))
- Helsinki University offers the master’s study programme “Economics” (MSc Economics),
- London School of Economics offers the master’s study programme “Finance and Economics” (MSc Finance and Economics).

Thus, the choice and combination of professional qualifications is determined by both the low competition at the level of Latvia and the internationally identified demand.

The qualification levels of the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” are aligned with several variants of the implementation of the programme (by type and form) and the diverse demand of students, which is also reflected in the admission requirements. The PQL5, LQF Level 6 qualification “Economist” to be awarded within the framework of the study programme is justified by the fact that students admitted to studies at PMSP “Smart Economy and Innovation” (47311) are graduates of DU and other higher education institutions:

- students without a previously acquired qualification (e.g., graduates of the DU academic study programme “Economics”),
- students without economic education (e.g., graduates of bachelor level study programmes of engineering or information technology who have acquired sufficient number of credits in economics),
- students with other professional bachelor level qualifications (e.g., graduates with the qualification of accountant, financier).

In addition, the admission rules provide for the possibility for those applicants who have previously obtained a professional qualification in the field of economics (both Economist PQL5, LQF Level 6 and other PQL5 qualifications, e.g., “Company Manager” or “Financier”) not to obtain another similar PQL5 qualification, but instead obtain only the master’s degree by studying in the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” version envisaged for 1.5 years of studies (60 CP).

AMSP "Economics" was closed in the academic year 2020/2021.

[1] DU studiju virziena „Ekonomika” 2016.-2019. g. darba devēju aptauju rezultāti.

[2] Programmas izstrādē iesaistīto ekspertu-darba devēju viedokļi. Reģiona darba devēju viedokļi.

1.2. Analysis and assessment of the statistical data on the students of the respective study programme, the dynamics of the number of the students, and the factors affecting the changes to the number of the students. The analysis shall be broken down in the different study forms, types, and languages.

From academic year 2013/201 until 2019/2020 the number of students in the Master’s study programmes of the study direction “Economics” [1] shows a slight increase: 18-24 students, moreover, the increase is clearly visible after the introduction of the PMPS “Smart Economics and Innovation”.

Having analysed the trends of students’ dropouts, it can be seen that in the Master’s study programme it is much lower than in the Bachelor’s study programme. This indicates that the students of the Master’s programme make a conscious choice of profession. The most significant threat to the elaboration of a Master’s thesis is the lack of time for combining studies with work, because the majority of students of the programme are employed.

The number of graduates of the programme since academic year 2013/2014 has ranged from 5 to 7 graduates per year. The small number of graduates is associated with high requirements for the defence of the Master’s thesis. However, an important consideration should be noted that the majority of students who drop out of studies (either an academic leave or expelled from the programme) successfully complete their studies after some time. The information on the dynamics

of the number of students is available in the appendix [1]. Līdz 2020./2021.st.g. tika īstenota AMSP "Ekonomika", bet sākot ar 2019./2020. st. g. 1. un 2. st.gada studējošie apgūst studiju PMSP "Viedā ekonomika un inovācijas".

1.3. Analysis and assessment of the interrelation between the name of the study programme, the degree or professional qualification to be acquired or the degree and professional qualification to be acquired, the aims, objectives, learning outcomes, and the admission requirements.

In order to promote the competitiveness of the offered education in the study direction "Economics", the academic master's study programme "Economics" was transformed into the professional study programme "Smart Economics and Innovation". Corresponding to the demand of the target audience and the labour market, two sub-programmes have been developed within PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" (47311) according to the professional qualifications - "Financial Analyst" or "Economist", one of which is chosen by the applicants on entering the university programme.

During the development of the study programme, the compliance with the following regulatory documents was ensured: Law on Higher Education Institutions, Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 512 and other regulatory enactments that are in force in the Republic of Latvia, as well as the "Business, Finance, Accounting, Administration (Wholesale, Retail and Commerce) Sector" qualification structure and the corresponding professional standards adopted on April 10, 2019:

- PS-118 Financial Analyst (October 16, 2019) 5PQL, 7LQFI: <https://registri.visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-118.pdf>
- PS-113 Economist (September 18, 2019) 5QL, 6LQF: <https://registri.visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-113.pdf>

The qualification levels of the PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" are aligned with several variants of the programme implementation (by type and form) and the diverse demands of students, which is also reflected in the admission requirements. The PQL5, Latvian Qualification Framework Level 6 qualification "Economist" to be awarded within the framework of the programme is justified by the fact that applicants admitted to studies at PMSP "Smart Economy and Innovation" (47311) are students of DU and other higher education institutions:

- students without a previously acquired qualification (e.g., graduates of the DU academic study programme "Economics"),
- students without economic education (e.g., graduates of bachelor level study programmes of engineering or information technology who have acquired sufficient number of credits in economics),
- students with other professional bachelor level qualifications (e.g., graduates with the qualification of accountant, financier).

In addition, the admission rules provide for the possibility for those applicants, who have previously obtained a professional qualification in the field of economics, to obtain only the master's degree by studying in one of the sub-programmes of the PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" for 1.5 years of studies (60 CP). Besides, within the short (60 CP) version of PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" (without obtaining a professional qualification) students are provided with an opportunity to specialize taking into account various requirements of employers. Thus, a flexible

student-centred approach is implemented and a closer connection with the requirements of the labour market is established.

Thus, for instance, students with a previously acquired qualification of a financier or accountant can choose either in-depth theoretical studies of the financial field or strengthen and update the theoretical basis of economics.

The title of the PMPS “Smart Economics and Innovation”, the degree to be obtained, the aims and objectives and the admission requirements are interrelated. The systematic implementation of the study programme content, purposeful planning of the study process, diversification and improvement of study forms and methods, provision of independent learning, as well as regular assessment of study quality and improvement of quality culture contribute to the achievement of the aim and tasks set in the study programme.

The content of the study programme emphasizes in-depth acquirement of management, financial and IT skills, which gives the graduates of this study programme the opportunity to develop successful careers in various industries, state and municipal institutions, non-governmental sector, provide a more effective business management or start their own business. The content of the study programme corresponds to the topical findings in the corresponding field of science, which are integrated in the descriptions of the study courses. One of the tasks of the programme is to develop students’ practical skills and improve their scientific potential, involving employers, professional organisations, lecturers of foreign universities and students themselves in this process.

The study programme focuses on theory-based and practice-oriented study courses in finance and economics, as well as in-depth studies in computer technology. The programme includes a set of knowledge, skills and abilities required in today’s labour market, with an emphasis on the acquirement of applied knowledge and professional skills, and is implemented through a Master’s thesis, practical classes and professional qualifying practical placement.

In order to ensure flexible acquirement and further improvement of the study programme in accordance with the changing economic, international market and technology development processes, students are offered full-time and part-time forms of learning, which, depending on previous education or work experience, provide 2 types of 2nd level professional higher education - with obtaining a professional Master’s degree and professional qualification or only a professional Master’s degree.

The aim, tasks and results to be achieved in the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” are mutually coordinated and ensure training of highly professional specialists in the economic sector for the needs of the Eastern Latvia region, through implementing in-depth acquirement of knowledge and skills characteristic of the sector and specialization.

The aims, tasks and results to be achieved in the professional Master’s study programme “Smart Economics and Innovation” have been observed in determining the admission requirements to the programme: persons with a Bachelor’s degree or 2nd level professional higher education in economics, finance, business, management or related subjects can apply for Master’s programmes as well as, exceptionally, holders of Master’s degrees in other fields, if the person has at least 2 years of work experience in economics, finance, business or management. Experience must be demonstrated by submitting a CV and other supporting documents (certificates, attestations, publications, etc.). The experience of applicants is evaluated by the Admission Committee of the Faculty of Social Sciences. If necessary, the representatives of the Commission meet with the applicant in person.

For foreign applicants, the English language proficiency test is carried out in accordance with Cabinet Regulations No. 846 “Regulations Regarding the Requirements, Criteria and Procedures for

Admission to Study Programmes” (more detailed information on admission rules for foreigners is available on the DU website: <https://du.lv/en/studies-admission/admission/>).

According to the admission requirements, the study programme can be acquired during 3 semesters in the form of full-time studies or 4 semesters in part-time studies with previously obtained four-year higher education, which is a significant advantage of the programme implementation. Taking into account the previous experience of implementing Master’s studies in DU Faculty of Social Sciences, a significant part of Master’s students start studies at DU having obtained a diploma in other HEIs, e.g. Rezekne Academy of Technology, Riga International School of Economics and Business Administration, Institute of Transport and Communications.

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof)

2.1. Assessment of the relevance of the content of the study course/ module and the compliance with the needs of the relevant industry and labour market and with the trends in science. Provide information on how and whether the content of the study course/ module is updated in line with the development trends of the relevant industry, labour market, and science. In case of master’s and doctoral study programmes, specify and provide the justification as to whether the degrees are awarded in view of the developments and findings in the field of science or artistic creation.

The smart specialisation strategy[1] prioritises smart growth, which provides for the development of an economics based on knowledge and innovation. Thus, the smart growth-oriented human resources trained in the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” will in the long run promote the development of innovations in social, economic, financial and management processes in the region, nationwide and internationally. Based on the priorities of the smart specialisation strategy, it is important to improve the study process, create new, modern study programmes to ensure the training of human resources for the use and introduction of new innovations and technological opportunities, finding new market niches and adapting types and forms of economic activities, thus involving more capable and competent people in innovations and strengthening their competences[2].

The growth of labour demand until 2025 will be formed by four sectors - commercial services, construction, trade and manufacturing[3]. In addition, professionals in the areas of finance and economics will need new, fundamentally different skills and they will use modern work approaches. Technological progress and the development of ICT have created new, highly qualified workplaces (*web* application designers, programmers, analysts of market research data) [4], and nowadays it has also significantly improved economic processes[5]. Accordingly, the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” implies in-depth acquirement and integration of IT skills in professionally-oriented courses.

The development of the study programme is purposefully aimed at increasing the potential of economic analysis in Latvia and Latgale region, increasing the number of qualified high-level professionals who would be able to competently analyse economic, financial and social problems, as well as suggest farsighted and modern solutions, promote business activity, facilitate balanced

and sustainable development of the region.

The study programme provides for the development of professional competences corresponding to the current needs and priorities of the national economy, as well as the improvement of the environment of knowledge transfer in the region (strengthening cooperation with the professional environment) and strengthening the innovation capacity of companies, which is emphasized in the Guidelines for Science, Technology Development and Innovation 2021-2027[6]. In addition, the content of the programme and the implementation process incorporate the principles of international evaluations regarding educational transformation processes in the context of digitalization and other global challenges[7].

Within the framework of the study programme, the transfer of smart knowledge is promoted, ensuring a fuller use of local resources. This is confirmed by the feedback from employers, which testifies to the demand for this programme and the increase in employment opportunities for graduates. Managers and employees of several state and local government institutions are graduates of the study programme or are Master's students (e.g. Altum Daugavpils branch, Daugavpils city and county councils (and councils of other Latgale cities) and municipal establishments, LIAA Business Incubator, Latgale Special Economic Zone, Latgale Planning Region, regional enterprises (e.g. RemPro Ltd., Lagron Ltd., JSC DLRR and many others)).

The total volume of the PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" is (80 CP) for students without professional qualification (duration of studies - 2 or 2.5 years) and (60 CP) for students with professional qualification in economics, business, management or finance (duration of studies - 1.5 or 2 years). The study programme within the study direction "Economics" of Daugavpils University ensures the succession of study levels, logically linking study programmes of Bachelor's and Doctoral level, making the direction business-oriented in both the studies and research.

The PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" combines two sub-programmes according with professional qualifications - "Financial Analyst" or "Economist", which allows ensuring the study process in cohorts and provides students with the choice to obtain a professional qualification of a financial analyst or economist. The interdisciplinary basis of the programme (economics, ethics, management, finance, environment) and orientation towards innovation are ensured by theoretical and professional specialization courses, incl. providing for the choice of topics of students' independent work. The study programme focuses on theory-based and practice-oriented study courses in finance and innovation economics, as well as in-depth study of computer technology and mathematics.

The programme focuses on the acquirement of professional competences, taking into account the demand for specialists in the Latvian economy, the EU and the global labour market. Also, the implementation of the study programme ensures wide opportunities for further education, using e-learning in the organisation of students' independent work, thus ensuring the creation of equal opportunities for various groups of society. The study programme is flexible and adaptable to the interests of various students, providing for both studies after obtaining a Bachelor's degree or 2nd level professional qualification, and taking into account previous work experience in the respective field, thus allowing for equating at least 2 years of professional experience in economics, finance, business or management as evidenced by a certificate from the workplace.

The PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" trains human resources in accordance with the topical lines of regional development paradigm, because in Sustainable Development Strategy of Daugavpils City for 2014-2030 Daugavpils is stated as having a leading role in the Eastern Baltic region in education, science and innovation.

At the end of the studies, a Master's thesis is elaborated, which is defended at the meeting of the

State examination commission. Good results in studies, elaboration and defence of a Master's thesis are prerequisites for being awarded a Master's degree and the qualification of an economist / financial analyst. The conceptual content of the study programme has been developed for the analysis of the content of the study programme and the logical succession of its implementation.

The content of the study programme ensures the possibility to acquire in-depth knowledge in the fields of smart economics and finance, as well as the ability to apply specialized knowledge using information technologies.

The study programme takes into account the specificity of the professional higher education study programme: focus on the continuous strengthening of students' theoretical knowledge in practical classes, independent work and practical placement.

[1] Europe2020 Strategy. Eiropa 2020: stratēģija gudrai, ilgtspējīgai un integrējošai izaugsmei. Eiropas Komisija, Briselē, 2010. [pārlūkots 04.06.2018.] http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/1_lv_act_part1_v1.pdf

[2] Zināšanu jomu ekosistēmu kopsavilkums. Viedās specializācijas stratēģija. [pārlūkots 10.10.2020.]

[3] *Informatīvais ziņojums par darba tirgus vidēja un ilgtermiņa prognozēm* [pārlūkots 14.10.2019.] https://www.em.gov.lv/lv/nozares_politika/tautsaimniecibas_attistiba/darba_tirgus/

[4] *Cedefop Insights into skill shortages and skill mismatch Learning from Cedefop's European skills and jobs survey*. EU. [pārlūkots 14.10.2019.] http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/3075_en.pdf

[5] *Cedefop Insights into skill shortages and skill mismatch Learning from Cedefop's European skills and jobs survey*. EU. pārlūkots 14.10.2019.] http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/3075_en.pdf

[6] Zinātnes, tehnoloģijas attīstības un inovācijas pamatnostādnes 2021.-2027.gadam [pārlūkots 10.10.2020.] https://www.izm.gov.lv/images/1_ZTAIP2027_priek%C5%A1likuma_dokuments_uz_16_07.pdf

[7] Trends Shaping Education 2019. OECD [pārlūkots 14.06.2020.] <http://www.oecd.org/education/trends-shaping-education-22187049.htm>

Jobs of Tomorrow Mapping Opportunity in the New Economy. World Economic Forum, 2020 [pārlūkots 15.05.2020.] http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Jobs_of_Tomorrow_2020.pdf

OECD Employment Outlook 2019. OECD, 2019. [pārlūkots 14.11.2019.] <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9ee00155-en.pdf?expires=1588342349&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=3570100D5466B3848CAE609AA9483827>

2.2. Assessment of the interrelation between the information included in the study courses/ modules, the intended learning outcomes, the set aims and other indicators, the relation between the aims of the study course/ module and the aims and intended outcomes of the study programme. In case of a doctoral study programme, provide a description of the main research roadmaps and the impact of the study programme on research and other education levels.

The interdisciplinary basis of the programme (economics, ethics, management, finance, environment) is provided by theoretical and professional specialization courses. The study

programme focuses on theory-based and practice-oriented study courses in finance and innovation economics, as well as in-depth study courses in computer technology and mathematics. The programme includes a set of knowledge, skills and competences required in today's labour market, with an emphasis on the acquirement of business knowledge and professional skills, and is implemented through research projects and Master's theses, practical classes and professional qualifying practical placement. Smart and innovative approaches have been integrated into the content of the study programme (e.g., latest, smart and innovative theories, concepts, methods, relevant sources, research topics, students' independent work and forms of its implementation).

The content of the programme includes general education study courses and industry-based professional specialization courses, thus developing students' basic social, communicative and organisational skills and promoting the improvement of professional skills, abilities and attitudes. In addition, the study programme in the interdisciplinary aspect includes IT courses (4 CP) and courses in data analysis and statistics (4 CP), as well as courses in improvement of professional competence in business and innovation, project development, management, development of legal framework for employment and social dialogue (16 CP), which are emphasized in ensuring modern education in the field of economics and finance. Thus, the acquirement of this programme is based on the interaction of three fields of science - economics, finance, information technology, as well as the development of transversal skills, and provides for their in-depth acquirement and application in practical professional activities. The choice of study courses in the Master's programme, the amount and content of study courses, as well as the content of practical placement in accordance with the professional degree to be obtained is determined by the Professional Standard[1]. Various aspects of innovation approach and innovation management transverse the content of the programme and are integrated in the content of most study courses, e.g. the study course "Professional ethics and corporate social responsibility" includes the topic "Corporate social responsibility as a sustainable and innovative business tool". Several topics in the content of the study course "Labour market and human resource management" are related to the analysis of human resource management and labour market innovation processes and approaches, especially in the context of digitization and human resource skills, incl. describing examples in Latvia and abroad.

The organisation of the study programme implies that the **first study semester** is dedicated to the implementation of in-depth theory-based study courses (for example, macroeconomic policy, financial institutions and documents, innovations in global and international economics), development of research skills, successful elaboration of Master's thesis, ethical aspects of professional activities and the acquirement of specialized elective courses (smart data analysis in economics, research methods in economics, professional ethics and corporate social responsibility, project management and financing). In **the second study semester**, students are offered basic theoretic courses in economics and finance continues (smart specialisation and regional development, state budget policy and tax administration) with an emphasis on smart approach and IT solutions. Students are provided with in-depth knowledge according to the sub-programme fields (Corporate finance and investment, Financial risk management, Knowledge economy and innovation management, Network marketing strategies, etc.). In **the third study semester**, intensive acquirement of theoretical knowledge is provided for in the field of development of legal framework for employment and social dialogue, consolidation of all previously acquired knowledge in practical activities (practical placement) and the process of Master's thesis elaboration. In **the fourth semester**, the consolidation of previously acquired knowledge in practice (practical placement) and the process of elaborating a Master's thesis continues.

dialoga attīstības jomā, visu iepriekš apgūto zināšanu nostiprināšana praktiskajā darbībā (praksēs) un maģistra darba izstrādes process. **Ceturtajā semestrī** turpinās iepriekš apgūto zināšanu

nostiprināšana praktiskajā darbībā (praksēs) un maģistra darba izstrādes process.

On the other hand, studying in PMSP “Smart Economy and Innovation” for 1.5 years, a professional qualification is not awarded, therefore professional internship is envisaged in the study content only in the amount of 6 CP.

All study courses provided in the programme are implemented in accordance with the descriptions of the study courses, which also define the evaluation system of the respective course. When assessing the acquirment of the professional Master’s study programme “Smart Economics and Innovation”, the compliance of the evaluation of knowledge, skills and competences with the set aims and tasks of the programme and study courses is observed.

The structure of the study programme and the content of study courses, their implementation methods and forms are adapted to the requirements of the local labour market with an orientation to the socio-economic aspects of Latgale region.

[1] http://www.niid.lv/files/prof_standartu_registrs/finansu_analitikis.pdf un <https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/ps0254.pdf> [pārlūkots 03.11.2019.] un

2.3. Assessment of the study implementation methods (including the evaluation methods) by providing the analysis of how the study implementation methods (including the evaluation methods) used in the study courses/ modules are selected, what they are, and how they contribute to the achievement of the learning outcomes of the study courses and the aims of the study programme. Provide an explanation of how the student-centred principles are taken into account in the implementation of the study process.

The implementation of the study process in the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” will be carried out in such a way as to provide student-centered learning and assessment.

The implementation of the study programme is ensured using various forms of learning, methods and methodological techniques, including the e-learning environment *Moodle*. Different learning methods are used in the study programme: lectures, practical classes, creative seminars, role plays, discussions, master classes, study projects, trainings, case and problem situation analysis, project development, individual and group work, interactive methods, field classes, analysis of audiovisual material analysis, practical workshops, simulations, open lectures delivered by experienced professionals, lectures delivered by visiting foreign specialists, etc.

The teaching staff use various types of assessment that are appropriate to the objectives of the study course and focus on the observance of the principles of student-centered education. In addition to contact classes, the independent work, research and practice of Master’s students also play an important role in the acquirement of the content of the study programme. Students’ independent work is included in descriptions of study courses of the study programme. The task of the teaching staff is to encourage students to take an active role in the study process. The implementation style of the study programme is participation, and within the tasks set for practical classes students update the challenges of society and seek opportunities for the implementation of their ideas, projects, discuss and share practical experience, thus developing critical thinking, making remarks and arguing their views during discussions.

The aim of the study methods used to acquire the content of the study courses is not only to provide an opportunity to acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skills, the aim of the study

programme is to improve students' skills of critical thinking; to develop communication skills; ability to work both individually and in a team (*team building*); to improve the ability to appreciate diversity. Lecturers invite students to express their opinion about the offered forms of independent work and its presentation, listen to the students' wishes and update the literature, sources and forms of presentation recommended for independent work.

Student-centered learning is implemented by involving students in the process of presenting the study projects, Master's theses (pre-defence), engaging in discussions about research developed by others. According to a certain plan, the analysis and use of the works developed in the previous study years for further research is organised. Students regularly participate in seminars, conferences, colloquia and congresses, as well as participate in scientific and popular scientific events (scientific conferences, scientific communication events, projects, etc.) organised by DU.

The study process is based on students' individual work, which is supplemented with various methods of group work. Individual work is manifested, for example, in the performance of tasks in the reading room or in the elaboration of individual projects and practical tasks. Individual forms of work are oriented to the needs of students, the direction of their interests within the requirements of study courses, as well as work with the compulsory and additional literature of the study course. Students' individual work in cooperation with lecturers is also implemented in the elaboration of independent work, preparing for seminars, as well when preparing and presenting scientific publications at conferences.

DU offers the students of the study programme appropriate and easily accessible teaching aids, scientific and popular scientific literature in several languages, incl. also electronically (e.g. the *Scopus* database is available free of charge on the DU intranet). Descriptions of study courses are freely available to students, incl. in the e-environment.

The aim of applying different teaching methods is to maximize the acquirement of cognitive skills, abstract and analytical thinking, as well as knowledge and skills to be used in professional practical placement.

When evaluating the acquirement of the professional Master's study programme "Smart Economics and Innovation", the compliance of knowledge and skills evaluation with the set aims and tasks of the programme and study courses is observed - the obligatory evaluation; variety of types of examination - a test with a mark or an examination with a rating on a 10-point scale or with a rating of "passed / failed", if the volume of the study course does not exceed two credit points.

Within the study process, lecturers use the following forms of knowledge evaluation: tests, students' independent work, participation in seminars, developing students' problem-solving skills, and making reports. These forms of evaluation promote smooth and regular students' work during the study course, students' ability to work with course books and scientific literature, outline, systematise materials, analyse, judge, make decisions in the field of professional development. Evaluation methods are based on criteria-based evaluation and are reflected in the description of each study course. Thus, an individual approach to the evaluation of each student's knowledge is provided. Feedback is maintained through monthly lecturers' consultations, the opportunity to communicate with the lecturer on the Internet via Skype, e-mail and e-learning environment *Moodle*. In the implementation of study courses, students' self-evaluation and mutual evaluation according to the criteria offered by the lecturer are actively used, which motivates students to improve their knowledge and more widely involve them the acquirement of learning materials.

Evaluation of students' knowledge and supervision of independent study work is performed within the semester. First of all, it provides feedback between the student and the lecturer in a particular study course, allowing the lecturer to assess the level of acquirement of the modules of the already

implemented course and the quality of teaching. Secondly, it ensures a real, continuous learning process, not just “preparation for the exam”. At the beginning of the learning process, prior to the acquirement of a topic or subject, a diagnostic assessment is regularly used to regulate the further study process. At the end of the study course and the study programme, a summative assessment is applied, determining the level of knowledge and skills acquired by the student.

2.4. If the study programme entails a traineeship, provide the analysis and assessment of the relation between the tasks of the traineeship included in the study programme and the learning outcomes of the study programme. Specify how the higher education institution/ college supports the students within the study programme regarding the fulfilment of the tasks set for students during the traineeship.

The professional qualifying practical placement in the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” is implemented in accordance with the regulations on practical placement. The aim of the study practical placement is to promote the strengthening and development of theoretical knowledge, professional skills and abilities, to study and analyse the environment in which the organisation operates, to get acquainted with and study financial management and aspects of smart economy in the organisation, to make recommendations for the increase of company efficiency. The duration of the practical placement and its time is determined in accordance with the plan of the study programme and the study process schedule.

The organisation of the practical placement is regulated by the regulations on practical placement of the programme. The practical placement is implemented in accordance with the Agreement on practical placement concluded between DU and the provider of practical placement. The agreements ensure the planning of the professional practical placement provided for in the study programme and its successful implementation. The regulations on practical placement are developed in accordance with the requirements of the study programme and in connection with its theoretical part. The practical placement takes place outside the University in companies and institutions under the guidance of experienced specialists. On the basis of the results obtained during the professional practical placement, a Master’s thesis is elaborated.

Depending on the interests and possibilities, the student chooses the place of practical placement in coordination with the director of the study programme, but DU facilitates the choice of the most suitable place of practical placement or offers it.

In the autumn semester of 2020, in cooperation with internship providers, an internship place with the opportunity to perform internship assignments in English was sought for for a foreign student of PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation”. As a result, the student was offered two places for introductory internship (SIA “Rols” and SIA “Lagron”) in regional companies. The Master student chose SIA “Lagron”, where, within the internship, she cooperated with the company’s representatives in Latvia and Belarus.

Within the framework of the programme, students complete 26 weeks (with the acquirement of a professional Master’s degree and professional qualification) or 6 weeks (with the acquirement of a professional Master’s degree) of professional practical placement outside the university. Introductory or observation practical placement is planned for students without professional experience in the 2nd study semester (6 CP). Specialization practical placement is planned for students without professional experience in the 4th study semester or for students with professional experience in the 2nd study semester in the amount of (20 CP) and (6 CP),

respectively. Its purpose is to create an opportunity for the trainee to participate in the activities of a specific organisation, as well as in the development of all relevant documentation.

During academic year 2020/2021 students have chosen and are having practical placement in the following companies that are important for Daugavpils and the Eastern Latvia region: JSC Daugavpils Locomotive Repair Plant DLRR (headed by CFO), Axon Cable Ltd., construction company Lagron Ltd., design company Rem Pro Ltd., as well as other partner companies.

2.5. Analysis and assessment of the topics of the final theses of the students, their relevance in the respective field, including the labour market, and the evaluations of the final theses.

At the end of the studies, each student elaborates a Master's thesis in accordance with the methodological guidelines of the Department of Economics of DU Faculty of Social Sciences for the elaboration and defence of research papers.

In the period from 2013 to 2020, 47 Master's theses were defended in the Master's study programme of the study direction "Economics". The elaboration and defence of Master's theses took place in accordance with the methodological guidelines developed by the Department of Economics. Having analysed the topics of the defended Master's theses of the MSP "Economics", it should be emphasized that students' research interests are closely related to current trends and innovations in economics and financial market and include evaluation of various aspects of economic activity (12 theses defended), analysis of personnel management and growth in organisations (3 theses defended), research on financial performance and sustainability strategies in companies, industries (11 theses defended), assessment of taxes, tax control and municipal finances in financial market processes (9 theses defended) and analysis of regional specificity or certain sectors of economy and smart growth at different levels of research (12 theses). A significant number of works have an interregional and / or interdisciplinary component. Due to the more active involvement of students in the projects implemented by the lecturers, more and more often students choose topics in the field of innovation management in companies, local government activities and national economic activities. For example, J.Toropova's Master's thesis of 2019 "Evaluating Economic Growth of Zilupe Region in the Context of Latvia's Regional Development in 2013-2017" provides an assessment of the possibilities of smart development of the region, moreover, the author analyses one of the target regions of the border area of Eastern Latvia. This work was elaborated within the framework of DU internal grant No.14-95 / 10 "Assessment of smart growth opportunities in Latgale regions". The Master's thesis on the innovative approach to business resource management "Sustainable Development of a Construction Company in a Project-Based Approach" was elaborated and defended in 2020 by I.Kursīte. PBSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" (47311) is a newly developed study programme and no student has defended their Master's thesis yet.

Master's theses are submitted for plagiarism check and for review and are publicly defended, and a State examination commission is organised for their evaluation. The evaluation of the Master's thesis takes into account the novelty of the work, substantiation of its topicality, quality and depth of the research, compliance with the Master's research level, the author's report (ability to present the research scientifically, acquaint with the research in a focused and well-argued manner, formulate conclusions and indicate directions of further research), clarity of the proposals made and the possibilities of their actual use, the answers to the Commission's questions and the ability to

discuss. At the final examination session, the thesis is evaluated by the scientific advisor, reviewer and the State examination commission, which consists of the head of the Commission, representatives of professional organisations of the industry or employers and lecturers of the study direction. The State examination commission evaluates the work and decides on awarding a professional qualification and a professional Master's degree.

The topics of students' final theses are related to the specialization and research of their scientific advisors, coordinated with the selected study specialization, as well as focused on the research of topical issues in the Eastern Latvia region. Substantiation of the topicality of the theme is a mandatory condition during the elaboration and defence of the work. Priority topics of theses are quite often offered by industry representatives - the employment service, the State Revenue Service, local governments, companies, etc.. For example, I. Kursīte's work "Sustainable Development of a Construction Company in a Project-Based Approach" was defended in 2020. L. Karčevska defended the work "European Union Support for Young Farmers in the South Latgale Regional Agricultural Board in 2007-2013" in 2016, but in 2013 J. Gladevičs defended his Master's thesis "Optimization of the Performance of Daugavpils Railway Marshalling Yard".

2.6. Analysis and assessment of the outcomes of the surveys conducted among the students, graduates, and employers, and the use of these outcomes for the improvement of the content and quality of studies by providing the respective examples.

DU conducts systematic and regular surveys and monitoring of study programmes in order to make sure that the aims set and learning outcomes are achieved. The above-mentioned evaluations promote the continuous improvement of study programmes by ensuring and maintaining the offer of study programmes corresponding to the needs of the society and creating a supportive and effective learning environment for students. Students, lecturers, employers and graduates are involved in the evaluation of study programmes.

PBSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" (47311) is a newly developed study programme and no student has graduated yet. Surveys of graduates were previously conducted for students of PMSP "Economics" of the study direction "Economics".

Surveys of supervisors of practical placement are regularly conducted, the opinions of reviewers of Master's theses, members of the State examination commission and other experts is analysed. The questionnaires of employers are based on surveys of supervisors of practical placement, as well as the opinions of industry experts. Surveys of employers are organised at the end of the practical placement, they are aimed at evaluating the trainee / employee's readiness for work, competence, communication skills, acquired theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Employer surveys are organised in the form of both interviews and questionnaires. Employers can evaluate the study programme, and on the basis of its results one can analyse the quality of work of graduates and working specialists. Therefore, employers are regularly invited to assess the qualifications, knowledge, skills and abilities of students of the study programme, as well as graduates working in the relevant organisations and institutions, to predict which specialists and with which skills and abilities the organisation or institution will need in the near future and long term.

Having analysed the results of employer surveys, it can be concluded that the graduates of the study programme have acquired versatile knowledge in general education courses, as well as skills

in the use of IT-based economic and financial technologies (e.g. FinTeh, tools of budgeting and project development) (interactive methods, projects, research, seminars etc.). Employers continuously recommend to integrate the proportion of practical classes in the study process and Master's theses, to choose topical problems in real companies in Latgale region as research objects, coordinating topics with the needs of employers.

The programme will be improved in cooperation with graduates, as well as there will be a link established with labour market representatives, through gathering the information about graduates' employment, quality of work and competence in future. The results of graduates' surveys let us understand the graduates' point of view regarding the need for knowledge and skills acquired in the study process from and to make appropriate adjustments to the study content.

Student involvement in the programme planning is implemented through tripartite discussions between the programme management, supervisors of practical placement (company representatives) and students, evaluating and incorporating the specific recommendations of the programme participants, as well as ensuring student representation in the programme council and other DU decision-making bodies through modern communication channels (social networks, email, etc.). In the surveys, students evaluate the quality of study process implementation, the level of teaching certain study courses, and express their opinion on the changes to be introduced in the study process. An example is the desire of students to include a study course in the field of digital economics or e-commerce in the content of the study programme. As a result, the study course "Digital marketing" was included in the content of the programme of the new PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation". In general, the feedback from students, graduates and employers regarding the quality of the PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" implemented by DU is positive.

In order to improve external co-operation, the state final examination (qualification examination) commission includes representatives of employers and industry professionals, who may coordinate possible topics of Master's theses. The aim of the Master's thesis elaborated on the basis of professional practical placement is to assess the students' ability to orientate themselves in the theoretical, legal and practical issues of their work, to analyse and evaluate the situation, to make forecasts on the basis of the analysis, to make proposals. Professional specialists of the field are invited to take part in the self-evaluation of the study programme.

Based on the experience gained in the implementation of the programme, the Council of the study direction "Economics" systematically surveys and examines the study programmes to ascertain how the aims set and the learning outcomes have been achieved, as well as evaluates the study process, the results and recommends measures for the programme improvement and integration of the latest findings in the content and process of learning. The respective structural units discuss the submitted proposals and initiate changes in the volume of study courses, their content and calendar layout by semesters. At the same time, each semester, taking into account the results of student surveys, formal student success indicators, as well as lecturers' professional performance indicators in relevant fields (participation in scientific conferences, research and other projects, participation in applied research, publications, etc.), a detailed analysis is carried out on the content of each study course and the quality of its delivery. After that, the proposals to introduce changes in the study courses or study programme are discussed in the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and after its approval they are forwarded to the DU Council for Studies, which evaluates the compliance of the changes. In case of a positive decision of the Council for Studies, the changes are approved. The evaluations mentioned promote continuous improvement of study programmes, ensuring and maintaining the supply of study programmes corresponding to the needs of the society and creating a supportive and effective learning environment for students. Thus, Daugavpils University collects, analyses and later uses relevant information for effective management of study

programmes. In the process of implementation and development of a study programme, the quality of resources is regularly improved and the amount of available resources is expanded depending on the development priorities, which in turn depend on the requirements of education and the labour market.

2.7. Provide the assessment of the options of the incoming and outgoing mobility of the students, the dynamics of the number of the used opportunities, and the recognition of the study courses acquired during the mobility.

Analysing the dynamics of incoming and outgoing mobility of students of the Master's level study programme in the study direction of Economics, it can be concluded that since the previous accreditation period, outgoing mobility within this programme has not changed significantly and is rather low. Within the framework of the exchange programme, the students of the study programme mainly use the opportunities of post-study practical placement. For example, in 2018 the graduate V. Aleksejeva after completing the MSP "Economics", had her practical placement in France. However, as the majority of students of the programme are employed, this limits significantly outgoing mobility, if makes it at all possible, as all students in the programme combine work and studies and are most often employed in positions of responsibility in regional companies or institutions. Periods of mobility abroad can lead to risk of losing job and / or make it harder to find a job, which reduces students' motivation to take advantage of the mobility opportunities offered.

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (3. Resources and Provision of the Study Programme)

3.1. Assessment of the compliance of the resources and provision (study provision, scientific support (if applicable), informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision) with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the learning outcomes to be achieved by providing the respective examples. Whilst carrying out the assessment, it is possible to refer to the information provided for in the criteria set forth in Part II, Chapter 3, sub-paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3.

The resources and provision of the study programme (see the information provided in Criteria 31-3.3 of Chapter 3) fully comply with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the achievement of learning outcomes. The resources available to students, incl. study facilities, material and technical base, tools and equipment (for preparation, combination, integration, visualization and distribution of study and research materials), information networks (Internet, intranet, *Moodle*), databases (library network, databases of DU research center, free access databases (book resource database), materials (research materials, scientific publications,

including *Web of Science* and *Scopus* publications, archives, industry standards), services (administrative, financial, IT and network support services, access to official statistics), computerized applications and software (*Standard Office*, *SPSS*, *GIS*, online data visualization tools and software, online communication tools) allow for acquiring all study courses planned in the programme, as well as conduct research at various stages, provide a flexible and student-oriented environment. The necessary technical equipment (computers with licensed software, projectors, interactive whiteboards, etc.) is used in the implementation of the programme, various teaching methods are used (group work, role plays, simulations, seminars, discussions, etc.).

The e-learning environment in the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” is offered based on the fact that the majority of those who want to study (including the previously implemented AMSP “Economics”) are residents of Latgale region and travel from Zulupe, Krāslava and other Latgale cities. Thus, the study process is partly based on several principles of e-learning environment, incl. the individualisation and accessibility of education, which is ensured in the form of students’ independent work. Forms and methods of study organisation suitable for e-learning environment are used. One of the principles of the e-learning environment is the thematic structuring and adaptation of the study content within the certain educational programme in accordance with the specificity of the e-learning environment in close relation to the course content, curricula, incl. the tests planned. DU has a developed e-learning environment (*Moodle*), as well as methodological and scientific information is available in each study course as a result of providing direct communication (e-mail, consultations).

Daugavpils University lecturers systematically use the e-learning environment *Moodle* (<https://estudijas.du.lv/>) and place various learning materials there: video recordings of lectures, seminars and practical classes. At the same time, e-learning reduces the risk of students dropping out in cases where it is not possible to attend all study courses due to work or health conditions. Activation of the e-learning environment is an important step in promoting the maintenance of a critical mass of students, thus ensuring the training of specialists not only for the Eastern Latvia region, which is represented by the majority of DU students, but also for other regions of Latvia and abroad.

3.2. Assessment of the study provision and scientific support, including the resources provided within the cooperation with other science institutes and institutions of higher education (applicable to the doctoral study programmes).

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (4. Teaching Staff)

4.1. Analysis and assessment of the changes to the composition of the teaching staff over the reporting period and their impact on the study quality.

An important factor in the implementation of the programme is the qualification level of the employed lecturers. The professional Master’s study programme “Smart Economics and Innovation”

is implemented by 22 lecturers, incl. 5 professors. For 11 lecturers DU is the main workplace, there are 11 visiting lecturers representing the professional environment of economics and finance in Latvia and abroad. 14 lecturers (64%) have a Doctoral degree in the field of the study course delivered and 4 are applicants for a Doctoral degree.

Taking into account the point included in the new NDP 2021-2017 project, which states the need to promote the development of such higher education programmes that provide for the introduction and implementation of interdisciplinary and modular programmes, including the implementation of programmes that provide opportunities to acquire various competences and skills, it can be predicted that the proposed PMSP, both in terms of content and by combining lecturers with broad scientific interests, will be able to positively implement such tasks. The set of interdisciplinary competences allows students and graduates of the programme to establish themselves in the labour market, incl. international companies, as highly qualified specialists in various fields, because they will feel free to orientate themselves in various issues related to the management of the organisation, in management and legal science, economics and sociology and they are innovation-oriented.

DU Department of Economics of the Faculty of Social Sciences regularly provides guest lectures and seminars, which is a productive mechanism for the development of theoretical and practical competences of DU academic staff. In organising professional development and knowledge exchange events, long-term cooperation has been established with Latvian and foreign specialists in the field of finance and economics representing the European Commission, European Parliament, Latvian bank, commercial banks, SJSC Altum, business incubators, companies and Latgale planning region, or are managers of Rezekne and Latgale special economic areas.

During the reporting period, several foreign professors were involved in the implementation of the study programme, e.g. Dr.oec. Marzena Piotrowska-Trybull (Poland), Dr.habil., visiting professor M.Tvaronavičienė (Lithuania), Dr.hab.oec., prof. V.Kosiedowski (Poland), Assoc.prof. M.Petrova (Bulgaria), Dr.oec. Halina Shmarlouskaya (Belarus), as well as students are regularly offered lectures of ERASMUS + foreign visiting lecturers, e.g. Assist. prof. M. F. Bayik (Turkey), Dr. oec. G. Dudzevičute, Dr. oec. D.Prokopiene (Lithuania).

4.2. Assessment of the compliance of the qualification of the teaching staff members (academic staff members, visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers, and visiting assistants) involved in the implementation of the study programme with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the provisions set out in the respective regulatory enactments. Provide information on how the qualification of the teaching staff members contributes to the achievement of the learning outcomes.

The composition of the teaching staff employed in the study programme complies with the Law on Higher Education Institutions and the Cabinet Regulations No. 481 "Regulations on the state standard of the second level professional higher education". The provision set forth in Article 39 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions - "Lecturers and assistants who do not have a scientific and academic degree need five years of practical work experience related to the subject to be taught" has been complied with, as the staff involved in the PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" have at least 5 years of experience of working in the relevant industry.

The qualification of the academic staff involved in the implementation of the study programme is

adequate for achieving the learning outcomes, as well as for achieving the aims and tasks of DU. Lecturers are professionals in their field and have proven their competence in the research and use of e-environment in the study process, as well as participated in international projects and elaborated teaching aids and materials. Lecturers of several DU faculties - Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Education and Management and researchers of the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, specialists of cities and regions, governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as practitioners recognised in certain fields and visiting lecturers from DU partner universities in Latvia and abroad are involved in achieving the aims and tasks. An invaluable contribution to the study programme is made by lecturers who have a synergy of scientific and practical work.

The academic staff and employers' representatives involved in the implementation of the programme are highly qualified and will be able to provide students of the PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation" with the necessary knowledge, skills and competences to successfully complete the programme and obtain a professional Master's degree in economics and / or a qualification of a financial analyst or economist.

DU promotes the development and improvement of the academic staff by moving towards a competent staff. Most lecturers have practical experience in a certain field, which confirms their suitability for work in a professional programme. At the same time, DU implements various mechanisms and procedures for raising the qualification of teaching staff and promoting scientific research activities.

In cooperation with the Professional Development Centre, lecturers have the opportunity to participate in further education courses, improving, deepening and perfecting their knowledge. During 2018, the academic staff involved in the programme participated in various professional development courses (Teacher Further Education courses B, "Elaboration of study courses in the e-learning environment Moodle", "Data analysis and preparation of reports").

In 2019-2020, the lecturers of the study programme had the opportunity to implement internships in partner companies, there were regular field trips to partner companies, which improved the lecturers' knowledge and competences regarding the elements and specificity of innovative activity in the national economy and certain sectors in the interregional context. As a result, the content of study courses, the list of potential topics of research and projects have been improved and updated, as well as the inspection of places of practical placement is being conducted.

4.3. Information on the number of the scientific publications of the academic staff members, involved in the implementation of the doctoral study programme, as published during the reporting period by listing the most significant publications published in Scopus or WoS CC indexed journals. As for the social sciences, humanitarian sciences, and the science of art, the scientific publications published in ERIH+ indexed journals may be additionally specified (if applicable).

4.4. Information on the participation of the academic staff, involved in the implementation of the doctoral study programme, in scientific projects as project managers or prime contractors/ subproject managers/ leading researchers by specifying the name of the relevant project, as well as the source and the amount of the funding. Provide information

on the reporting period (if applicable).

4.5. Provide examples of the involvement of the academic staff in the scientific research and/or artistic creation activities both at national and at international level (in the fields related to the content of the study programme), as well as the use of the obtained information in the study process.

The research and creative activity of the academic staff is closely related to the study process, promoting students' understanding of the relationship between the innovation sector and the needs of the real organisation.

The scientific capacity of the teaching staff is confirmed by the publications indexed in the *Web of Science* and *SCOPUS* databases, the number of supervised final papers, Doctoral theses and researches in the implementation of which the lecturers of the study programme participate. DU annually evaluates the scientific activity of the teaching staff, within the framework of which the results of research work, activity in projects, as well as pedagogical and organisational work are evaluated. The academic staff engaged in the study programme participates in projects of various programmes and funding sources (National Research Programmes, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, COST action, European Social Fund, *Interreg*, European Economic Area and Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Ministry of Culture, etc.) and the results are used in the update of the content of study courses.

For example, Master's students were involved in data collection and analysis for researcher and LLU visiting research assistant I. Ostrovska's project "Opportunities to increase the productivity and competitiveness of the national economy as an economic system in the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic" of the National research programme "Economic, Political and Legal Framework for Preserving the Potential of the Latvian Economy and Promoting Growth of Competitiveness after the Pandemic Crisis (reCOVvery-LV)". The intermediate results and findings of this project are gradually integrated into the study courses of the programme (e.g. "Labour market and human resource management" and "Macroeconomic policy" and "Starting a business and innovative business models"). In its turn, the Master's students of the programme were engaged in the activities of the *Interreg* Latvia-Lithuania programme project "Mentoring for the Support of Youth Entrepreneurship, BONUS LT-LV", which contributed to the elaboration of materials for youth entrepreneurship education, which are also used in the implementation of the PMSP "Smart Economics and Innovation".

Lecturers actively participate in scientific and practical conferences and seminars in Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Denmark, Iceland, Croatia, and other European countries; in regular DU scientific events - at the international scientific conference "Social Sciences for Regional Development" and at the annual DU international scientific conference, where working groups dedicated to economic and business issues are organised. The information obtained at the conferences and the latest findings are approbated in the conduct of study courses and students' theses, as well as in the preparation of teaching aids. The research and creative activity of the academic staff is closely related to the study process, promoting students' understanding of the relationship between the innovation sector and the needs of the real organisation.

The research and creative activity of the academic staff is closely related to the study process, promoting students' understanding of the relationship between the innovation sector and the needs of the real organisation. The teaching staff of the programme includes lecturers who regularly cooperate towards the improvement of the study processes. Thus, interdisciplinarity and succession in the development of students' knowledge and skills is achieved. The academic staff of the study programme publish the results of their research in internationally peer-reviewed journals and collections of articles indexed in the Web of Sciences and SCOPUS databases. The students of the programme as well as lecturers of partner universities are also involved in the elaboration of articles. Many lecturers' publications are also included in the bibliography of the study course plans, thus confirming the coherence of students and lecturers' research directions and compliance with the content of the study programme. An example is the article "Leader Programme - for Business Promotion in Rural Areas of Latvia: the Case Study of Latgale Region" elaborated and published by L. Karčevska in cooperation with L. Aleksejeva and I. Ostrovska. In: Regional Review. Research papers. Jermolajeva E. (edit.) No. 11 (2015). Daugavpils: Daugavpils Universitātes Akadēmiskais apgāds "Saule" (EBSCO Academic Search Complete international database and ProQuest database, World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research (WINIR)).

DU provides support for the scientific and practical activities of lecturers by organizing annually the "Daugavpils University research project competition", which ensures the development of scientific activities and scientific excellence at DU; promotes the research growth of DU academic, scientific staff and students; promotes the practical applicability of scientific results, cooperation with the private sector and attraction of additional external funding; encourages the formation of innovative interdisciplinary research groups for the introduction of topical research topics.

4.6. Assessment of the cooperation between the teaching staff members by specifying the mechanisms used to promote the cooperation and ensure the interrelation between the study courses/ modules. Specify also the proportion of the number of the students and the teaching staff within the study programme (at the moment of the submission of the Self-Assessment Report).

In order to be involved in the study programme, lecturers are motivated to get involved in Erasmus + activities and improve their teaching, administrative and research practices, as well as to improve their knowledge of foreign languages in foreign partner universities at least once a year. E.g., in 2020 using Erasmus + staff training mobility asoc.prof. A.Čaplinska visited *Business School of Kazimieras Simonavičius University*, there is regular cooperation with many other foreign partners. Using ERASMUS + mobility opportunities, the improvement of the academic staff is promoted, the content of the study programmes is supplemented with innovative methods, foreign visiting professors are attracted, the internationalization of the study direction is promoted. During the implementation of ERASMUS + projects, the academic staff of the direction regularly participate in consultative discussions with professors / colleagues from different countries, work in libraries and cooperate with industry profiling departments to obtain empirical data for research, preparation of joint publications, participation in scientific seminars and conferences. The lecturers of the study programme actively improve the experience by implementing foreign mobility, both teaching mobility and staff training, and combined mobility, there are on average 10 mobilities each academic year.

The aims of mobility enable DU lecturers and staff to gain knowledge and specific skills by learning from the experience and good practices of foreign partners, as well as to improve practical skills required for work at DU and professional development, to encourage academic staff to expand and improve the range and content of courses offered, to enable students who do not have the opportunity to participate in the mobility programme to benefit from the knowledge and experience provided by the academic staff from other European universities and foreign visiting lecturers, to promote the exchange of knowledge and pedagogical experience between European higher education institutions.

The academic staff involved in the PMSP “Smart Economics and Innovation” cooperate with each other in research, writing and publishing joint scientific works and teaching aids, as well as in creating, improving and delivering joint study courses within the study programme. Published scientific articles are used in the study process. The students of the programme are well informed about the publishing activity of their scientific advisor and other teachers involved in the programme, because most of the students in the programme carry out active scientific cooperation with the teaching staff involved in the programme implementation.

Each study course is elaborated and implemented by several lecturers, i.e. local and foreign lecturers, thus ensuring the integration of knowledge and practice, as well as the experience and approaches of different countries and the systematic teaching of extensive study courses. Their mutual cooperation promotes the quality of study courses both in the elaboration and implementation stages.

Annexes

III. Description of the Study Programme - 1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme		
Compliance of the joint study programme with the provisions of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education (table)		
Statistics on the students over the reporting period	Student_statistics_ENG.docx	Studējošo_statistika_LV.docx
III. Description of the Study Programme - 2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof		
Compliance of the study programme with the State Education Standard	PMSp_atbilstiba_valsts_izglitiba_standartam_ENG.docx	MSP_atbilstiba_valsts_izglitiba_standartam.docx
Compliance of the qualification to be acquired upon completion of the study programme with the professional standard (if applicable)	PMSp_prof_standarti_ENG.rar	PMSp_prof_standarti.rar
Compliance of the study programme with the specific regulatory framework applicable to the relevant field (if applicable)		
Mapping of the study courses/ modules for the achievement of the learning outcomes of the study programme	PMSp_Vieda_ekonomika_un_inovacijas_kartējums_LV_ENG.docx	PMSp_Vieda_ekonomika_un_inovacijas_kartējums_LV_ENG.docx
Curriculum of the study programme (for each type and form of the implementation of the study programme)	MSP_studiju_plani_ENG.xls	MSP_studiju_plani_LV.xls
Descriptions of the study courses/ modules	MSP_kursa_apraksti_ENG.zip	MSP_kursa_apraksti_LV.zip
Description of the Study Direction - Other mandatory attachments		
Sample of the diploma to be issued for the acquisition of the study programme.	PMSp_Vieda_ekonomika_un_inovacijas_diplomi_un_diplomu_pielikumi_ENG.zip	PMSp_diplomi_diplomu_pielikumi_LV.rar
Description of the Study Programme - Other mandatory attachments		
Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college will provide the students with the options to continue the acquisition of education in another study programme or at another higher education institution/ college (a contract with another accredited higher education institution/ college), in case the implementation of the study programme is discontinued	DU_RTA_vienošanās_ENG.doc	Vienosanas_DU_un_RTA.pdf
Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college guarantees to the students a compensation for losses if the study programme is not accredited or the licence of the study programme is revoked due to the actions of the higher education institution/ college (actions or failure to act) and the student does not wish to continue the studies in another study programme	Guarantee_ENG_FINAL.doc	APLIECINĀJUMS_kompensacijai_studejosajiem (4).edoc
Confirmation of the higher education institution/ college that the teaching staff members to be involved in the implementation of the study programme have at least B2-level knowledge of a related foreign language according to European language levels (see the levels under www.europass.lv), if the study programme or any part thereof is to be implemented in a foreign language.	PMSp_Vieda_ekonomika_un_inovacijas.zip	PMSp_Vieda_ekonomika_un_inovacijas.zip
If the study programmes in the study direction subject to the assessment are doctoral study programmes, a confirmation that at least five teaching staff members with doctoral degree are among the academic staff of a doctoral study programme, at least three of which are experts approved by the Latvian Science Council in the respective field or sub-field of science, in which the study programme has intended to award a scientific degree.		
If academic study programmes are implemented within the study direction, a document confirming that the academic staff of the academic study programme complies with the provisions set out in Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause three of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education		
Sample (or samples) of the study agreement	AGREEMENT_STUDIES_ENG.docx	Ligums_par_studijam.docx
If academic study programmes for less than 250 full-time students are implemented within the study direction, the opinion of the Council for Higher Education shall be attached in compliance with Section 55, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.		

Business and Financial Processes

Title of the higher education institution	<i>Economics</i>
ProcedureStudyProgram.Name	<i>Business and Financial Processes</i>
Education classification code	<i>42311</i>
Type of the study programme	<i>Professional bachelor study programme</i>
Name of the study programme director	<i>Ludmila</i>
Surname of the study programme director	<i>Aleksejeva</i>
E-mail of the study programme director	<i>ludmila.aleksejeva@du.lv</i>
Title of the study programme director	<i>Dr. oec.</i>
Phone of the study programme director	<i>26153350</i>
Goal of the study programme	<i>The strategic aim of DU PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" is to provide DU matriculated students with a broad and comprehensive practice-based theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the field of business and finance, as well as to provide in-depth foreign language learning opportunities in order to meet specific professional standards (financier - PS 117 and business manager - PS-115) and the knowledge basis and professional competence corresponding to professional higher education of the second level.</i>
Tasks of the study programme	<p><i>The asks of the study programme :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• to provide students with the opportunity to obtain competitive high-quality higher education that meets modern requirements and is in demand in the international and local labour market;</i> <i>• to develop students' research competences, to promote the development of creative potential and analytical skills and critical thinking for independent research in the field of finance and business management;</i> <i>• to promote the integrity, flexibility and further improvement of the study programme, the content of the study process in accordance with the changing processes in the national economy, international market and technology development;</i> <i>• to develop students' knowledge and skills, as well as interdisciplinary competences in management, finance, law, economics, social and digital fields, practical skills in working with modern technologies and general competences required in today's labour market, by choosing advanced education, management methods and techniques that provide favourable environment for personal and professional growth;</i> <i>• to emphasize the importance and specificity of sustainable regional development, as well as aspects of interregional cooperation, both within a country and across borders;</i> <i>• to prepare Bachelor's degree holders for studying in the study programmes of the Master's level.</i>

Results of the study programme	<p><i>Knowledge</i></p> <p>1. Knows and understands the most current economic theories, regularities of economic development, processes taking place in the economic environment and their impact on the company's operations, is able to explain them, including inter-sectoral and inter-regional aspect.</p> <p>2. Knows and understands the legal framework of business, ethical norms and principles of sustainability specific to the profession of financier and business manager.</p> <p>3. Understands the theoretical, normative and methodological basis and interdisciplinary connection of management and other related sciences, business environment and process management context and trends in Latvia, Europe and the world.</p> <p><i>Skills</i></p> <p>4. Is able to independently select and analyze theoretical information sources according to professional needs (perform management or financial process analysis), using the latest information and communication technologies.</p> <p>5. Is able to use modern theory, fundamental concepts, methods, tools and digital solutions for solving business tasks in the field of financial and management process management (including to ensure the efficient operation of the company).</p> <p>6. Able to produce reports, publications and presentations on research results in the industry, evaluate the obtained information and use it in accordance with the set goal (corporate governance), discuss and explain aspects of their professional activities, cooperating with various stakeholders, following ethical norms and using a scientific approach.</p> <p><i>Competences</i></p> <p>7. Demonstrates adaptation to new situations, openness to change, readiness to act and the ability to make decisions in changing conditions.</p> <p>8. Able to argue, independently acquire new knowledge, analyze, systematize, integrate and critically evaluate challenges related to professional work, take initiative and responsibility for business processes, management, taking into account the interdisciplinary context and based on the latest achievements in economic theory and practice.</p> <p>9. Able to identify and critically analyze the challenges of the company, make and justify decisions to address them.</p> <p>10. Able to take responsibility, operate and lead a team, delegate and coordinate the performance of duties, effectively plan and organize their work and constantly improve professional competence and specialization, cooperate with stakeholders in the local, interregional environment.</p>
Final examination upon the completion of the study programme	<i>Bachelor's thesis</i>

Study programme forms

Full time studies - 4 years - latvian

Study type and form	<i>Full time studies</i>
Duration in full years	4
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>latvian</i>
Amount (CP)	160
Admission requirements (in English)	<i>general secondary or secondary professional education</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>Professional Bachelor's Degree in Economics</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	<i>financier or company manager</i>

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIEŅĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Full time studies - 4 years - english

Study type and form	<i>Full time studies</i>
Duration in full years	4
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>english</i>
Amount (CP)	160
Admission requirements (in English)	<i>general secondary or secondary professional education</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>Professional Bachelor's Degree in Economics</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	<i>financier or company manager</i>

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIEŅĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Part time studies - 5 years - latvian

Study type and form	<i>Part time studies</i>
Duration in full years	5
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>latvian</i>
Amount (CP)	160
Admission requirements (in English)	<i>general secondary or secondary professional education</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>Professional Bachelor's Degree in Economics</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	<i>financier or company manager</i>

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

Part time studies - 5 years - english

Study type and form	<i>Part time studies</i>
Duration in full years	5
Duration in month	0
Language	<i>english</i>
Amount (CP)	160
Admission requirements (in English)	<i>general secondary or secondary professional education</i>
Degree to be acquired or professional qualification, or degree to be acquired and professional qualification (in english)	<i>Professional Bachelor's Degree in Economics</i>
Qualification to be obtained (in english)	<i>financier or company manager</i>

Places of implementation

Place name	City	Address
University of Daugavpils	DAUGAVPILS	VIENĪBAS IELA 13, DAUGAVPILS, LV-5401

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme)

1.1. Description and analysis of changes in study programme parameters that have taken place since the issue of the previous accreditation certificate of study direction or the license of study programme if study programme is not included in the accreditation page of the study direction

In compliance with Daugavpils University "Study Programme Development and Consolidation Plan", within the ESF project SAM 8.2.1 "Reducing the Fragmentation of Study Programmes and Strengthening Resource Sharing at Daugavpils University", the PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" has been licensed and is being implemented at DU since the study year 2020/2021.

PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" has been developed taking into account the demand of the labour market and the professional standards updated in 2019 ("Business Manager" PS-115 and "Financier" PS-117) and by transforming the academic bachelor study programme (hereinafter - ABSP) "Economics". On successful completion of the PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" student are awarded Bachelor's degree in Economics, the qualification of a financier or a business manager.

In the academic year 2020/2021, there are only the 3rd year students studying in the DU ABSP "Economics" and this study programme will be closed until June 30, 2023.

The 3rd year students of BSP "Economics" will have completed their studies and received the diplomas by June 30, 2023. Whereas the 2nd year students of BSP "Economics" were transferred and re-registered for studies in the newly established study programme at the beginning of the study year 2020/2021 and currently they are successfully continuing their studies in PBSP "Business and Financial Processes". The students registered for studies in BSP "Economics" who are on academic leave will be re-registered in PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" in the spring of 2021.

1.2. Analysis and assessment of the statistical data on the students of the respective study programme, the dynamics of the number of the students, and the factors affecting the changes to the number of the students. The analysis shall be broken down in the different study forms, types, and languages.

From academic year 2013/2014 until 2019/2020 the number of students at the Bachelor's level^[1] of the study direction "Economics" ranged from 90 students (including part-time students) at the beginning of the period to 50 students in 2020, which can be explained mainly by financial problems, as the economic situation in Eastern Latvia is still at a relatively low level, as well as by a small number of state-financed places in this programme. It should be noted that in academic year 2020/2021 thanks to the licensing of a new PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" and more attractive content, 25 new students were admitted to the Bachelor's level.

Having analysed the trends of students' dropouts, it can be stated that in each academic year there are 1-2 students who drop out of studies without returning from the academic leave. It can be

stated that most students drop out in the first year of studies, while in the second and third years of studies there are fewer dropouts. Students' dropout is related to their incomplete understanding of the selected field of studies, as well as personal reasons (family circumstances, health problems, etc.). In the spring semester of academic year 2019/2020 a small dropout rate was related to the distance learning process and the limited abilities of students to join it. The largest dropout is observed with students studying for personal funding. The number of graduates of the programme since 2013/2014 has ranged from 10 to 20 graduates per year. The information on the dynamics of the number of students is available in the appendix.

The establishment of the PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" is envisioned in the "Daugavpils University Plan of Study Programme Elaboration and Consolidation", which was approved in 2018 by the Ministry of Education and Science. The study programme has been elaborated within the framework of ESF project No. 8.2.1.0/18/A/019 "Reduction of fragmentation of study programmes and strengthening the sharing of resources at Daugavpils University"^[2], having analyzed the experience gained in the implementation of the academic Bachelor's study programme "Economics".

The PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" provides for studies in Latvian and English. The programme is implemented in the form of full-time and part-time studies. In the first year of implementation of the PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" (2020/2021 academic year) full-time studies in Latvian are being provided.

[1] 8.2.1. SAM projekts "Studiju programmu fragmentācijas samazināšana un resursu koplietošanas stiprināšana Daugavpils Universitātē"

<https://du.lv/uzsakts-8-2-1-sam-projekts-studiju-programmu-fragmentācijas-samazināšana-un-resursu-koplietošanas-stiprināšana-daugavpils-universitate/> [pārlūkots 24.10.2019.]

[2] 8.2.1. SAM projekts "Studiju programmu fragmentācijas samazināšana un resursu koplietošanas stiprināšana Daugavpils Universitātē"

<https://du.lv/uzsakts-8-2-1-sam-projekts-studiju-programmu-fragmentācijas-samazināšana-un-resursu-koplietošanas-stiprināšana-daugavpils-universitate/> [pārlūkots 24.10.2019.]

1.3. Analysis and assessment of the interrelation between the name of the study programme, the degree or professional qualification to be acquired or the degree and professional qualification to be acquired, the aims, objectives, learning outcomes, and the admission requirements.

Since the previous accreditation of the study direction, ABSP "Economics" was transformed into PBSP "Business and Financial Processes", taking into account the demand of the labour market and the update of professional standards ("Business manager" PS-115 and "Financier" PS-117) in 2019.

The aim and tasks of PBSP "Business and Financial Processes", as well as the learning outcomes obtained during the studies correspond to the sixth EQF level (Cabinet Regulation No. 322 "Regulations on the Classification of Latvian Education"), which is the Bachelor's study level. The aim, tasks and learning outcomes to be achieved are mutually agreed and ensure that the graduates of the PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" implemented at Daugavpils University will have gained understanding of the most important concepts, theories and regularities in

economics, business and finance, based on knowledge and critical thinking, will be prepared for self-directed professional, innovative or research activities, will be able to assess the impact of their activities on society and will be motivated for personal and professional growth.

The name of the study programme and the qualifications to be awarded are determined by the appearance of innovative concepts and challenges in the labour market (economical production and just-in-time production, economic activities of online platforms, teleworking, increasing influence of network companies, shared economic activities), which require the combination of several skills and their synergy. The need for these competences for most business and economics professions is projected to increase rapidly. This is especially relevant to small businesses, where the head of a company often performs the functions of an economist, a financier or even an accountant, respectively, is aware of the interrelationships in economics and business management necessary for business growth and achievement of long-term strategic goals.

The complexity of business processes and the integration of financial and management competences determine the need for specialists who will solve economic problems by using the approaches and methods offered by both economics and management science, thus promoting regional development and interregional cooperation in both Latvian and cross-border contexts.

Both professional standards set out a number of common general objectives for ensuring professional activity, such as application of binding regulations, development of reports, publications, provision of publicity, as well as similar professional duties and tasks with an emphasis on financial or business specific processes, such as market analysis or the analysis of the financial environment (Clause 1 in Professional Standard for Business Manager and Clause 3.1 in Professional Standard for Financier), evaluation of financial performance (Clause 2.6, 3.2, 3.10 in Professional Standard for Business Manager and Clause 3.2, 3.5 in Professional Standard for Financier).

Thus, the content of the programme has been developed so that all students would acquire knowledge, skills and competences in management, financial, as well as economic analysis, evaluation, comparison, modelling, etc. In turn, for the development of specific competences in the field of business and finance, the study programme will offer sub-programme specialization study courses, study projects, internship and assignments to be accomplished as the students' independent work.

The parallel implementation of the two sub-programmes meets the requirements of the labour market and students' interests, it is aimed at preparing competitive and competent specialists for the labour market. The acquisition of specialization study courses is started only in the second study year; therefore, students have the opportunity to purposefully choose the specialization that best suits their interests, abilities, and needs.

The study content of the PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" is aligned with the aims, tasks and achievable learning outcomes, as well as is based on the admission requirements set for applicants - general secondary or secondary professional education, taking into account the results of the centralized exams in Latvian, first foreign language and mathematics. For those who completed secondary education before 2004 (excluding), as well as for persons with special needs, on the basis of successful secondary marks in the secondary education document, the competition evaluation is determined according to a special formula, where the annual average mark in the Latvian language and literature stated in the secondary education document is taken into account + the annual average mark in English, French or German stated in the secondary education document + the annual average mark in certain subjects stated in the secondary education document.

Persons who have completed secondary education abroad participate in the competition with year marks in the subjects Mother Tongue and Foreign Language provided in the document certifying secondary education ; in compliance with the admission requirements, additional points are awarded for the graduation examination mark in the document certifying secondary education according to the admission requirements for the study programme.

For foreign applicants, the English language proficiency test is carried out in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 846 "Regulations Regarding the Requirements, Criteria and Procedures for Admission to Study Programmes".

Advantages are given to the 1st-3rd degree winners of the Latvian National Student Scientific Conferences in sections of the Economics and Entrepreneurship. These applicants receive a state-funded place outside the competition. In turn, the holders of certificates of DU "School of Young Entrepreneurs", "Science School" and "JA-YE Latvija" receive additional points and gain priority upon entering the PBSP "Business and Financial Processes".

Detailed admission rules are available on the DU website [1]:

[1] <https://du.lv/ieskaties-augstskola/skoleniem/uznemsana/> viewed 12.12.2019., accessible in Latvian]

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof)

2.1. Assessment of the relevance of the content of the study course/ module and the compliance with the needs of the relevant industry and labour market and with the trends in science. Provide information on how and whether the content of the study course/ module is updated in line with the development trends of the relevant industry, labour market, and science. In case of master's and doctoral study programmes, specify and provide the justification as to whether the degrees are awarded in view of the developments and findings in the field of science or artistic creation.

The data compiled by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training^[1] show that the demand for business and administration professionals with higher professional education will increase in the near future. The lack of staff with integrated *IT, finance, accounting* and *foreign language* skills is highlighted at both national and local levels, incl. from management professionals.^[2] The main precondition for the establishment of the programme is the interest and potential demand of employers in Latgale and other regions for high-level business managers and financiers with higher education who meet modern requirements and European standards and could work and be managers of various levels in companies, state and municipal institutions, various organisations or their departments, including international ones.

The study programme is based on the current demand in the labour market^[3] and the results of Latvian and international evaluations^[4], which confirms the need for human resources with higher education, able to establish and / or work in companies and organisations, as well as understand the regularities of financial market development and prospects.

The PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” meets the challenges of the future and is based on highlighting students’ independent work, synergy of study research work, preparing specialists competitive in the international labour market, developing their abilities and motivating for lifelong learning.

Improvement, development and further progress of the study programme is closely related to all directions of the NDP 2020-2027 development priority “Entrepreneurs’ competitiveness and material well-being”^[5], including Latvia’s sustainable development strategy until 2030 in the perspective of long-term innovative and eco-efficient economic development^[6]. The development of human capital and an innovative, digital economics^[7] are emerging as a precondition for the increase of Latvia’s competitiveness and productivity, and this is emphasized in the “UN Sustainable Development Goals”^[8]. A modern education system that meets the requirements of the future labour market and promotes the transformation of the national economy is among the priorities emphasized in the “Latvian Smart Specialization Strategy”, in the content of PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” (e.g. integration of digital content in many study courses, emphases of new products and entrepreneurship development in study courses) and implementation mechanisms (e.g. project-based approach and orientation towards the specificity of the region).

As a result of globalization, an increasingly dynamic labour market requires not only excellent professional knowledge and qualifications, but also good foreign language skills, which is paid special attention in the new programme. The PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” is interdisciplinary. It combines the acquirement of economic disciplines with in-depth study of foreign languages, thus preparing students for work in interregional and international companies, state and municipal institutions, and the private sector.

The programme includes a set of professional knowledge, skills, attitudes and competences demanded in the modern labour market, with an emphasis on the acquirement of applied knowledge and professional skills through study projects, Bachelor’s theses, seminars and practical classes, as well as professional qualifying practical placement. For example, some practical classes in the study course “Financial system” take place in JSC Swedbank, but the elaboration of study projects takes place in close cooperation with “*Magnetic Latvia* Daugavpils Business Incubator”, including visiting and participating in its work, consulting with its specialists).

[1] Eiropas Profesionālās izglītības attīstības centra (CEDEFOP) prasmju monitorings [pārlūkots 2.05.2020.]

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-visualisations/skills-forecast>

[2] The Association of Business Service Leaders in Latvia (ABSL) atzinums. LIAA un ABSL Latvia “Starptautisko biznesapkalpojumu nozares sadarbība ar Latvijas augstākās izglītības iestādēm” 2019.g. 8. novembra pasākuma informācija

[3] Regulāras Daugavpils un Latgales reģiona uzņēmēju aptaujas.

[4] Piem., OECD Employment Outlook 2019 *The Future of Work*. OECD, 2019. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/employment/oecd-employment-outlook-2019_9ee00155-en [pārlūkots 23.08.2019.]

Education and Training in Europe 2020: Responses from the EU Member States. Eurydice Report EU, 2013. https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/education-and-training-europe-2020-responses-eu-member-states_en

Eiropas Komisijas priekšlikumos Jaunajai kohēzijas politikai 2021.- 2027.gadam ES investīcijām. EU, 2018 https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/lv/2021_2027/ [pārlūkots 23.08.2019.]

[5] Latvijas Nacionālais attīstības plāns 2021.-2027.gadam. LR, PKC, 2020 [pārlūkots 26.08.2020.]

https://www.pkc.gov.lv/sites/default/files/inline-files/NAP2027_apstiprin%C4%81ts%20Saeim%C4%81_1.pdf

[6] Latvijas ilgtspējīgas attīstības stratēģija līdz 2030. gadam (Latvija 2030). LR, VRAM, 2020 [pārlūkots 26.08.2020.]

<https://www.pkc.gov.lv/lv/valsts-attistibas-planosana/latvijas-ilgtspejigas-attistibas-strategija>

[7] Informatīvais ziņojums par priekšlikumu par Nacionālā attīstības plāna 2021.-2027. gadam mērķiem, prioritātēm un rīcības virzieniem, kā arī tā turpmāko izstrādes un sabiedriskās apspriešanas procesu. Pieejams:

https://www.pkc.gov.lv/modules/nap/modules/nap_aside_navigation/assets/NAP2027_kodols_piedavajums.pdf[pārlūkots 26.07.2019.]

[7] Jaunā kohēzijas politika. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/lv/2021_2027/[pārlūkots 27.08.2019.]

[8] United Nation 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN, 2015 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>[pārlūkots 27.08.2019.]

2.2. Assessment of the interrelation between the information included in the study courses/ modules, the intended learning outcomes, the set aims and other indicators, the relation between the aims of the study course/ module and the aims and intended outcomes of the study programme. In case of a doctoral study programme, provide a description of the main research roadmaps and the impact of the study programme on research and other education levels.

Having analyzed the content of the PBSP “Business and Financial Processes”, it can be concluded that all study courses of the study programme are aimed at the achievement of the learning outcomes set by the programme. The content of the PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” includes a set of knowledge, skills, attitudes and competences specified in the professional standard of a “Business manager” (PS-115) and “Financier” (PS-117), for successful career development in the respective professional fields and continuing Master’s studies in the programmes of the respective study direction.

The aim of the programme implementation corresponds to DU vision, strategic goal and tasks, as well as the the professional standards of the qualification corresponding to the sixth level of the Latvian qualifications framework **Financier** (profession code - PS-117^[1]) or **Business manager** (profession code - PS-115^[2]) (senior specialists)^[3]. The parallel implementation of two sub-programmes meets the requirements of the labour market^[4] and the interests of students^[5], is aimed at training competitive and competent specialists for the labour market. Both specializations have a number of common general tasks of ensuring professional activity (for example, application of regulatory enactments binding to the field, elaboration of reports, publications, provision of publicity), the implementation of which takes place in the 1st - 3rd study semesters. In turn, similar duties and tasks of professional activity with an emphasis on specific processes in finance or business and acquirement of specialized study courses are started only in the second study year,

therefore students have the opportunity to purposefully choose the specialization most suited for their interests, abilities and needs.

Thus, highly qualified, competent specialists meeting the requirements of the national economy and internationally competitive are being prepared to work in state, local governments, private and non-governmental organisations, as well as to start their own business. The study programme focuses on theory-based and practically oriented study courses in finance and business, in-depth studies of digital technologies and foreign languages.

The achievement of the aim and tasks set by the study programme is facilitated by the systematic realisation of the study programme content, purposeful planning of the study process, diversification and improvement of study forms and methods, provision of independent studies, as well as regular assessment and improvement of the study quality.

The PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” has been developed and complies with the Cabinet Regulations No. 512 *Regulations on the state standard of the second level of professional higher education*^[6]. The study process at DU is organized in compliance with the legislation of the Republic of Latvia, the *Law on Higher Education Institutions*, the *Regulations on Studies of DU*^[7] and other regulatory enactments. Thus, the compulsory content of the study programme comprises:

- **general education study courses** (amount of 24 CP), incl. theoretical courses in the humanities and social sciences (8 CP, e.g. “Foreign language A1/A2/B1”), courses that develop basic social, communicative and organisational skills (8 CP, e.g. “Records management”, “Foreign language A1/A2/B1/B1”), within which students broaden their academic horizons, gain an idea of modern development trends, issues and theories in science;
- **industry-based basic theoretical courses and information technology courses** (amount of 36 CP), the acquirement of which provides a successive theoretical basis for the field, regularity of scientific development, acquirement of the industry-based and interdisciplinary approaches and basic principles and methodology of research work, as well as their integration in the real environment (e.g. “Financial system”, “Digital solutions in business and administration”);
- **industry-based professional specialization courses** (at least 62 CP, e.g. “E-commerce and export capacity”, “Systems of project development and management”);
- **elective courses** (at least 6 CP);
- **practical placement** (at least 20 CP), consisting of introduction to the practical placement and specialization practical placement;
- the state examination, incl. **elaboration and defence of a Bachelor’s thesis** (amount of 12 CP).

At the end of each academic year, the defence of study projects is organized, within which students demonstrate the topics of the study project and the possibilities of solving business problems. During the studies, a Bachelor’s thesis is elaborated, which is then defended at the meeting of the State Examination Commission.

The content of the study programme cross-cuts international and interregional aspects of business (e.g. “International environment and globalization”, “Human resource management and creative leadership in international business”, “Logistics/supply chain management”) and analysis of their practical implementation in the process of study project development, which strengthens the topicality of the programme in the specific environment of the region. In the perspective of the programme, development is also related to integrated foreign language learning opportunities, developing skills to discuss, critically analyze and reasonably evaluate business processes in one of the selected foreign languages (English, French, Spanish, German, Chinese, Swedish, Spanish,

Russian).

In the scope of industry 4.0^[8], most study courses are partly taught in a digital environment, which provides for minimizing the number of specialized IT and computer technology courses and enhancing foreign language learning, which will lead to higher learning outcomes, especially in the context of interregional cooperation.

Having analyzed the interconnection of the information, the learning outcomes to be achieved, the aims set, and other indicators included in the study courses with the aims of the study programme and the learning outcomes to be achieved, the mapping of the study programme courses has been made. Looking at the mapping results, it can be concluded that the aims defined in the study courses correspond to the learning outcomes of the study programme and are coordinated with the higher level study programmes. The analysis of the content of study courses provided for the statement that the choice of topics corresponds to the learning outcomes defined by the study courses - skills and attitudes, knowledge and professional competences.

The programme implies the acquirement of professional competences, taking into account the trends of development in the Latvian, EU and global labour market, the required professions and competences. In addition, the implementation of the study programme provides wide opportunities for further education through organizing students' independent work using e-learning, thus ensuring the creation of equal opportunities for various social groups. The study programme is flexible and adaptable to the interests of various students.

[1] Finansista profesijas standarts. Saskaņots Profesionālās izglītības un nodarbinātības trīspusējās sadarbības apakšpadomes 2019. gada 16. oktobra sēdē. <https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-117.pdf> [pārlūkots 4.11.2019.]

[2] Uzņēmuma vadītāja profesijas standarts. Saskaņots Profesionālās izglītības un nodarbinātības trīspusējās sadarbības apakšpadomes 2019. gada 18. septembra sēdē. <https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/standarti/2017/PS-115.pdf> [pārlūkots 17.10.2019.]

[3] Atbilstoši Uzņēmējdarbības, finanšu, grāmatvedības un administrēšanas (vairumtirdzniecības un mazumtirdzniecības, komerczinību) nozares struktūrā iekļauto profesiju kartei: https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_uznemejdarbiba.pdf [pārlūkots 24.10.2019.]

Uzņēmējdarbības, finanšu, grāmatvedības un administrēšanas (vairumtirdzniecības un mazumtirdzniecības, komerczinību) nozares struktūra: https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKS_uznemejdarbiba.pdf [pārlūkots 5.08.2019.]

[4] DU studiju virziena „Ekonomika” 2016.-2019. g. darba devēju aptauju rezultāti.

Programmas izstrādē iesaistīto ekspertu-darba devēju viedokļi.

[5] DU ABSP “Ekonomika” 2018./2019. st.g., 2017./2018. st.g., 2016./2017. st.g. studējošo aptaujas rezultātu apkopojums.

[6] <https://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=268761> [pārlūkots 12.06.2019.]

[7] https://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NOLIKUMS_PAR_STUDIJAM_DU_2018.docx [pārlūkots 12.06.2019.]

[8] Angl.val. Industry 4.0 is the intelligent networking of machines and processes in industry with the aid of information and communication technology.

2.3. Assessment of the study implementation methods (including the evaluation methods) by providing the analysis of how the study implementation methods (including the evaluation methods) used in the study courses/ modules are selected, what they are, and how they contribute to the achievement of the learning outcomes of the study courses and the aims of the study programme. Provide an explanation of how the student-centred principles are taken into account in the implementation of the study process.

The implementation of the study programme takes place using various study forms, formal and non-formal education methods and techniques, as well as e-learning for organizing students' independent work. Various contact study methods are used in the study programme, incl. lectures, practical classes, consultations, individual and group work, discussions. In addition to traditional forms of work, interactive study techniques and methods are widely used, which promotes analytical, critical, problem-solving, systemic and creative thinking, encourages acquisition of skills of group team work technique, business communication, incl. intercultural communication, discussion, presentations, and other skills: projects within the study course, trainings, role plays, case and problem situation analysis, business games, creative works, analysis of video recordings of lessons, field trips, analysis of audiovisual materials, practical workshops, simulations, trainings of experienced professionals, business games, group work, open lectures, lectures of foreign visiting specialists, etc.

Within the framework of contact classes, a significant role is allocated to practical work and elaboration of study projects, the aim of which is the integration of theoretical knowledge, research and practice. Much attention is paid to students' independent work. In accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 512 for the development of business professional competence, the following study methods are also used: competence training, business games, group work, etc., which is successfully integrated into the study courses of the programme. Visibility in the acquirement of theoretical and practical knowledge is ensured by the use of modern technical means. Requirements and methods are selected according to the content and specificity of study courses, as well as the organisation of the study process.

While elaborating the study projects, students will also base on the research of topics, areas or problems offered by entrepreneurs, as well as will intensively cooperate with the employees and participants of "*Magnetic Latvia* Daugavpils Business Incubator". During the studies, students get acquainted with the real work environment and labour market requirements by meeting with industry specialists in classes (Bank of Latvia, JSC Swedbank, "ROLS" Ltd., "LAGRON" Ltd., "Protams" Ltd., "REM PRO" Ltd., "LK project group" Ltd., "LatInSoft" Ltd.), visiting companies during field classes, in practical placement, performing independent work. The inclusion of practice-based tasks given by employers in the acquirement of study courses or during practical placement gives students the opportunity to participate in solving real problems within the study courses, whereas the teaching staff will make sure that the content of the study course meets the needs of the industry. In many study courses the CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) method is actively used, which implies the integration of language studies into the acquirement of specialized subjects. For example, the acquirement of terminology and other content elements in the study courses "Development economics", "Economics", "Systems of project development and management", etc. is ensured in Latvian and English.

The aim of applying different teaching methods is to maximally promote the acquirement of cognitive skills, skills of abstract and analytical thinking, as well as knowledge and skills used in the professional practical placement. Studies include a part of students' independent work and contact

classes.

The study process in many study courses is based on the active integration of information and communication technologies, thus deepening the interdisciplinary link.

Within the study course, each lecturer regularly tests students' knowledge, using the types of tests indicated in the course descriptions (tests, homework, reports, presentations, independent work, etc.). The requirements depend on the specificity of the study course and the organisation of the study process within it. The assessment of knowledge and skills is integrative in nature. The evaluation system for each specific study course is indicated in the course description. Students are introduced to the evaluation criteria at the beginning of each study course.

A variety of examination forms is used in tests in exams: written, formulating the full answer or multiple-choice, oral, digital and online, computer-based, web-based, cumulative examination, which takes into account all types of evaluating the student, at the end of the course the mark is given.

When elaborating the evaluation criteria, lecturers are guided by the following principles:

- the criteria are aimed at the evaluation of the student's work (mid-term or at the end of the study course);
- the student's work is evaluated according to the criteria or is compared with a standard (example of an excellent work) and not with the work of another student;
- students are aware of the evaluation criteria in advance;
- development of a clear evaluating algorithm, according to which the student can independently determine the level of his/her achievements;
- the evaluation criteria are derived from the aims and results of the study process.

The precise definition of the criteria for examining learning outcomes provides for determining the level of knowledge, skills and competences acquired.

In practical classes and seminars, the development of students' social skills is promoted, the skills of making individual presentations or group work, expressing one's opinion and analysis are improved. Students' independent work with literature sources is important, the material read is analyzed in group discussions. Seminars include discussions on topical economic issues, as well as the sharing of information, ideas and experiences. Lecturers have the role of organisers, consultants and experts in the process of students' independent work. Practical classes are also organized in computer classrooms.

The introduction of the study programme implementation mechanism takes place in accordance with the principles of student-centered education, including students' satisfaction with acquired knowledge, skills, social contacts, opportunities of using the student's social status (social role), respect for the individual interests and needs of the subjects of the pedagogical process, the level of the student's self-realisation and self-determination thus ensuring successful achievement of the learning outcomes. In order to ensure high-quality learning outcomes, the PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" provides the involvement of lecturers and students of the programme in the continuous process of information exchange, evaluation of studies and provision of feedback. Before the acquirement of each study course, the lecturer discusses and specifies the course requirements and evaluation principles and criteria with students.

In all study courses, classes are focused on students' creative participation in the process of knowledge acquirement. In the implementation of the study courses, students' self-assessment and mutual assessment according to the criteria offered by the lecturer are actively used, which motivates students to improve their knowledge and become more actively involved in the

acquisition of the study content.

The diversity of students' needs and opportunities is respected by creating a suitable study schedule (e.g., in modules), using different ways of programme implementation (including independent and individual work, as well as consultations in several languages, Latvian, English, Russian, which are relevant to foreign students and specific environment of the region), and a variety of pedagogical methods, namely by promoting the implementation of the principles of *blended learning* and *adopted study process*. The aim of the applied teaching methods is to provide an opportunity to acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skills, and in accordance with the aim of the study programme to improve students' skills of critical thinking, develop interpersonal skills, ability to work both individually and in a team (*team building*), improve the ability to appreciate diversity (namely, general skills or *soft skills*). Lecturers invite students to express their opinion about the offered forms of independent work and the way it is to be presented, listen to students' wishes and adjust the literature, sources and forms of presentation recommended for independent work.

DU offers students of the study programme appropriate and easily accessible teaching aids, scientific and popular scientific literature in several languages, incl. also electronically (e.g. *Scopus* database is available free of charge on the DU intranet). Descriptions of the study courses are freely available to students, incl. in the e-environment. In order to promote the progress of students and the effective achievement of the learning outcomes on time, the academic staff ensures permanent assistance to students. Forms of support for students are as follows: consultations during the study semester, before exams and the state examination. Regular contacts are established in the e-learning environment (via e-mail, Moodle or *ZOOM*) in the context of the distance learning process caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Students' involvement in the programme planning is implemented through tripartite discussions between the programme management, providers of practical placement (company representatives) and students, which ensures evaluating and incorporating the specific recommendations of programme participants, as well as students' representation in the programme council and other DU decision-making bodies through modern communication channels (social networks, WhatsApp groups, etc.).

2.4. If the study programme entails a traineeship, provide the analysis and assessment of the relation between the tasks of the traineeship included in the study programme and the learning outcomes of the study programme. Specify how the higher education institution/ college supports the students within the study programme regarding the fulfilment of the tasks set for students during the traineeship.

Within the framework of the programme, students undergo 20 weeks of the professional practical placement outside the university, in companies and institutions under the guidance of experienced specialists. In the PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" the professional qualifying practical placement is implemented in accordance with the Regulations on practical placement.

In order to ensure the quality of the practical placement, the Regulations on practical placement have been developed and approved by the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and they contain the formulation of the aims and objectives of the practical placement, as well as a list of skills that must be acquired during the practical placement. The practical placement is implemented in accordance with the Agreement on the practical placement concluded between DU

and the provider of the practical placement. The agreements ensure the planning of the professional practical placement provided for in the study programme and its successful implementation.

At the beginning of the study semester, when the professional internship is envisaged, an informative meeting takes place, during which the students' wishes and the possibilities in providing internship places are identified. In cooperation with the teaching staff of the department, students and employers, optimum internship places are identified and offered mainly in the companies of the region. Students from abroad are offered internship places with the opportunity to do internship in English. Within PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" (42311) internship has not taken place yet.

The aim of the study practical placement is to promote the strengthening and development of theoretical knowledge, professional skills and abilities, to study and analyze the environment in which organisations operate, to get acquainted, research and acquire financial management and economic processes in the company, to make recommendations for increasing company efficiency. The duration of the practical placement and the time is determined in accordance with the study programme plan and the study process schedule.

Introductory or observation practical placement is planned for students in the 5th study semester (8 CP). Its purpose is to provide the trainee with work in the organisation in order to gain work experience and insight into the company's or institution's financial and management system, economic processes and organisation. The study practical placement is organized after students have acquired theoretical subjects and completed independent and practical work. The aim of the practical placement is to strengthen the theoretical knowledge and acquire the practical skills necessary for a financier, an business manager, as well as to obtain the information necessary for the elaboration of a Bachelor's thesis and to perform research work.

Specialization practical placement is planned for students in the amount of 12 CP in the 7th study semester. Its purpose is to create an opportunity for the trainee to participate in the activities of a certain organisation, as well as in the development of all relevant documentation.

Cooperation with employers is carefully planned and implemented from year to year with the aim of promoting the involvement of employers in the improvement of the study programmes, ensuring their compliance with the changing requirements of the labour market. Cooperation with state, local government and non-governmental partner institutions can be characterized in several directions: coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the study programme (at the expert level), support and implementation (as lecturers, consultants, supervisors of practical placement, etc.).

The student achieves the aim of the practical placement based on the acquired knowledge, skills, abilities and previous work experience. Depending on the interests and possibilities, the student chooses the place of the practical placement in coordination with the director of the study programme, but DU facilitates the choice of the most suitable place of the practical placement or offers it. DU provides support in the implementation of the practical placement by organizing introductory conferences and closing conferences, as well as consulting students during the practical placement, thus promoting the successful achievement of the results. If necessary, the DU supervisor of the practical placement contacts the supervisor of the practical placement on-site and solves the issues related to the practical placement, discusses the student's activities, provides recommendations for improving the results. At the final conference of the practical placement, in order to ensure mutual exchange of experience, each student presents the report on the practical placement, answers the questions of the commission.

The student makes a report on the practical placement in accordance with the Regulations on

practical placement. The report is reviewed and evaluated by the supervisor of the practical placement appointed by DU programme director. The overall evaluation of the practical placement is made up of the following evaluations: evaluation from the supervisor of the practical placement on-site, evaluation of the report on the practical placement, defence of the report on the practical placement.

2.5. Analysis and assessment of the topics of the final theses of the students, their relevance in the respective field, including the labour market, and the evaluations of the final theses.

In the reporting period from 2013 to 2020, 111 Bachelor's theses were defended at the Bachelor's level of the study direction "Economics". The elaboration and defence of the Bachelor's theses took place in accordance with the methodological instructions of the study programmes in the study direction of economics of Daugavpils University and the recommendations of the scientific advisor.

Having analyzed the topics of the defended Bachelor's theses, it can be stated that students' research interests are closely related to the main research subjects of the sub-sector of economics and include evaluation of business aspects (34 Bachelor's theses defended), analysis of organisation and personnel management and growth (12 Bachelor's theses defended), research of financial results and sustainability strategies (19 Bachelor's theses defended), analysis of economic processes, research of various sectors, territories, aspects (21 Bachelor's theses defended), taking into account global and local challenges (8), research of regional specificity and smart growth (17 Bachelor's theses defended). A significant number of theses include an interregional and / or interdisciplinary component. PBSP "Business and Financial Processes" (42311) is a newly developed study programme and no student has yet defended their Bachelor's thesis.

Research directions and topics are determined by the research being implemented, research interests of the academic staff in the study direction, current social challenges in Latvia and Latgale region: economic prosperity, migration and globalization processes, economic and financial market developments in the EU, etc., as well as external factors such as regional reform, COVID -19 crisis, Brexit and the impact of economic sanctions. Many topics of students' Bachelor's theses are coordinated with the needs of entrepreneurs and municipal offers: Bachelor's and Master's research on topical issues of industry development promotion, for example, J. Vaivode "Analysis of financial activity and development perspectives of JSC Preiļu siers", I. Līcīte "Analysis of the management process in the company JSC LATVIJAS MAIZNIEKS and its improvement", J. Ziediņš "Business development in Jēkabpils city", etc.

There has been developed a *Procedure for submitting final papers for plagiarism check at Daugavpils University* and it is observed and provides for mandatory submission and storage of electronic versions of final papers in Daugavpils University Information System and provides an opportunity to compare students' final papers with the theses defended in previous years.

It should be concluded that students research topical and practically significant issues in economic sub-sectors, which helps future specialists to develop professional competence, understand various aspects of organisational activities, elaborate the product necessary for professional activities, as well as explore some specific topical issues related to modern Latvia and the region.

2.6. Analysis and assessment of the outcomes of the surveys conducted among the students, graduates, and employers, and the use of these outcomes for the improvement of the content and quality of studies by providing the respective examples.

DU conducts systematic and regular survey and monitoring of study programmes to make sure that the set aims and learning outcomes are achieved. The mentioned evaluations promote continuous improvement of study programmes, ensuring and maintaining the offer of study programmes corresponding to the needs of the society and creating a supportive and effective study environment for students. Students, lecturers, employers and graduates are involved in the evaluation of study programmes. In the process of programme implementation, there is a constant exchange of information between the lecturers and students involved in the programme, which allows for reacting quickly to problems, solving current challenges and improving the programme following the latest trends in science, education and market demand.

An important section of the annual self-assessment is the analysis of the results of the student questionnaires, which indicate the quality and future perspectives of the existing study programmes implemented in the direction of study, the opinion of employers and graduates is also taken into account. Having summarized the students' answers in the reporting period, it can be concluded that students express generally a positive opinion regarding the provision of the study process with literature and methodological materials, their availability, the choice of electives, availability of visiting lecturers, cooperation with lecturers, the study programme content and structure, implementation of programmes.

When evaluating the quality of the study direction programme, as well as that of individual study courses, the director of the study programme takes into account the opinions, recommendations and reprimands expressed in the questionnaires of students and graduates. Each semester, taking into consideration the results of student surveys, the content of each study course and the quality of teaching it are thoroughly analysed. Then the decision on the necessary changes in the content of study courses or in the organization of the study process is taken, if necessary, the issues are considered by the Study Direction Council. After that, the proposals for changes in the study courses or the study programme are discussed in the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and after its acceptance they are forwarded to the DU Council for Studies, which evaluates the compliance of the changes. In case of a positive decision of the Council for Studies, the changes are approved. After the introduction of changes into the content of the study programme, the director of the study programme informs all involved parties (students, teaching staff, employers, graduates), and gets feedback. Thus, based on the results of surveys of students, graduates and employers, the content of the study programmes is reviewed and improved. Such evaluation promotes continuous improvement of study programmes by ensuring and maintaining the offer of study programmes corresponding to the needs of the society and creating a supportive and effective study environment for students. For example, in the spring of 2020, the DU student survey was organized concerning the quality of the implementation of the distance learning process, as a result of which the offer of library services was improved, as well as the methods and tools for organizing distance studies were diversified, including also for the students of the study direction "Economics".

In the study years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, during the implementation of the distance learning process, the head of the study direction and the directors of the study programmes regularly communicated with the students of all levels, monitored the course of the study process in the study programmes of the direction, thus ensuring regular feedback. For example, in student

surveys, students regularly pointed to the need to pay more attention to the content of practical orientation in the study courses of bachelor's and master's study programmes. As a result, work on the introduction of new professional study programmes progressed gradually.

However, students regularly note that the study programme is general educational, while specialized and professional study courses would be more useful, at the same time they indicate that the content and presentation of the study courses is reasonable, professional, it interests and motivates students. The recommendations of students, as well as the employers' vision, encouraged the programme management to make changes in the content of the Bachelor's level studies and to license a new PBSP "Business and Financial Processes".

In order to evaluate the results of the study programme as objectively as possible, the opinion of employers and graduates is also taken into account, namely, a link is established with labour market representatives, the information about graduates' employment, quality of their work and competence is also gathered. Every year, surveys of supervisors of practical placement (at the same time also employers of students and graduates) are conducted, the results are summarized, analyzed and, if necessary, appropriate changes are made in the study programme. The aim of these surveys is to find out whether the content of the study programme meets the requirements of the labour market, whether the graduates of the programme are in demand in the labour market, or whether the graduates of the programme continue their studies in study programmes of higher levels. The results of the survey show that the majority of graduates continue their studies in academic and professional study programmes of a higher level. The knowledge acquired during the studies helps to successfully solve professional issues and promote self-growth.

Employers' surveys are organized in the form of both interviews and questionnaires. Employers can evaluate the study programme on the basis of its results - analysis of the quality of work of graduates and working specialists. Therefore, employers are asked to assess the qualifications, knowledge, skills and abilities of the students of the study programme, as well as graduates working in the relevant organisations and institutions, as well as to predict specialists of what qualifications, skills and abilities the organisation will need in the near and distant future.

Employers' surveys confirm that graduates' knowledge and skills meet the requirements of employers, they also indicate shortcomings that need to be addressed, such as the need to develop and improve students' communication skills, e.g. the ability to work in a team. Employers recommended to increase the proportion of practical classes in the study process, study projects and diploma theses, to choose the existing issues and real companies in Latgale region as the research objects, coordinating the topics with employers as well.

Employers who have been cooperating with the Department of Economics of DU Faculty of Social Sciences for a long time as providers of practical placements note the lack of accountants and financial specialists of various levels (even to the level of CFO) in Daugavpils city and region and they emphasize that they are often forced to seek such specialists in the capital city. In turn, qualified economists are constantly in demand in state and local government institutions (city councils, education administrations, SRS, etc.), regional planning bodies, Rural support service, and other institutions in Daugavpils and Latgale region.

Surveys of supervisors of practical placement (at the same time also of employers of students and graduates) are regularly conducted, the results are summarized, analyzed and, if necessary, appropriate changes are introduced in the study programme.

Cooperation with employers is carefully planned and implemented from year to year with the aim of promoting the involvement of employers in the improvement of study programmes, ensuring their compliance with the changing requirements of the labour market. Cooperation with state, local

government and non-governmental partner institutions can be characterized in several directions: coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the study programme (at the expert level, participation in the council of the study direction), support and implementation (as lecturers, consultants, practice supervisors, members of final examination commission, etc.).

2.7. Provide the assessment of the options of the incoming and outgoing mobility of the students, the dynamics of the number of the used opportunities, and the recognition of the study courses acquired during the mobility.

DU has developed a procedure for the recognition of study courses acquired in international mobility. Students in accordance with the DU procedure <https://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/E-studiju-nolikums-2015-11-11.pdf> submit supporting documents regarding the achievement and assessment of learning outcomes. The director of the study programme together with the lecturers of the respective study courses examines the submitted documents and based on the requirements of the study course either agrees with the assessment of the foreign university or offers the student to perform the task to acquire the necessary study knowledge, competences, skills and attitudes. The complete final assessment and recognition of the learning outcomes is approved by the DU Council for Studies. Students of the programme are regularly informed about mobility opportunities. The director of the programme in cooperation with the course lecturers provides maximum opportunities to integrate the courses acquired in foreign universities into the study programmes implemented in the direction through the alignment of study courses.

Having analyzed the dynamics of incoming and outgoing mobility of the PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” students, it can be concluded that since the previous accreditation period, outgoing mobility within this programme has significantly increased and become significantly more diverse. Within the framework of the exchange programme, the students of the study programme have studied in Croatia, Bulgaria, France, Poland, Lithuania, using opportunities of both study and post-study practical placement, implementing on average 4-6 mobilities each year. For example, V. Aleksejeva in 2018 implemented her post-graduate practical placement after MSP “Economics” in France, student I. Alike of BSP “Economics” in the autumn semester of 2018 studied at the University of Economics and Business in Poznań, Poland, but in the spring semester of 2017/2018, a group of three students (M.Labecka, M.Začiņajeva, A.Ribčinska) studied at the University of Rijeka (Croatia). As a result, during the reporting period, the outgoing mobility of students in the study programmes of the study direction “Economics” increased by at least 30%.

Incoming mobility opportunities in the Bachelor’s study programme in the period from 2013 to 2015 were used by 6 students from Tajikistan. The attraction of foreign students will be implemented in accordance with the current DU practice, through participation in international educational exhibitions, the aim of which is to present the university and attract prospective students who attend the exhibition with the aim of finding a university for further education abroad. Potential students are also approached by lecturers implementing mobility and business trips to foreign universities.

Taking into account that the PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” also provides for the admission of foreign students, the work on attracting foreign students is being intensified: an advertising video about the study programme has been developed and is actively distributed on social media, the cooperation with partner universities in Georgia, Belarus and Lithuania is being

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (3. Resources and Provision of the Study Programme)

3.1. Assessment of the compliance of the resources and provision (study provision, scientific support (if applicable), informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision) with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the learning outcomes to be achieved by providing the respective examples. Whilst carrying out the assessment, it is possible to refer to the information provided for in the criteria set forth in Part II, Chapter 3, sub-paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3.

Study programme resources and provision (see the information provided in chapter 3 criteria 3.1.-3.3.) fully comply with the study programme implementation conditions and with reaching the outcomes of studies. Students have at their disposal premises for studies, material and technical base, instruments and equipment (for preparing, combining, integrating, visualizing, and disseminating study and research materials), information networks (Internet, DU net, Moodle), databases (library network, DU research centre databases, free access to databases), materials (research materials, scientific publications, including publications in *Web of Science* and *Scopus*, archives), services (administrative, financial, IT and network support services, access to official statistical data), computerized applications and software (*Standart Office*, *SPSS*, *GIS*, data visualization online tools and software, online media) that are needed for the acquisition of all the study courses in the study programme; these as well as an opportunity of research work of various stages ensure a flexible and student oriented environment. For the programme implementation, the necessary technical equipment is provided (computers with licensed software, projectors, interactive boards, etc.), various teaching methods are practised (teamwork, role plays, simulations, seminars, discussions, etc.).

3.2. Assessment of the study provision and scientific support, including the resources provided within the cooperation with other science institutes and institutions of higher education (applicable to the doctoral study programmes).

III - DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME (4. Teaching Staff)

4.1. Analysis and assessment of the changes to the composition of the teaching staff over the reporting period and their impact on the study quality.

The qualification level of the lecturers involved in the implementation of the programme is important in the implementation of the programme. The implementation of the PBSP “Business and Financial Processes” is ensured by 61 lecturers, incl. 14 professors. For 26 lecturers, the primary employment is DU, 20 lecturers are visiting lecturers representing the professional environment of economics and finance in Latvia and abroad. The teaching staff employed in the programme are experts of the Latvian Council of Science in the field of economics and business, as well as in the field of linguistics. 35 lecturers (57%) have a Doctoral degree in the field of the delivered study course and 7 are Doctoral candidates. 7 foreign lecturers are involved in the programme implementation.

At least one lecturer (in each study course) who has confirmed his / her knowledge of English at least at B2 level will be involved in the implementation of the study courses of the PBSP “Business and Financial Processes”. Within the framework of the ESF project no. 8.2.2.0/18/A/022 “Strengthening the professional competence of the academic staff in the field of strategic specialization of Daugavpils University” [1], starting from 2019, in the implementation of the study direction “Economics”, incl. also at the Bachelor’s level, several foreign professors have been involved, e.g., Dr.oec. Marzena Piotrowska-Trybull (Poland), Dr.oec. Halina Shmarlouskaya (Belarus), as well as the students are often offered the lectures of ERASMUS + visiting lecturers, e.g. assist. prof. M. F. Bayik (Turkey) N.Rakhmanberdieva and M. Chalisheva (Tajikistan), Dr. oec. G. Dudzevičute, Dr. oec. D. Prokopiene (Lithuania), assoc.prof. M. Petrova (Bulgaria), Urban and Regional Planning Expert M. Elger (Germany).

During the reporting period, the composition of the teaching staff in the scientific and academic field is constantly improving. The research directions of the academic staff engaged in the programme are focused on the successful implementation of the study programme and in most cases are related to the specialization of lecturers within the programme - development economics, finance, project management, etc. Lecturers prepare scientific articles, including in internationally peer-reviewed journals, participate in conferences and workshops, trainings, various scientific events, publish textbooks and elaborate methodological materials, participate in international and national research projects. In cooperation with students, as well as other academic staff of Latvian and foreign HEIs, applied research is constantly carried out.

Students’ participation in scientific and practical conferences and seminars is constantly stimulated, also as listeners.

DU promotes the development and improvement of the academic staff by moving towards a competent staff. Most lecturers have practical experience in the field, which confirms their suitability for work in the professional programme.

In cooperation with the Professional Development Center, lecturers have the opportunity to participate in further education courses, improving and deepening the existing knowledge. During 2018, the academic staff working in the programme participated in various professional development courses (Teacher Further Education Courses B, “Development of study courses in the e-learning environment MOODLE”, “Data analysis and preparation of reports”).

In general, it can be concluded that during the reporting period the teaching staff engaged in the programme constantly focused on the expansion of research interests, self-professional development and continuous improvement and development of the quality of the courses taught.

The qualification of the academic staff involved in the implementation of the study programme corresponds to the achievement of the results of the study programme, as well as to the implementation of the goals and tasks of DU. Lecturers are professionals in their field of science who have proven competence in the industry-based research and use of e-environment in the study process, as well as participated in international projects and elaborated teaching aids and materials.

[1] Nr.8.2.2.0/18/A/022 “Daugavpils Universitātes stratēģiskās specializācijas jomu akadēmiskā personāla profesionālās kompetences stiprināšana” <https://du.lv/projekti/projekti/es-fondu-projekti/esf-lidzfinansetie-projekti/daugavpils-universitates-strategiskas-specializācijas-jomu-akademiska-personala-profesionalas-kompetences-stiprināsana/> [pārlūkots 5.08.2019.]

4.2. Assessment of the compliance of the qualification of the teaching staff members (academic staff members, visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers, and visiting assistants) involved in the implementation of the study programme with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the provisions set out in the respective regulatory enactments. Provide information on how the qualification of the teaching staff members contributes to the achievement of the learning outcomes.

Qualified lecturers are involved in the implementation of the study direction, based on the Cabinet Regulation No. 662 of 28 October 2014 “Regulations on the education and professional qualifications of teachers and the procedure for improving the professional competence of teachers” and submitted CVs. Lecturers have a Master’s or Doctoral degree, the education (additional education) or qualification obtained by the lecturers of specialized study courses corresponds to the field of the study course. Most of the lecturers are specialists practicing in the field. The provision set forth in Article 39 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions - “Lecturers and assistants who do not have a scientific and academic degree need five years of practical work experience corresponding to the subject to be taught” - is being complied with.

The main criteria for the selection of lecturers of theoretical courses of the study programme are as follows: appropriate education, academic or scientific degree, or professional experience, research and creative activities (publications in the relevant field, research in economics and finance, participation in projects), communication skills. Requirements for professionals, practitioners and employers in the field are as follows: work experience in private or public institutions related to economics, business and finance, experience in providing specialized study courses (e.g. “Business marketing”, “Accounting”).

Having reviewed the CVs of potential lecturers of the study programme, the most suitable candidates were selected and addressed. An important step in promoting internationalization is also the attraction of foreign lecturers, which is in line with the project SAM 8.2.2.0/18/A/022 “Strengthening the professional competence of academic staff in the field of strategic specialization of Daugavpils University” and the planned results - attracting foreign teachers and their employment in Latvian HEIs.

Not only the academic staff of the study direction is involved in the study process, but also

specialists of numerous disciplines who with their professional experience not only deepen students' practical knowledge and skills within the study courses, but also increase students' employment opportunities after graduating from the programme. Having acquired knowledge in the study courses, students are motivated for in-depth study of the interrelations of various processes taking place in society in the interaction of several sub-branches of science.

In order to stimulate students' interest in several sectors of the economy, the lecturers engaged in the programme regularly introduce Master's students to the topics of their research projects and involve students in research work, which enables them to participate in the process of researching complex societal problems.

4.3. Information on the number of the scientific publications of the academic staff members, involved in the implementation of the doctoral study programme, as published during the reporting period by listing the most significant publications published in Scopus or WoS CC indexed journals. As for the social sciences, humanitarian sciences, and the science of art, the scientific publications published in ERIH+ indexed journals may be additionally specified (if applicable).

4.4. Information on the participation of the academic staff, involved in the implementation of the doctoral study programme, in scientific projects as project managers or prime contractors/ subproject managers/ leading researchers by specifying the name of the relevant project, as well as the source and the amount of the funding. Provide information on the reporting period (if applicable).

4.5. Provide examples of the involvement of the academic staff in the scientific research and/or artistic creation activities both at national and at international level (in the fields related to the content of the study programme), as well as the use of the obtained information in the study process.

The academic staff involved in the study programme actively participates in scientific research both on national and international level (see appendix). The academic staff members publish their works in scientific journals and paper collections recognized both in Latvia and in the world (the number of these publications exceed 300 entities for the reporting period). The scientific capacity of the academic staff members is attested by the publications indexed in *Web of Science* and *SCOPUS* databases, the number of supervised theses and research produced in recent 6 years. The results of the academic staff members' research are available to students of the bachelor study programme in study courses of elaboration of scientific work wherein students learn to analyze and critically assess recent scientific research ideas.

DU annually evaluates the scientific activity of the teaching staff, within the framework of which the results of research work, activity in projects, as well as pedagogical and organisational work are

evaluated. The scientific capacity of the teaching staff is confirmed by the publications indexed in *Web of Science* and *SCOPUS* databases, the number of supervised final papers, incl. Doctoral theses, and research, in the implementation of which the lecturers of the study programme participate. In 2019 alone, the lecturers involved in the programme implementation published over 30 articles in the editions indexed in the *Web of Science* and *SCOPUS* databases. For example, an article published by DU lecturers Aleksejeva, L., Jermolajeva, E., Rivža, B., Šipilova, V., Ostrovskā, I. (2017) Smart Growth as a Tool for Regional Convergence: Evidence from Latgale Region of Latvia. *Journal of Scientific Papers: Economics & Sociology* Vol. 10, No 4, 2017 [SCOPUS http://www.economics-sociology.eu/?550,en_smart-growth-as-a-tool-for-regional-convergence-evidence-from-latgale-region-of-latvia]; the findings are integrated into the study courses "Smart management and performance improvement" and "Strategic and change management".

Within the study process, the latest current events in the field are constantly followed - the academic staff participates in projects, the results are used to update the content of the study courses. Lecturers actively participate in the approbation and dissemination of research results by speaking at scientific and practical conferences and seminars. The information obtained in scientific events is used in the management of study courses and supervision of works, as well as in the preparation of teaching aids. The research and creative activity of the academic staff is closely related to the study process, promoting students' understanding of the relationship between the innovation sector and the needs of the real organisation. The staff of the programme involves lecturers who regularly participate in the improvement of study processes, thus achieving interdisciplinarity in the development of students' knowledge and skills.

The research performed by the academic staff is a significant contribution both to the development of their representative field, as well as to the development of the study programme, improvement and updating of the study content. The research covers both theoretical aspects and topicalities and novelties of the fields, which are used in the study courses of the lecturers, thus promoting the interaction of the research and study process and significantly improving the quality of the study process. The lecturers of the study programme are actively involved in the creation and management of municipal development projects. The most significant projects in recent years are as follows: the project of the Latvian-Lithuanian cross-border co-operation programmes 2007-2013 "Promotion of business development capacity in Latgale-Utena cross-border region", NORDPlus project "New model of teaching business start up knowledge for adults citizens", as well as the National research programme "Economic transformation, smart growth, management and legal framework for sustainable development of the state and society - new approaches to sustainable knowledge for the formation of society (EKOSOC-LV)" and "Challenges and solutions of the Latvian state and society in the international context" (*INTERFRAME-LV*), in 2014-2016 implemented Marie Curie project "Rethinking Territory Development in Global Comparative Researches (Rethink Development)".

Lecturers engage students of the programme in the research activities. For example, the students of the BSP "Economics" Raivis Malnačs and the graduate Jevgēnija Toropova were engaged in DU grant 14-95/10 "Assessment of smart growth opportunities in Latgale regions". In turn, the findings obtained in the project are integrated into the study course "Sustainable regional development and interregional cooperation".

4.6. Assessment of the cooperation between the teaching staff members by specifying the mechanisms used to promote the cooperation and ensure the interrelation between the study courses/ modules. Specify also the proportion of the number of the students and the teaching staff within the study programme (at the moment of the submission of the Self-

Assessment Report).

PBSP "Business and financial processes" cooperate with each other both in research, developing and publishing joint research papers and teaching aids, as well as in designing, developing and teaching joint study courses within the framework of the study programme. The published monographs and research articles are used in the study process. The master students are well aware of the publication activity of both their scientific advisor and other faculty involved in the programme, as most of the students in the programme are actively engaged in scientific cooperation with the faculty involved in the implementation of the study programme.

Several lecturers are engaged in the elaboration and implementation of each study course, thus ensuring the integration of science and practice. Their mutual cooperation promotes the quality of study courses both at the elaboration and implementation stages.

Mutual cooperation of lecturers, discussions are organized in the meetings of DU Department of Economics and in the meetings of the council of the study direction "Economics". At the end of each academic year, the department plans the workload of the academic staff for the next academic year, taking into account students' evaluation results of the respective study courses and the self-analysis of the academic activities performed by the lecturers, the compliance of the teaching staff with the improvement and teaching of certain study courses is also assessed. Approval of academic workloads takes place in accordance with the procedure for accounting the workload of the academic staff at DU (http://du.lv/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/05_akademiska_personala_darba_apjoma_uzskaites_kartiba_du.doc).

Annexes

III. Description of the Study Programme - 1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme		
Compliance of the joint study programme with the provisions of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education (table)		
Statistics on the students over the reporting period	Student_statistics_ENG.docx	Studejošo_statistika_LV.docx
III. Description of the Study Programme - 2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof		
Compliance of the study programme with the State Education Standard	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi_atbilstiba_valsts_izglitiba_standartam_ENG.docx	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi_atbilstiba_valsts_izglitiba_standartam_docx
Compliance of the qualification to be acquired upon completion of the study programme with the professional standard (if applicable)	PBSP_prof_standarts_ENG.rar	PBSP_prof_standarts.rar
Compliance of the study programme with the specific regulatory framework applicable to the relevant field (if applicable)		
Mapping of the study courses/ modules for the achievement of the learning outcomes of the study programme	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi_studiju_kursa_kartējums_studiju_programmas_rezultatu_sasniegšanai_LV_ENG.doc	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi_studiju_kursa_kartējums_studiju_programmas_rezultatu_sasniegšanai_LV_ENG.doc
Curriculum of the study programme (for each type and form of the implementation of the study programme)	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi_studiju_plāns_ENG.xlsx	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi_studiju_plāns_LV.xlsx
Descriptions of the study courses/ modules	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi_studiju_kursa_apraksti_ENG.docx	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi_studiju_kursa_apraksti_LV.docx
Description of the Study Direction - Other mandatory attachments		
Sample of the diploma to be issued for the acquisition of the study programme.	Diplomi_PBSP_ENG.zip	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi_Diplomi_diplomu_pielikumi.zip
Description of the Study Programme - Other mandatory attachments		
Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college will provide the students with the options to continue the acquisition of education in another study programme or at another higher education institution/ college (a contract with another accredited higher education institution/ college), in case the implementation of the study programme is discontinued	Vienosanas_starp_DU_LLU_ENG.doc	Vienosanas_starp_LLU_un_DU.pdf
Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college guarantees to the students a compensation for losses if the study programme is not accredited or the licence of the study programme is revoked due to the actions of the higher education institution/ college (actions or failure to act) and the student does not wish to continue the studies in another study programme	Guarantee_ENG_FINAL.doc	APLIECINĀJUMS_kompensacijai_studejosajiem (4).edoc
Confirmation of the higher education institution/ college that the teaching staff members to be involved in the implementation of the study programme have at least B2-level knowledge of a related foreign language according to European language levels (see the levels under www.europass.lv), if the study programme or any part thereof is to be implemented in a foreign language.	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi.zip	PBSP_Biznesas_un_finansu_procesi.zip
If the study programmes in the study direction subject to the assessment are doctoral study programmes, a confirmation that at least five teaching staff members with doctoral degree are among the academic staff of a doctoral study programme, at least three of which are experts approved by the Latvian Science Council in the respective field or sub-field of science, in which the study programme has intended to award a scientific degree.		
If academic study programmes are implemented within the study direction, a document confirming that the academic staff of the academic study programme complies with the provisions set out in Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause three of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education		
Sample (or samples) of the study agreement	AGREEMENT_STUDIES_ENG.docx	Ligums_par_studijam.docx
If academic study programmes for less than 250 full-time students are implemented within the study direction, the opinion of the Council for Higher Education shall be attached in compliance with Section 55, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.		