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MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY
2022–2026 SCIENCE PROGRAM OF THE FIELD OF LAW SCIENCE
RULE OF LAW, SUSTAINABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY

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I. OVERVIEW

The importance and purpose of the program

Science programs in the field of law at Mykolas Romeris University (hereinafter – MRU) were first developed in 2007. The new programs in the field of legal science were approved for the period of 2011–2014, updated in 2015 and 2018 taking into account new documents of the European Union and the Republic of Lithuania and the needs of the MRU Social Innovation Laboratory Network (MRU LAB) established in 2015, and were valid until the end of 2020.

Although the science programs of the field of legal science implemented by MRU at different stages of the state and society’s development ensured the scientific analysis of legal problems characteristic of a specific period and the search for solutions, the importance of all previous science programs in the field of law was revealed by the common goal – to ensure that Lithuanian legal scientists contribute to positive changes in law at the national and international level. The achievement of this objective in 2022–2026 is primarily linked to the global 2030 Agenda for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015, which aims to build peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure universal access to the justice system and develop an effective, accountable governance system. The contribution of legal science is also important for the implementation of other objectives of this global agenda in terms of gender equality, the environment, green energy, sustainable consumption, innovation, the reduction of inequalities, full and effective employment, etc.

The new Horizon Europe 2021–2027 program, adopted in Europe in 2020, identifies a wide range of issues (health; culture, creativity and inclusive society; digital technologies, industry and space; safe societies; climate, energy, mobility; food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and the environment), in which legal science also plays a role in finding solutions, and including the role of law science in finding solutions

will be important. In Lithuania, legal research is an important part of the implementation of the state's strategic goals: the goals of sustainable development of society, smart economy and governance set out in the 2012 State Progress Strategy "Lithuania 2030"; the goals of promoting citizenship through legal and economic awareness and democratic activity provided for in the 2014-2020 National Progress Program; and the goals of implementing results-oriented and evidence-based management, reducing regulation and improving the quality of legislation.

The possibilities of Lithuanian legal sciences to contribute to the implementation of the directions and strategic goals of the development of society and the state named in the above-mentioned documents are determined both by the existing scientific work and by the abilities of scientists to engage in new areas of scientific research. This science program will make it possible to identify the most important scientific problems in the field of law and will consolidate the priority directions of legal research at the national and international level, in which MRU legal scientists can achieve the greatest impact. It will make it possible to most effectively use and increase the potential of MRU legal scientists in the future. The law science program is also an important tool for linking the legal studies carried out at MRU with scientific research and will create conditions for the continuation of original research in law during doctoral studies.

In this context, the purpose of the MRU science program in the field of legal sciences for 2022–2026 (hereinafter referred to as the 2022–2026 science program) is two-fold. Firstly, it is a continuation of relevant research carried out in the field of law and the identification of new challenges of Lithuanian and international law that could be solved by legal sciences and the establishment of priority research directions. Secondly, to ensure the continuity and development of the interaction between university law studies and research, basing them on the latest research and encouraging students not only to replicate the knowledge they receive, but also to analyse legal problems in an innovative way and to develop new and original legal knowledge that affects the further development of law and society.

Relevance of the program

The 2022–2026 science program distinguishes five priority directions. Research in the first direction – **"Transformation of Human Rights"** – is relevant in the context of asylum, migration, human rights, ensuring the rule of law, the relationship between business and human rights, ensuring the rights and legitimate interests of participants in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings, the impact of the activities of law enforcement authorities on human rights, the protection of personal data and the impact of the use of artificial intelligence (hereinafter – AI) on human rights. The use of AI poses challenges in the areas of data protection and non-discrimination, human dignity, access to justice and consumer protection (FRA, 2020), ensuring public security, and in the activities of law enforcement authorities. Defining Europe's digital future and planning the future regulation of AI in the European Union and at the national level requires analysing the likely impact of the use of AI on human rights and providing for appropriate solutions to promote the use of technology to ensure human rights.

The European Commission identifies the challenges of migration and asylum as some of the most important challenges in the present and future. The review of the asylum and migration acquis, launched in 2016, will require not only the efforts of Member States, but also a legal assessment in a global context, especially after the adoption in 2016 of the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants and the Global Compact on Refugees. The refugee and migration crisis of 2015 in Europe was not just a local or regional problem, but a global one, so the relationship between European and global responsibility-sharing and solidarity mechanisms should be particularly close. The sphere of the relationship between business and human rights is also rapidly developing globally and at the EU level, and new regulatory instruments are constantly being developed and are being updated in Lithuania by updating the national action plan in this area.

The problems of ensuring the rule of law in various EU Member States, which have become apparent in recent years, also pose challenges to the guarantee of human rights. Improving the protection of the rights of vulnerable persons in national legal processes at the EU level also requires the search for appropriate scientific solutions. Although in modern international law the state is the main entity that has a duty to ensure

the protection of human rights, the role of business in this field is increasingly recognized, but the best solutions both internationally and at the EU and Lithuania level have not yet been achieved. Therefore, it is necessary to develop studies on the relationship of human rights with business operations, the role of business in society, and the reduction of the negative impact of business on human rights.

Human rights can become particularly vulnerable in times of crisis. This has already become evident in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as law enforcement has used new technologies for the sake of public safety, such as invasive monitoring to combat disinformation. Therefore, interdisciplinary research, revealing possible threats associated with the integration of new technologies, has become particularly important.

The second direction – **“Democracy and the Rule of Law”** – is aimed at consolidating fundamental research on law and analysing the legal prerequisites of good governance and the influence of international and regional legal systems on the development of democratic institutions. Although the strengthening of democracy has previously been identified in many strategic documents as one of the main societal challenges (The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda to 2030, Horizon Europe 2021–2027 program, the State Progress Strategy “Lithuania 2030”, etc.), the global crisis of health institutions caused by the recent pandemic, democratization processes in Lithuania’s neighbouring countries, hybrid conflicts, and the environmental, social and economic challenges caused by climate change have exposed new challenges and highlighted previous problems in the democratic system. As the rule of law crisis continues in some EU Member States and other countries, great attention should be paid to identifying and preventing its causes and exploring them in a broader context.

MRU’s legal scholars, having conducted a lot of work in various areas of fundamental legal research (lawmaking, philosophy of law, legal theory, history of law, constitutional law), can make an essential contribution to the strengthening of democracy in Lithuania and the region. Improvements in legislative processes allow the need for new legal regulation to be noticed in time, failed or flawed legal regulation to be removed from the legal system, and scientists and non-governmental organizations in the relevant fields to be involved in the legislative process, as well as ensuring continuous and consistent monitoring of the existing legal regulation, which is one of Lithuania’s strategic goals. Legislative improvements are also inseparable from interdisciplinary research into the sustainability of the legal framework and law. Legislative research would also contribute to the implementation of the priorities of the legal regulation of the 2020 government program: more effective protection of the rights and freedoms of the individual, resolution of the issue of multiple citizenship, ex-post evaluation of the criminal code, rational regulation of pre-trial investigation processes, assessment of the legal regulation of the process of resolving administrative disputes, etc.

The legal preconditions for strengthening good governance include, in particular, research into anti-corruption measures, ensuring social exclusion and gender equality, administrative law, optimisation of public procurement and the relationship between law and culture. The relevance of these aspects of the strengthening of a democratic society is also confirmed by the latest national documents (the National Anti-Corruption Program for 2015–2025 and the Program of the Eighteenth Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2020). In order to strengthen democratic values and constitutional stability in the region, it is also necessary to focus on research into the development of democratic institutions, especially in the context of protests and the persecution of opponents in Belarus and military aggression in Ukraine. In this area, research is needed on the problematic aspects of the interaction between EU and national law, the problematic aspects of the enforcement of the fundamental principles of international law in relation to national constitutional institutions, and the jurisprudence of international and regional courts and other institutions for the purposes of the fulfilment of Lithuania’s international obligations.

In the third direction – **“Research on the Relationship between Law, Sustainability and Technology”** – the most relevant interdisciplinary studies are those related to the impact of new technologies on the law, the change in legal regulation and the legal aspects of sustainable development. Creating and ensuring sustainability remains a fundamental challenge on a global scale, which has become even more relevant in the context of the pandemic than before (United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, 2015;

report on the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 in Lithuania, 2018; National Strategy for Sustainable Development, 2011). In this direction, the legal regulation of the management of climate change and the implementation of climate neutrality, the implementation of the rights of individuals in the context of climate change (climate litigation), and studies on the improvement of the legal regulation of waste management systems will be carried out taking into account the direction of the green (circular) economy and the practical functioning of new business models. There will also be studies on the impact of climate change on maritime law, as well as legal issues of the green economy and its legal tools, the preservation of biodiversity, and studies of the interaction of Lithuanian law with international and EU environmental law.

In this direction, research into the influence of new technologies on the law and the change in the legal profession will also be developed, revealing the development of technologies, including legal technology (legal tech), its disruptive impact on legal systems, the legal profession and the study of law, as well as research into the effectiveness of the justice system in the development and expansion of the E-Justice system. Synergies between law and technology can ensure greater access to justice, the optimisation and efficiency of legal processes, the digitalisation of legal services and the development of innovations in the field of law. It is predicted that by 2025 there will be a fundamental transformation of the legal profession precisely because of rapidly developing technological changes, new working methods and the need to offer clients more value at lower costs (Deloitte, *Developing legal talent. Stepping into the future law firm*, 2016).

Research into the impact of technology on public security, the digitalisation of public sector processes, and the use of AI for personal and public security purposes is growing. The digital transformation of public safety institutions and systems is also accelerating due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many technological systems introduced during the pandemic will play a key role in ensuring public safety in the future; therefore, research in the field of law in this area is necessary, timely and reflects the needs of society and the state. The digitalisation of the activities of law enforcement authorities and the use of AI for public security are also particularly relevant. Law enforcement agencies around the world are already using or looking for opportunities to use artificial intelligence – analysing how decisions to assess risks, increase crisis preparedness, and optimize processes can be made more easily.

Research in the fourth direction – **“Research into More Effective Justice”** – is particularly important regarding access to justice in the context of Goal 16 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. More effective justice can be achieved primarily through the development of comparative studies of constitutional justice models, studies of problems in the functioning of judicial systems, as well as by analysing the possibilities of improving the regulation of private relations, problems of pre-trial investigation and the codification of the administrative process. Justice research is inseparable from a more efficient administrative process: the phenomena of globalization, new technologies, the digitalisation of administrative dispute resolution and the administrative procedure pose new challenges. The necessary tool for ensuring more effective justice is the improvement of the criminal justice system, which includes the criminalization of new criminal acts (e-crimes), new ways of examining evidence, revealing alternatives to prison sentences and their realization. Measures are being sought to ensure an effective criminal policy and address new challenges arising from the implementation of the legal regulation of remote criminal procedure.

MRU’s legal scholars have a particularly strong track record in alternative dispute resolution, especially in the field of mediation, which is one of the means to ensure better access to the judiciary, to restore social peace between the disputing persons, and to optimize the financial and time costs of resolving the dispute. One of the priorities identified by the European Commission in this area is to improve the recognition of mutual decisions, thereby making it easier for citizens and businesses to defend their rights in a country other than their home country. Among the areas of research, studies of mediation as a means of improving access to justice, transformations of restorative justice and social justice are envisaged.

The fifth direction – **“Security Research”** – is designed to deepen research in the areas of international security, public security and a new geopolitical threat in the world. Studies of the new armed conflicts of the twenty-first century, other crisis situations, the legal problems of hybrid threats, international law of the sea and emergencies, and their characteristics, conditions of expression and trends are particularly relevant. In the context of general security, the common features of institutional and legal regulation in foreign and security policy in EU law, the improvement of the system for monitoring, assessing and controlling the state

and personal security situation, the analysis of the state and threats of organized crime in Lithuania, and innovations in the activities (interactions) of institutions and their legal regulation in ensuring public security are present. The lack of comprehensive research into ensuring public security through legal means leads to a lack of holistic understanding and, consequently, the lack of functioning of the public security system.

A key feature of the new conceptual approach to security is constant interdisciplinary research into the state of global insecurity and the need to constantly accumulate and update reserves of functional tools that ensure the safety of quality of life. Thus, the concept of general security and public security is fundamentally changing. Public security should be understood not only narrowly as the prevention of violations, but also broadly, as the definition, legitimization, prevention and management of all parameters of the state of public security.

When exploring new threats in the world, the first thing to note is the problems of ensuring information security by legal means, as well as the research of the means and methods of ensuring cybersecurity, which will continue the scientific activities in the field of security currently carried out at the MRU. An essential condition for ensuring the measures set out in the EU Digital Decade Cybersecurity Strategy for 2020 is the effective fight against cybercrime, which was launched in 2019 with the adoption of a legal framework for targeted restrictive measures against cyber-attacks.

During crises, the role of economic security is especially pronounced, since in the absence of support for the viability of the person in question, society, state, and the entire system may be threatened. In times of crisis, it is necessary to balance economic security with other needs arising in the state. It is necessary to systematically assess the consequences of security and economic reforms for man, society, and the state, which determine the need to create and implement complex innovations and analyse the impact of the digitization of industry on economic security, since legal analysis of the regulation of such processes is a necessary part of complex research.

Link between research and study programs

In order to develop study programs based on research results that meet the current and future needs of society and the state, the scientific activities carried out in the legal direction at MRU include research in the field of law and interdisciplinary research, which addresses the most important societal challenges in the field of law and contributes to the creation of new knowledge important for the development of the country and international society, provides a scientific base for the preparation of studies and scientists of all three stages of study, and improves the scientific qualifications of teachers.

The new generation of LL.M law study programs in the fields of mediation, public procurement, health law, law and technology (LegalTech), and labour law was developed from the very beginning on the basis of ongoing research in these areas. Researchers conducting research teach in study programs in the field of law and participate in activities of human rights, justice research, mediation, sustainable dispute resolution, and sustainable innovation laboratories.

The directions of the science program are related to the following study programs:

1. The research carried out in the direction of “Human Rights Transformation” forms the basis for: the bachelor’s study programs of “Law and International Relations” and “Law”; and master’s degree programs of “International Law”, “Legal Regulation of The Administration of The Public and Human Rights”, “Law and Police Activities”, “Law and Pre-Trial Process”, and “Law and Protection of the State Border”. These degree programs are based on research on the challenges to human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic, the constitutional aspects of human rights, the rights of participants in criminal proceedings in the administrative process and the administrative procedure, changes in the regulation of migration and asylum law, and other studies. Research in the field of labour law is the basis of the master’s study program “Labor Law” and “Labor Law LL.M.” Research on the correlation of human rights and public security is the basis of the “Law and Police Activities”, “Law and State Border Protection”, and “Strategic Management of Border Protection of States” master’s programs.

2. The research carried out in the fields of “Research on more effective justice” and “Research on the legal aspects of democracy and good governance” forms the basis for the bachelor’s degree programs “Law”, “Law and Penitentiary Activities”, “Law and Customs Activities”, “Law and Police Activities”, “Law and Forensics”, “Law and Pre-trial Process”, “Law and Protection of the State Border”, and master’s programs of “Administrative Law”, “Mediation”, “European and International Business Law”, “Law and Governance of the European Union”, “Civil and business law”, “Public procurement law LL.M”, “Law and police activities”, and “Environmental law”. Ongoing and planned research in the areas of improving the performance of courts, the application of administrative law, new types of crimes, and insolvency contributes to the presentation of the latest research-based information in the classical master’s degree programs “Criminal Law and Criminology” and “Civil and Business Law”.
3. The research carried out in the direction of “The relationship between law, sustainability and technology” is closely related to the bachelor’s degree programs in “Law and Financial Technologies” and “Law and Forensics”, and master’s degree programs in “Law, Technology and Business”, “European and International Business Law”, “Civil and Business Law”, “Administrative Law”, and “Law and Technology (LegalTech) LL.M”. Research in the field of law and technology has been conducted since 2012. Research in this field is developed in the activities of MRU’s laboratories and the institutes of the Law School and the Center for Legal Technologies (LegalTech). Scientists in this field teach in study programs and participate in joint doctoral studies with other European universities under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie international doctoral program “Law, Science and Technology on the Internet of Things”.

MRU’s legal research is carried out in cooperation with external partners in the field of law studies: the State Labour Inspectorate, the State Data Protection Inspectorate, the State Border Guard Service, the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, the Department of Environmental Protection under the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, National judicial administration and courts, various dispute resolution commissions, ministries of foreign affairs, justice, economy and innovation, interior affairs and other ministries, and private sector partners (especially in the field of LegalTech). Students of the field of law (bachelor’s and master’s) participate in scientific competitions announced by the social partners of study programs (Supreme Court of Lithuania, Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania, State Data Protection Inspectorate, etc.), while social partners form part of the topics of final theses in bachelor’s and master’s studies and participate in commissions for the defence of scientific works. Students can participate in research conducted by MRU laboratories and the Center for Legal Technology, or conduct small-scale research by studying some subjects of study. Scientific articles prepared by students are published in the scientific journals of MRU (*Jurisprudence, Studies of Social Sciences, Public Safety and Public Order*).

The impact of the program on the scientific direction and society

The science program is aimed at increasing the impact of research in the field of law; in particular, by strengthening the contribution of Lithuanian legal scientists to international legal research, which would manifest itself in world-class publications in influential legal science journals, as well as international recognition and contribution to high-level conferences, presenting research results and increasing their visibility and impact. The aim of the science program is also to encourage legal scientists not to confine themselves to the research of national law, but to analyse issues of national law in a broader comparative or interdisciplinary context, thereby influencing global research into legal problems. This process could be ensured by closer cooperation in research areas related to foreign scientists, the preparation of joint publications and other scientific productions, and the national and international publication of scientific results.

The science program aims to nationally and internationally influence human rights and democracy-based state governance in the areas of justice and legislative efficiency, sustainable societal development and technology regulation, and compatibility with human rights. The science program focuses on the priority areas in which the ongoing research on law has the greatest impact and on those areas where there is the greatest potential in terms of available skills and internationality of the topic.

The impact of research at the national and international level is such that the research carried out reflects the most pressing needs of the state and society, as well as the latest trends in sustainable development, and is aimed at increasing the following measures:

1. promoting partnerships with public and private sector entities for targeted research, outsourcing;
2. developing of project initiatives;
3. carrying out expert activities in the field of legislative improvement;
4. promoting the participation of legal scholars in key structures of change;
5. establishing of research excellency centres;
6. publishing research results in significant national publications and internationally recognised publishing houses;
7. publicising research results by scientific conferences and other means, attracting international high-level scientific conferences to Lithuania;
8. connecting international scientific networks;
9. publishing on international blogs with a high impact;
10. developing doctoral studies in attracting doctoral students from abroad;
11. attracting foreign scientists to research and project activities and partnerships with foreign scientific and research institutions;
12. training in increasing the competencies of legal scholars.

These measures will allow for targeted research planning and targeted funding for it, and the results of the research will be more accessible to decision-makers and policymakers. This will allow for the greater impact of research at the national and international levels. The aim is to reach a partnership with the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the implementation of the Government's program plan of measures related to the need for research, state institutions on legislative reform (especially in the areas of impact assessment of legal acts, improvement of criminal laws), pandemic management, the improvement of the regulation and implementation of public procurement, national business and human rights plan, human rights monitoring, the regulation of new technologies and other areas, with private sector entities involved in legislative initiatives, and the development of legal technologies and other areas with R&D potential. The aim is to promote the participation of researchers in COST activities, international legal networks and associations, working groups and commissions set up by state institutions and business entities.

The project initiatives are created and implemented with the help of research teams, partners of the Law School, participants in the legal system, and using the MRU network of scientific laboratories: laboratories for Justice Research, Mediation and Sustainable Dispute Resolution, Sustainable Innovation, Security Research and Human Rights. The results of scientific research are published in the MRU law journals *International Comparative Jurisprudence*, *Jurisprudence* and the interdisciplinary journal *Public Security and Public Order*, and in national and international law and interdisciplinary journals included in the Scopus, Web of Science, Clarivate Analytics databases. The scientific analysis of the most relevant changes in national law is presented annually to state institutions and the legal community in the publication "Lithuanian Law: Fundamental Changes". The results of the research are presented at the annual conferences of the Law School and the Academy of Public Security on constitutional law, criminal law, civil law, administrative law, mediation, the environment, law and technology, and human rights, and the Academy of Public Security's annual international scientific forum "Networking on Sustainable Security in the Dynamic Environment", in the conferences of international specialized law associations, and in high-level scientific conferences abroad.

The implementation of the science program is expected to achieve a greater impact of ongoing legal research in the national and international space, increasing the number of impactful international publications, implementing more international projects in the fields of research, and increasing the capacity of legal scientists to interdisciplinary research and joining international scientific networks. Nationally, it is planned that the studies carried out will contribute to the implementation of the Government's 2020 program, the scientific justification of reforms in the field of law and the solution of relevant public problems in the field of access to justice.

Prospects for the program

The research program, in synergy with the bachelor's and master's degree programs in the field of law carried out by doctoral and post-doctoral research at MRU, will create the conditions for international cooperation in the development of joint study programs and the implementation of projects related to legal science, and will encourage greater involvement of scientists in the European and world science and study space.

By responding to global trends and strengthening scientific activities in the field of law, MRU promotes interdisciplinary research that would link law science with research in other areas of the social sciences, new technologies and the solution of practical problems of law, develop the active participation of legal scholars in international-level academic networks and organizations by offering their expertise and contribution to international scientific discourse, increase participation in competitions in order to achieve to finance interdisciplinary research, and disseminate the available scientific knowledge to an international audience. Among the new areas of research, both the Law School and the Academy of Public Security will increasingly develop research into the interaction of legal science with technology and sustainability, which have global perspectives. In these areas, the capacity of scientists will be strengthened now and in the future, research teams will be formed and partnerships with research centres of foreign countries will be developed, and investments will be made.

An institutional mechanism has been created to conduct legal and technological research through the legal technology (LegalTech) centre. Research on the relationship between law and technology is in line with global trends and perspectives and enables the Law School and the Academy of Public Security to significantly expand research into the international space, to develop R&D elements in legal research, and to develop partnerships between the academic sector and the private sector. In the field of law and technology, research into the impact of technology on human rights will be relevant in the future, along with research on the use of AI in legal proceedings and in the work of a lawyer, and on the regulation of new technologies and other studies. In individual areas of law, research into the relationship between law and technology will be relevant from a variety of perspectives: in the field of criminal law and procedure, new types of crime (in particular e-crime), the development of remote criminal proceedings, electronic evidence collection and research and other areas. In civil law, the focus will be on the areas of optimization of legal and judicial processes, digitization of civil law institutes, regulation of fintech technologies, etc. In the area of public security, digitalisation and studies of the feasibility and effectiveness of AI and the relationship of the means of its implementation with respect to human rights are a priority, presupposing the implementation of R&D and other international projects.

The science program identifies a completely new challenge for legal research – law and sustainability reflect global trends based on the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal policy, the implementation of which goes hand in hand with law as ensuring regulation and its implementation, thereby enabling the development of sustainability principles. The designation of this direction of research in the scientific program as a priority will make it possible to consolidate the ongoing research in the field of sustainability (especially on the cyclical economy, the environment, social business and other issues) and to bring together scientists on an interdisciplinary basis.

In order to increase the impact of research at the national level and with the intention of extending this research into the international space, a Centre for Constitutional Research will be created, which will connect scientists on an interdisciplinary basis and consolidate the research currently being successfully carried out in this area, promoting development internationally – especially in the field of the rule of law problems facing the EU.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

Purpose. The goal of the MRU legal sciences program for 2022–2026 is to encourage legal scientists to create research-based knowledge and innovations for policymakers, decision-makers and society in order to ensure sustainable and digitized development of society and the state based on the rule of law, human rights and

democracy, public security and the more efficient administration of justice. The results of the research will be based on proposals in the interests of the individual, society and the state on how to solve the problems studied or effectively avoid them. The research provided for in the program is aimed at actively and impactfully participating in the international science and study space, creating new and improving existing study programs on the basis of research results.

Directions and objectives, the means of implementation and the expected results (TABLE)

Directions	Tasks	Implementing measures	Implementing units (scientists)	Expected qualitative results (indicators)	Expected quantitative results and their percentage of growth in 2022–2026.
I. THE TRANSFORMATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS	1. Managing migration in the context of human rights	1. Studies on effective and human rights-compliant migration management	TM, HR LAB VSA, Sustainable Innovation LAB,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing competence in the preparation of scientific publications. The development and managerial competences of the project applications of scientists is increasing. The dissemination of results in academia is improving and the awareness of science in society is growing. The cohesion and innovation of science, the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of the share of articles included in the CA WoS and/or Scopus databases from all peer-reviewed articles is projected at 5% annual growth. The percentage of the share of articles included in the CA WoS and/or Scopus databases Q1 and Q2 quartiles from all articles included in the CA WoS and/or Scopus databases is projected at 5% annual growth. The percentage of the share of articles published in the journal of a specific scientific
		2. Analysis of the development of the EU regulation on migration and asylum			
		3. Studies on the legal aspects of the integration of migrants and refugees			
	2. The modern concept of human rights	1. Studies on constitutional and international aspects of human rights	TM, HR LAB, Justice LAB VSA, Darniai innovation lab		
		2. Business and human rights investigations			
		3. Analysis of the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the participants in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings			
		4. Analysis of the impact of law enforcement activities on human rights			
	3. Personal data protection investigations	5. Threats and opportunities for human rights in the use of artificial intelligence	TM, HR LAB, Security LAB VSA		
		1. Ensuring the protection of personal data in the context of cybersecurity	TM, HR LAB, Security LAB VSA		
		2. Protection of intellectual property rights in the context of innovation development			
II. DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW	1. Fundamental legal sciences as elements of democracy	1. Studies on effective legislation and the rule of law	TM, Justice LAB VSA		
		2. Research on the philosophy of law			
		3. Constitutional law investigations			
		4. Studies in the theory of modern law and the history of law			
		5. Studies on the sustainability of the legal framework and law			

	2. Legal prerequisites for good governance	1. Legal investigations into anti-corruption measures	TM VSA, Sustainable Innovation LAB	social sector and business is increasing. 5. The expert competence of scientists is improving. 6. Cooperation in professional and scientific networks is intensifying. 7. Research excellence improves. 8. Academic profile and professional recognition are gaining strength.	direction included in the CA WoS and/or Scopus from the total number of articles published in ca WoS and/or Scopus publications is projected at 5% annual growth. 4. The percentage of monographs published by internationally recognized scientific publishing houses, the share of their parts from all monographs is projected at 5% annual growth. 5. The percentage of the amount of weighted points of social science works of the annual (formal) assessment is seeing 10% annual growth. 6. The percentage of memberships in the international
		2. Studies on the legal preconditions for social exclusion and gender equality			
		3. Administrative law investigations			
		4. Research on the optimization of public procurement			
		5. Research on the relationship between law and culture			
	3. The influence of international and regional legal systems on the development of democratic institutions	1. Studies on the problematic aspects of the interaction between European Union and national law	TM VSA		
		2. Research on the problematic aspects of ensuring the fundamental principles of international law and the relationship with national constitutional institutes			
		3. Jurisprudence studies of international and regional courts and other institutions for the purpose of fulfilling Lithuania's international obligations			
III. STUDIES ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LAW, SUSTAINABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY	1. Impact of new technologies on the law and change in legal regulation	1. The impact of legal technology on legal systems and the legal profession	TM VSA		
		2. Application of the principles of criminal jurisdiction in the online space			
		3. Analysis and trends in the legal regulation of the application of autonomous systems and other advanced technologies			
		4. Improving the efficiency of the justice system by creating/expanding the E-Justice system			
		5. The use of algorithms in the process of case handling and decision-making			
		6. Digitalisation and artificial intelligence for public security			
	2. Legal aspects of sustainable development	1. Studies on the legal regulation of the management of climate change and the implementation of climate neutrality.	TM VSA (Ecological Security), Sustainable		
		2. Implementation of the rights of individuals in the context of climate change (<i>climate litigation</i>) research.			
3. Studies on the improvement of the legal regulation of waste management systems, taking into account the direction of the					

		green/circular economy and the practical functioning of new business models.	Innovation LAB		editorial boards of WoS and Scopus scientific journals is projected at 5% annual growth. 7. The percentage of membership of international working groups, associations, participation in international and national expert groups is seeing 5% annual growth. 8. The percentage of projects implemented at a high international level is projected at 5% annual growth. 9. The percentage of high-level national projects is projected at 10% annual growth. 10. The percentage of applications for national and international projects submitted is projected at 10% annual growth.
		4. Studies on the impact of climate change on maritime law			
		5. Green economy and its legal tools, legal issues of biodiversity conservation, research on the interaction of Lithuanian law with international and European Union legislation related to environmental protection			
IV. RESEARCH ON MORE EFFECTIVE JUSTICE	1. Studies on access to justice	1. Comparative studies of constitutional justice models	TM, Justice LAB, HR LAB VSA		
		2. Studies of problems in the functioning of judicial systems			
		3. Research on improving the regulation of private relations			
		4. Pre-trial investigation as a means of improving access to justice			
		5. Problems with the codification of the administrative process			
	2. Investigations to improve criminal justice	1. New types of criminal offences and new ways of investigating evidence	TM VSA		
		2. Balancing criminal policy			
		3. Studies of alternatives to and realization of imprisonment, strengthening the effectiveness of the execution of sentences, studies of the problems of resocialization of convicts in the system of execution of sentences			
		4. Criminal liability policy			
		5. Regulation and implementation of remote criminal procedure			
	3. Alternative dispute resolutions	1. Mediation and other alternative dispute resolution as a tool to improve access to justice	TM, Mediation LAB VSA		
		2. Restorative justice: applicability and development			
3. Transformations of social justice					
V. SAFETY STUDIES	1. International security investigations	1. Analysis of the legal problems of armed conflicts, other crisis situations and hybrid threats of the 21st century	TM Security Research LAB, Sustainable Innovation LAB VSA		
		2. International law as a guarantor of international security at sea and in space			
		3. Studies of security risks and threats, their characteristics, conditions of expression and trends.			
		4. Geopolitical security and law			

	2.General safety studies	1. Institutional and legal features of the common foreign and security policy in EU law	TM VSA		11. The percentage of outsourcing provided on behalf of MRU is projected at 5% annual growth. 12. The publicity of the survey results at international conferences with high recognition among the academic community is projected at 5% annual growth. 13. The change in the number of popularizations of science on national and international media and social media platforms is a projected at 5% annual growth.
		2. Improving the system of monitoring, assessing and controlling the state and personal security situation			
		3. Analysis of the state and threats of organized crime in Lithuania			
		4. Innovations in the activities/interactions of institutions and their legal regulation in ensuring public security			
		5. Cross-cutting factors related to crime, their management and risk assessment of crime			
	3. Research into new threats in the world	1. Problems of ensuring information security by legal means	TM, Security LAB, Sustainable Innovation LAB,VSA		
		2. Effective fight against cybercrime			
		3. Research on the means and techniques of ensuring cybersecurity			

*The growth rate is calculated from the results of 2021.

MRU units implementing the science program

Law School

Academy of Public Security
Security Research Laboratory
Mediation and Sustainable Dispute Resolution Laboratory
Justice Research Laboratory
Human Rights Laboratory
Sustainable Innovation Lab
Tolerance Center
Legal Technology (LegalTech) Center
Baltic–Ukrainian Study, Research and Innovation Center

Documents for the preparation of the science program

Main documents:

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. Horizon Europe 2021–2027 program
3. EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030
4. Lithuania’s progress strategy “Lithuania 2030”
5. National Progress Program 2014–2020
6. Program of the Eighteenth Government of the Republic of Lithuania

Other documents:

1. Lithuanian Innovation Development Program 2014–2020
 2. Program for the implementation of priority priorities for research and experimental development and innovation development (smart specialisation)
 3. National strategy for sustainable development
 4. National security strategy
 5. National Anti-Corruption Program of the Republic of Lithuania for 2015–2025
 6. Lithuania’s actions in the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
 7. The concept of the child welfare state policy
 8. The concept of reforming the system of institutions for the protection of children’s rights
 9. State program for the prevention of domestic violence and the provision of assistance to victims for 2014-2020
 10. Information Society Development Program 2014–2020 “Digital Agenda of the Republic of Lithuania”
 11. National Public Health Care Development Program 2016–2023
 12. Government legislative plan for 2021–2024.
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