

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2021-2023

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# SUMMARY

## COMMITMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Indicator	2021	Implemented in 2021	2022	Implemented in 2022	2023	Implemented in 2023
Share of students and employees engaged in sustainability related activities	10 %	7,5 %	15 %	10 %	20 %	10 %
University sustainable activity strategy	For 3 years until the end of the calendar year					
Annual sustainability report	For the calendar year together with the annual report					
University budget allocated to (Eur)	112 000,00	189 205,00	119 500,00	760 813,00	132 500,00	2 683 461,15
Participation in international sustainable activity rankings, position	Get into Green Metric ratings	Ranked 197th in Europe by Green Metric	Top 500	Green Metrics - 198th in Europe, 570th in the world, THE Impact rankings - 301-400th in the world	Top 500	Green Metric 151 place in Europe and 547 place in the world, THE Impact rankings - 1001+ category in the world, QS Sustainability Rankings - 637 place in the world.
Number of volunteering/charity activities organized by the university	6	6	12	14	15	14
Number of public initiatives on sustainability issues	2	10	3	13	4	14
Green public procurements (% of all procurements)	3 %	7 %	5 %	47 %	7 %	77 %
A section of the university website dedicated to sustainable activities	Ready	Regularly updated	Regularly updated	Regularly updated	Regularly updated	Regularly updated

Indicator	2021	Implemented in 2021	2022	Implemented in 2022	2023	Implemented in 2023
The number of activities for Didlaukis campus community on sustainability	2	4	3	4	4	4

## STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Indicator	2021	Implemented in 2021	2022	Implemented in 2022	2023	Implemented in 2023
Growth in the share of programs directly aimed at increasing cohesion in the total number of programs	80 %	80 %	83 %	85 %	85 %	92 %
Growth in the share of research funding dedicated to sustainability issues out of total research funding	20 %	20 %	25 %	26 %	30 %	45 %
Number of published scientific publications on sustainability issues	> 50	45 %	> 70	65 %	> 100	96 %
The ratio of dissertations related to sustainability to the total number of dissertations being prepared	50 %	56 %	55 %	63 %	60 %	67 %
Number of scientific events related to sustainability issues	> 10	29	> 12	16	> 15	24
Number of academic projects related to sustainability issues	> 26	84	> 28	97	> 30	122

## SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Indicators	2021	Implemented in 2021	2022	Implemented in 2022	2023	Implemented in 2023
Decrease in electricity consumption at the University	5 %	4 %	5 %	not reached	5 %	6 %
Decrease in water consumption per community member at the University	5 %	not reached	5 %	not reached	5 %	not reached
Share of energy from renewable sources in total energy consumption (%)	4 %	not reached	6 %	not reached	8 %	41 %
Number of bicycle parking places	48	48	72	72	96	72
The number of electric vehicle charging points installed	1	1	2	2	3	2
Use of paper	Paper is not used in the circulation of documents, except as provided by law	Paper use reduced to a minimum	Paper is not used in the circulation of documents, except as provided by law	Paper use reduced to a minimum	Paper use reduced to a minimum	Paper use reduced to a minimum
Use of plastic	Disposable plastic products are not available	Plastic products are not available for purchase, except for rubbish bags	Disposable plastic products are not available	Plastic products are not available for purchase, except for rubbish bags	Disposable plastic products are not available	Plastic products are not available for purchase, except for rubbish bags
Number of events/ initiatives to raise awareness on sustainability	2	14	4	14	6	16
Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	3 %	not reached	4.5 %	not reached	6 %	not reached

Indicators	2021	Implemented in 2021	2022	Implemented in 2022	2023	Implemented in 2023
Increase in the proportion of students/ employees participating in awareness-raising events (% age)	10 %	7.5 %	15 %	10 %	20 %	20 %

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDSCAPE

Indicator	2021	Implemented in 2021	2022	Implemented in 2022	2023	Implemented in 2023
Adoption of the smart building system (%)	22 %	22 %	30 %	30 %	40 %	40 %
The ratio of open space to the entire territory of the University (%)	63 %	63 %	63 %	63 %	63 %	63 %
University territory covered with forest (ha)	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
University territory covered with planted vegetation (ha)	5.9	5.9	6.2	not reached	6.2	not reached
Total open space area (ha)	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2



**HEALTH**

Indicator	2021	Implemented in 2021	2022	Implemented in 2022	2023	Implemented in 2023
Share of students/employees who regularly exercise (%)	11%	10%	14%	14%	17%	19%
Number of health promotion/sports activities (variety)	25	20	30	30	35	53
Proportion of students/employees participating in health promotion/sports activities	14%	14%	17%	17%	20%	21%
Free psychological help for students and staff (number of consultations)	3	6	5	5	5	5

**SOCIAL SUPPORT**

Indicator	2021	Implemented in 2021	2022	Implemented in 2022	2023	Implemented in 2023
Amount of University funds allocated to community members for social support (Eur)	13,000	15,770	14,000	48,330	15,000	22,272
An increase in the number of scholarships to encourage well-achieving students	6	6	8	61	10	68
Number of scholarships for foreign students from developing countries	12	3	14	122	16	218
Equal opportunities and diversity policy	Ready	Senate approved, made public	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented	Implemented





Figure 1 MRU fosters a holistic approach to sustainable development

### STUDY PROGRAMS

In 2021-2023, MRU offered the following study programmes: accounting, education, economics, philology, finance, informatics, communication, pedagogy, political science, psychology, social work, law, tourism and recreation, management, business, public administration, public security, and human resource management. The number of study programmes has decreased (68 in 2021, 71 in 2022 and 67 in 2023), but the share of study programmes linked to the SDGs has increased from 83 % in 2021 to 92 % in 2023.

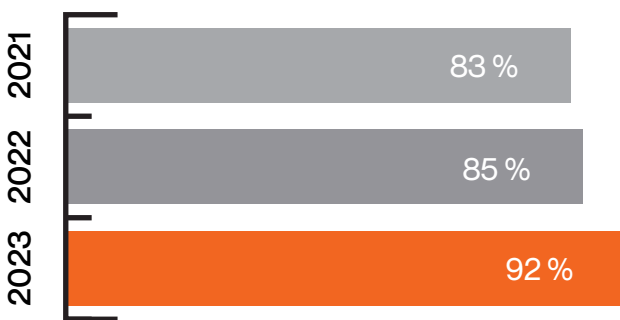


Figure 2 Share of study programs linked to SDGs out of the total number of programs.

### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

There were five student organizations at MRU in 2021-2023: Student Representative Office MRUSA, Debate Club, European Law Student Association MRU, Erasmus Student Network MRU Vilnius, and Doctoral Students' Society. Additionally, a sustainable development student organization was established, aiming to enable students to contribute more actively to the SDG implementation. This is achieved by organizing student leisure, educational, and cultural events such as freshman camp, introductory weeks for freshman studies, film screenings, brainstormings, maintenance of the MRU student garden and vegetable garden, and other activities and initiatives. In 2023, MRU joined the international initiative Responsible Future, organized by the student movement Students Organization for Sustainability (originally from the United Kingdom). The aim of this initiative is to unite university students from different countries and enable them to conduct sustainability audits of organizations.



Figure 3 International student initiatives

### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

SDGs are included in various areas of research and innovation: publications, events, projects, and doctoral studies. Sustainability topics are reflected in the content of research, and much attention is also paid to the training of the young generation of scientists and researchers. Knowledge is deepened together with Lithuanian and international partners when preparing applications and implementing projects.

MRU implemented in 2021-2023 the electronic scientific management system Chris. This system improves visibility and accumulates and ensures the long-term repository. Additionally, Chris increases the availability of scientific production through open access and optimizes the administration of scientific activities.

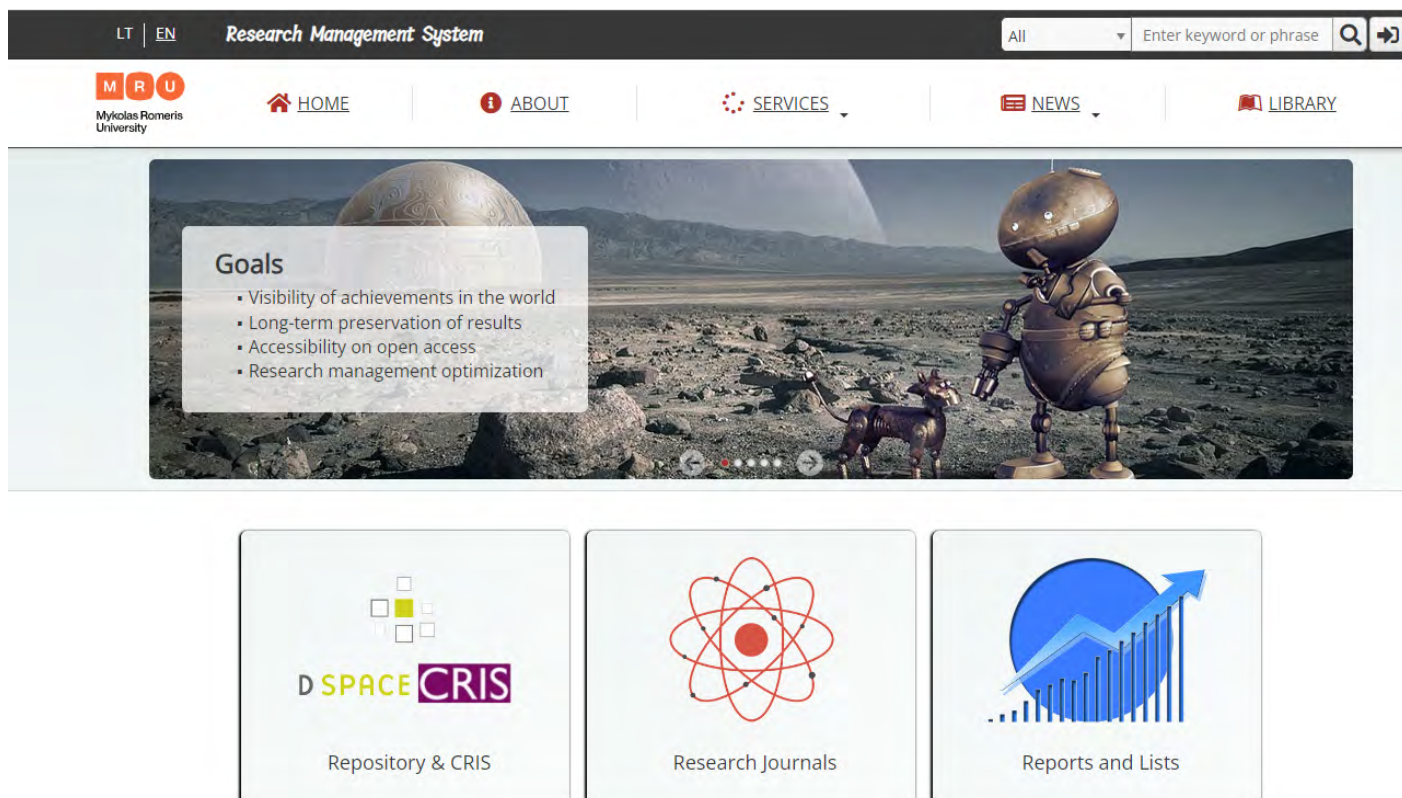


Figure 4 MRU Open Access Science Management System Chris

## PUBLICATIONS

MRU researchers prepare publications on various topics of sustainable development goals. The number of publications grew from 44.82% in 2021 up to 96% in 2023. MRU scientists and researchers publish the most on SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) (344 publications, 40.42%), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) (193 publications, 22.68%), and SDG 4 (Quality Education) (185 publications, 21.74%). Here's the breakdown of other SDGs and their corresponding publications:

- SDG 1 (No Poverty): 5 publications (0.59% of all sustainability-related publications)
- SDG 5 (Gender Equality): 16 publications (1.88%)
- SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): 3 publications (0.35%)
- SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy): 8 publications (0.94%)
- SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): 118 publications (13.87%)
- SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure): 116 publications (13.63%)
- SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): 58 publications (6.82%)
- SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): 61 publications (7.17%)
- SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production): 53 publications (6.23%)
- SDG 13 (Climate Action): 49 publications (5.76%)
- SDG 14 (Life Below Water): 4 publications (0.47%)
- SDG 15 (Life on Land): 39 publications (4.58%)
- SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals): 18 publications (2.12%)

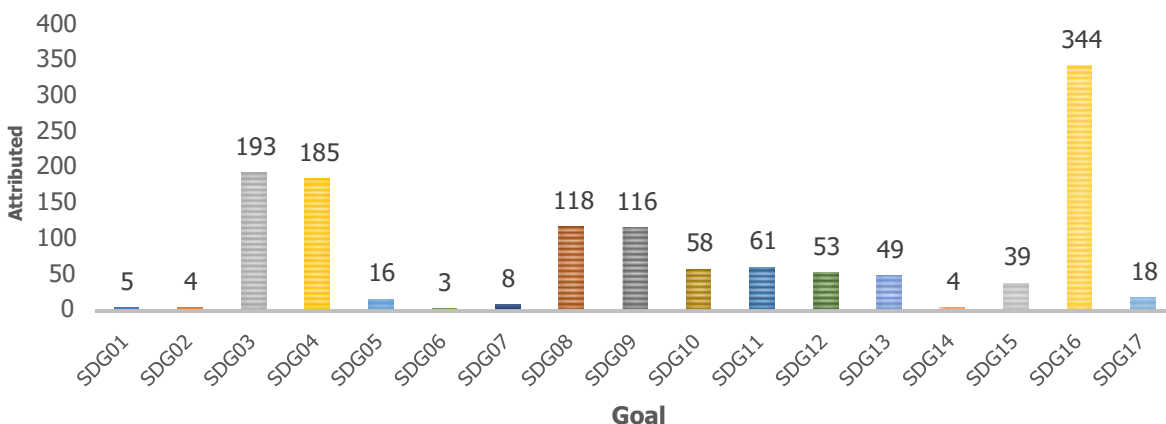


Figure 5 Number of publications linked to SDGs

We have also received international recognition. For example, the international scientific data agency Elsevier evaluated MRU prof. Paulo Alexandre Da Silva Pereira's scientific work, he 2020-2022 published 12 open access science articles related to sustainable development goals.

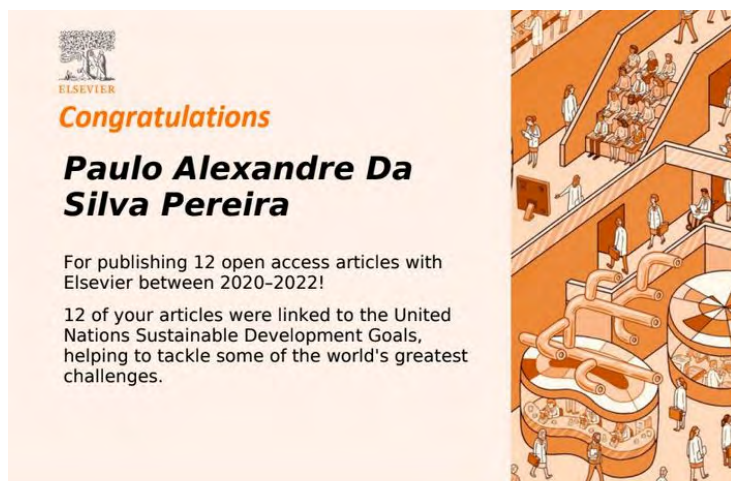


Figure 6 International recognition of contributions to open access scientific articles related to the Sustainable Development Goals



## DISSERTATIONS

The number of dissertations linked to SDGs increased from 56% in 2021 to 67% in 2023. Main research directions include the development of the Lithuanian tourism sector, smart public management, the organization of health care and social services, assessment of financial security and its impact in the EU, the internet of things, consumer behavior, legal regulation of municipal waste management, impact assessment of economic corridors, and anti-discrimination EU law.

Additionally, dissertations on sustainability were defended together with foreign partners. One example is dr. Audra Balundė's thesis titled "The Power of Concern for the Environment to Explain Environmentally Friendly Behavior for Different People in Various Contexts", supervised by Prof. dr. Rita Žukauskienė (MRU) and Prof. dr. Linda Steg (University of Groningen, The Netherlands).

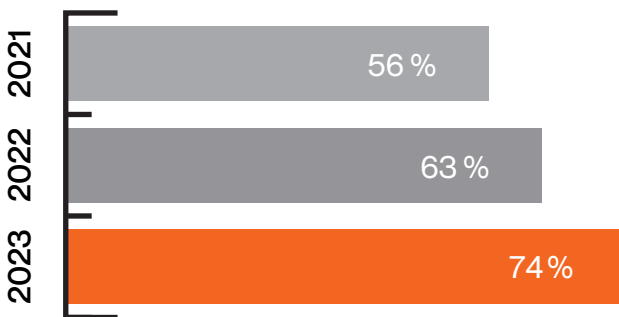


Figure 7 The ratio of PhD theses linked to SDGs



Figure 8 Dr. Audra Balundė defended her thesis The Power of Concern for the Environment to explain environmentally friendly behavior for different people in different contexts

## EVENTS

In 2021-2023, almost 40 sustainability-related events were organized, most related to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Examples include: The 30th Anniversary of the Constitution: From Ordinary to Supreme Law, Constitution Week Event Series, Legal Protection of Vulnerable Groups: Trends and Perspectives, Why We Care About Democracy: From Minsk and Kiev to Hong Kong and Taiwan, Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights in Search of Legal Standards, Overcoming the Mediation Paradox: Ideas, Challenges, Good Practices, Freedom of Conscience in a Time of Global (In)Security, National Human Rights Forum, Battlefield - Ukraine: Examining War and Justice, and Good Democratic Governance and Deliberative Democracy. Additionally, events related to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) were organized, such as the Congress of the World Health Law Association.



Figure 9 Examples of science events related to SDGs

SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) related scientific events: The International Trade Landscape: 14 Challenges and Opportunities and Jonathan Glennie's lecture: The Future of Global Cooperation is Circular, organized by the European Commission, the United Nations Development Program and UNDP.



Figure 10 Examples of scientific events related to SDG 8

Traditional community awards were organized with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) in mind. Initiative partners include MRU, the Ministry of Social Security and Labor of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania, and the portal Knowledge of Municipalities.





Figure 11 Examples of events related to SDGs

## PROJECTS

The number of academic projects examining the goals of sustainable development has exceeded the Strategy's targets. In 2021, 84 projects were implemented; in 2022, there were 97; and in 2023, 102 projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals have been initiated. As an example, projects aligned with SDG 15 (Life on Land) are underway. One such project is the Horizon 2020-funded "Monetary Evaluation of Soil Ecosystem Services and Development of Initiatives for Investments in Soil Health: Incorporating Soil Health into Business and the Policymaking Process" (InBestSoil). This project aims to create a framework for investing in soil health and is led by MRU project team head prof. dr. Paulo Alexandre da Silva Pereira.



Figure 12 SDG 15-related project "Monetary Evaluation of Soil Ecosystem Services and Development of Initiatives for Investments in Soil Health: Incorporating Soil Health into Business and the Policymaking Process" (InBestSoil)

The European Union Horizon-RIA-funded project Optimizing Forest Management for a Low-CO<sub>2</sub>, Climate-Resilient European Future (OptFor-EU), related to SDG 13 (Climate Action), aims to build on existing data sources, the latest forest assessment indicators, and links between climate factors, forest response, and ecosystem

services to provide an updated description of “Forest climate” and “Forest ecosystem services”; develop end-user-oriented process modeling; enable end users of the forest to make informed decisions that increase the resilience and decarbonization of the forest; create an innovative decision-making support system; and reduce the gap between different EU strategic priorities, fundamental science, and forest and forest-related sectors stakeholders. Head of the MRU project team: prof. dr. Paulo Alexandre da Silva Pereira.



Figure 13 SDG 13 project “Optimizing forest management for a low-carbon, climate-resilient European future” (OptFor-EU)

The project “Science on evidence-based and sustainable solutions for natural resources” (SELINA) funded by the European Union program HORIZON-RIA related to SDG 13 (Climate Action) aims to provide research-based information that could be used to support ecosystem protection, restoration and climate-neutral by 2030. Head of the MRU project team: prof.dr. Paulo Alexandre da Silva Pereira.



Figure 14 SDG 13-related project “Science on evidence-based and sustainable solutions for natural resources” (SELINA)



The project “Biodiversity and transformative change towards a pluralistic and nature-friendly society” (BioTraces) funded by the European Union’s Horizon program related to SDG 13 (Climate Action) aims to contribute to more inclusive, effective and equitable public policies, local strategies and enterprises biodiversity concerns aligned with the European Green Deal and the SDGs. MRU project team leader dr. Audra Balundė.



Figure 15 SDG 13-related project “Biodiversity” and transformative change towards a pluralistic and nature-friendly society” (BioTraces)

With SDG 4 (Quality education) and SDG 13 (Climate action) the project “Psychological Mechanisms of Environmental Citizenship Education” funded by the activity direction “Projects of research groups” supported by the Research Council of Lithuania is being implemented. During the project, a continuous intervention study is carried out, aimed at clarifying the mechanism of the formation of environmental citizenship; evidence-based educational material will be created and used for the intervention, which will eventually be systematized into an open access methodical publication for Lithuanian educational institutions. MRU project team leader dr. Mykolas Simas Poškus.



Figure 16 project “Psychological Mechanisms of Environmental Citizenship Education” related to SDG 4 and SDG 13

With SDG 4 (Quality Education) in mind, the project “New Methods for Creating Inclusive Non-formal Learning Spaces” (NIILS) is implemented with funds from the Erasmus+ KA2 - Cooperation Partnership program. The aim of the project is to promote an inclusive and technologically innovative informal and non-traditional learning environment in higher education, conducive to the well-being of learners. MRU project team leader: dr. Monika Mačiulienė.



Figure 17 SDG 4 related project “New approaches to creating inclusive non-formal learning spaces” (NIILS)

MRU also implemented projects related to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). For example, the project “Higher Education Learning Community for Inclusion” (HELCI), funded by the Erasmus+ KA2 - Cooperation Partnership program, aims to promote non-discrimination principles and common European values in higher education, strengthen links between universities in different countries, and develop inclusive and innovative content to help fight against xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance facing Europe. MRU project team leader: dr. Inga Juknytė Petreikienė.



Figure 18 SDG 4 related project “Higher Education Learning Community for Inclusion” (HELCI)

In addressing SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), the European Commission-funded project “Improving the abilities of practicing bankruptcy professionals to apply EU law and promoting trust in the culture of European courts and its understanding through the use of a participatory teaching method and blended learning” (InsolEuPro) is currently underway. This project aims to enhance the targeted training of insolvency specialists in the practical implementation of EU law. It seeks to increase their awareness of EU law opportunities and foster mutual trust to improve cross-border cooperation and case effectiveness. The MRU project team is led by dr. Salvija Mulevičienė.



Figure 19 With SDG 16 Enhancing the ability of bankruptcy practitioners to apply EU law and fostering trust and understanding of the European judicial culture through participatory teaching and blended learning” (InsolEuPro)

Mykolas Romeris University stands as the first higher education institution in Lithuania to carry out Erasmus Mundus funded joint master’s program “Social Work with Children and Youth” (ESWOCHY). This program develops highly skilled and compassionate social work professionals ready to lead initiatives supporting and empowering

children and youth, both internationally and cross-culturally. The program emphasizes comparative research and analysis for addressing real-world challenges. Dr. Raminta Bardauskienė leads the MRU project team.



Figure 20 Project “Social work with children and youth” related to SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 10 (ESWOCHY)

### INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES AND RECOGNITION

MRU actively participates in the United Nations Academic Impact Agency, submitting annual reports on its sustainable development activities. The agency has highlighted the results of the “GoGreen” project, conducted by researchers at the MRU Environmental Psychology Research Center. This project systematically investigates factors shaping environmentally-friendly behaviors in teenagers and has developed a tool to promote such behaviors. The insights from MRU researchers have been featured in an article on the United Nations Academic Impact Portal.

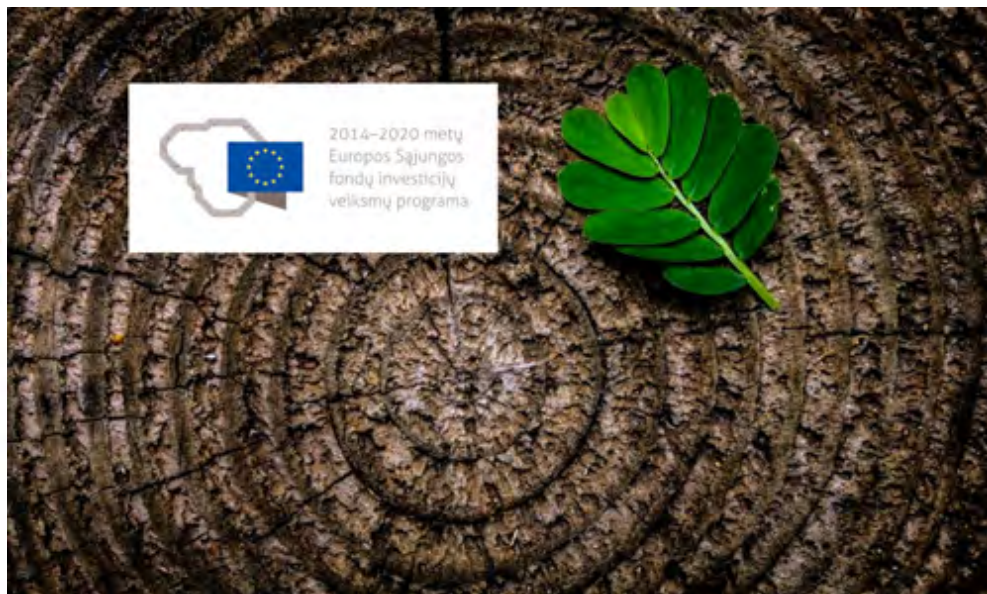


Figure 21 Acknowledgment of GoGreen project from the United Nations Academic Impact Agency

MRU actively participates in the International Association of Universities’ “Higher Education for Sustainable Development” cluster. This involves sharing best practices and experiences with partner universities worldwide to advance the meaningful implementation of sustainable development goals. In collaboration with global partners, MRU specifically contributes to fulfilling the SDG 11, (Sustainable Cities and Communities). The university offers practical insights and reports on how universities can support the creation of cities and communities that promote human health and well-being.





Figure 22 MRU participates in the activities of the International Association of Universities Sustainable Development Cluster “Higher Education for Sustainable Development”

In 2022, MRU joined a global sustainability innovation expedition, showcasing cutting-edge solutions. This expedition, led by Swiss scientists and researchers, featured the SolarButterfly mobile home. This innovative vehicle, constructed from recycled and ocean-collected plastic, boasts a deployable solar panel roof. With a push of a button, the SolarButterfly generates enough solar power for a 250 km journey, highlighting the potential of renewable energy. The event in Vilnius was co-organized by a consortium of sustainability leaders: the Innovation Agency, Confederation of Lithuanian Industrialists, Solitek, Lithuanian Innovation Center, Sustain Academy, and MRU.



Figure 23 MRU joined SolarButterfly, a world-traveling sustainability innovation expedition

In 2023 during the sustainability festival, the presentation of the international expedition “Save the Baltic” was held at MRU. In 2024 during the long trek, the expedition team calls on citizens, governments, organizations and companies to take active steps to preserve the sea for future generations.



Figure 24 MRU joined the international expedition Save the Baltic

## RANKINGS

MRU has made impressive progress in international sustainability rankings over the past three years (2021-2023). According to the UI GreenMetric rankings, MRU’s position increased from 198th to 151st among the most sustainable universities in Europe and from 692nd to 547th position in the world. This achievement reflects strong performance across various sustainability indicators, including research and studies, infrastructure, and climate change, UI GreenMetric evaluated 1,183 universities from 85 countries.



Figure 25 MRU was ranked by the international sustainability agency UI GreenMetric

In 2022-2023, MRU was recognized among the world’s universities for its contributions to SDG by Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. While the specific placement was within the 1001+ category, MRU was identified as influential in areas like Quality Education (SDG 4), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16), and Partnership for the Goals (SDG 17).



Figure 26 MRU was ranked by the international sustainability agency “THE Impact Rankings”

In 2023, MRU debuted in the QS World University Sustainability Rankings, placing 268th in Europe and 637th globally. This ranking evaluates universities worldwide (1397 worldwide, 493 in Europe) based on their contributions across three broad areas: Environmental Impact (institutional sustainability, research, and studies), Social Impact (equal opportunities, educational impact, health and well-being, employability, knowledge transfer), and University Governance (management and leadership practices). MRU demonstrated particular strength in areas including environmental research and studies, university management, equal opportunities, educational impact, and health and well-being.



Figure 27 MRU participated in the QS Sustainability Rankings

## GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND THE BUDGET

MRU has seen a significant rise in its commitment to sustainability through green procurement practices and increased funding for sustainability-related research.

Following focused efforts and updated national regulations, in 2022 MRU's green procurement made up 47%, while in 2023 - 77 % of all MRU acquisitions. This commitment extends to various purchases, including paper, stationery, recycled plastic products, printing services, event management, and office supplies.

MRU's dedication to sustainability extends beyond procurement. The university has made substantial strides in allocating research funding towards this crucial area. Sustainability-related research funding saw a steady rise, reaching 20 % in 2021, 26.4 % in 2022, and a significant leap to 45 % in 2023.

## CHARITY AND VOLUNTEERING INITIATIVES

In response to Russia's attack on Ukraine in 2022, MRU stepped up to support Ukrainian students and scholars. The MRU Senate declared 2023 the "Year of Ukraine." In 2022, MRU welcomed 69 displaced Ukrainian students (39 Bachelors and 30 Masters) with tuition-free education. This support expanded significantly in 2023, with the university welcoming 217 Ukrainian students. MRU is also committed to providing these students with a full range of social, psychological, and financial support services to ensure their well-being and success.

MRU's efforts extend to Ukrainian researchers impacted by the war. In 2022, the university employed 8 Ukrainian lecturers and researchers, increasing that number to 10 in 2023. Additionally, MRU is supporting 5 Ukrainian researchers in postdoctoral internships and has welcomed 2 researchers involved in an Erasmus+ funded project. These initiatives demonstrate MRU's dedication to providing opportunities and a supportive environment for Ukrainian academics to continue their vital work.





Figure 28 MRU support for Ukraine

Since the war in Ukraine began, MRU has partnered with Gravitas Schola, a school serving war refugees. MRU opened its doors in the spring of 2022, welcoming approximately 500 children of various ages. In 2023, this support continued for 180 high school students (grades 8-11) and their teachers.

MRU goes beyond just offering space. The university generously shares its auditoriums, gymnasiums, and leisure areas, allowing Gravitas Schola to host classes, celebrate Ukrainian traditions, and organize educational events. Younger students attend classes in other facilities but benefit from access to MRU’s park, outdoor sports fields, and facilities.

Through this partnership, MRU has created a safe space where both local children and Ukrainian war refugees can learn, play sports, and enjoy their free time. Additionally, MRU co-organizes educational activities and celebrations, fostering a sense of community and cultural exchange.



Figure 29 MRU support for the Ukrainian war refugee school “Gravitas Schola”

In the war’s early weeks, MRU witnessed a remarkable display of compassion and solidarity. Students, professors from Ukrainian universities, and the wider community came together to support refugees fleeing the conflict. These efforts included collecting humanitarian aid and assisting with resettlement in Lithuania.



MRU's Didlaukis academic campus became a heaven for many, housing what may have been Lithuania's largest center for war refugees – approximately 600 people, primarily women with children. Here, the spirit of volunteerism thrived. MRU community members dedicated their time and energy to these families, organizing educational and recreational activities for children and their loved ones.



Figure 30 MRU humanitarian aid to Ukrainians

The MRU community constantly collected and sent humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The international charity and support fund “Pagalbos sparnas” transported the support collected by MRU students and employees, war refugee school students and residents of the surrounding communities to the front and distributed it to orphanages on the way there, as well as to residents of war-ravaged cities and towns. When Russia attacked Ukrainian energy facilities, MRU was the first to start producing warming candles for trenches in Lithuania and sending them to Ukraine for soldiers and civilians. These candles helped people to warm up, heat up food or tea, and dry clothes. Later, this initiative spread throughout Lithuania.

## SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

In 2023 a strong earthquake struck Turkey and Syria. This earthquake was one of the strongest in the region in more than a century, during which more than 5,000 people died, the lives of thousands of people were shattered in a few seconds - they lost their loved ones, were left without homes, water, food, and clothes. MRU community, in cooperation with the Lithuanian-Turkish association, collected and sent humanitarian aid to the victims of the earthquake in the local community.



Figure 31 MRU humanitarian aid to the people of Turkey affected by the earthquake

The MRU team also joined River Clean Up, an international river and coastal cleaning initiative. This initiative aims



to bring people together to organize clean-up initiatives, spread awareness and create change. The MRU team was cleaning the entrances to the Šeškiukas lake near the Cedron stream near the University.



Figure 32 MRU participated in the international river and lake shore cleaning initiative “River CleanUp

## AWARENESS RAISING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

MRU prioritizes raising awareness and fostering education surrounding SDGs. Over the past three years (2021-2023), the university has spearheaded nearly 50 initiatives to promote sustainability. This commitment includes events like sustainability festivals, educational trips to nature reserves, film screenings, creative contests, and resource-saving actions within the community. Additionally, MRU’s team participated in the 2022 national finals of the Battle of Sustainable Minds, organized by the Institute of Green Politics and the embassy of the Netherlands in Lithuania, showcasing the university’s active role in championing sustainable development.





Figure 33 Examples of sustainability educational activities

In cooperation with UrbanBee, MRU installed beehives on the Research Laboratories roof. This initiative not only supports bee populations, crucial for maintaining biodiversity and plant reproduction, but also contributes to the overall environmental health of the Didlaukis campus. The greener campus area, enhanced by bee activity, absorbs more carbon dioxide, improves air quality, and helps mitigate the urban heat island effect. Furthermore, MRU hosted a film screening and discussion on World Bee Day, raising awareness about the vital role of bees in our ecosystem.



**World Bee Day**  
20<sup>th</sup> May



Mykolas Romeris University,  
(Ateities St. 20, Vilnius)



Figure 34 Examples of educational initiatives about the importance of bees to ecosystems

Every year, to commemorate the International Water Day, a competition for generating ideas about water safety, screening of documentaries in open spaces, trips, such as an educational trip to the Vilnius wastewater treatment plant, are organized.



Figure 35 Examples of educational initiatives on the importance of water

In cooperation with the embassies of Italy and the United Kingdom, screenings of films related to climate change have been organized. For example, the documentary *Climate Limbo* was screened in partnership with the Italian embassy. Directed by Elena Brunello, Paolo Caselli, and Francesco Ferri, *Climate Limbo* explores the connections between migration and climate change, showcasing how Italy is addressing these challenges. Additionally, in collaboration with the embassy of the United Kingdom, a screening of *Breaking Boundaries* by renowned British naturalist and documentary director Sir David Attenborough was organized.



Figure 36 Sample movie reviews

## STUDENT GARDEN AND STAFF GARDEN

To promote understanding of the benefits of local produce and shorter supply chains, MRU established a student garden near the Student House. Primarily nurtured by international students, the garden flourished throughout the warm season, allowing students to harvest their own vegetables in summer and fall. MRU further extended its commitment to sustainability by planting a fruit tree and bush garden at MRU LAB in 2022. These initiatives complement MRU's efforts to raise awareness about healthy eating, fostering a holistic approach to well-being.





Figure 37 Student garden and Employee garden

## COMMUNITY HOLIDAYS, CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAYS

MRU hosted exciting sustainability events – the Orange Festival and Sustainability Afternoon – inviting the community and their families to its vibrant courtyard. These events offered a blend of fun and education, featuring sports and virtual reality activities, a creative relaxation space to explore sustainability initiatives, and delicious natural food for everyone to enjoy.



Figure 38 Examples of commemorating community holidays and international days

A lot of attention was also paid to raising awareness in the field of healthy nutrition. Healthy nutrition trainings “Cook healthier: seasonal nutrition” were held, educational activities Meatless Monday, in commemoration of the European Day of Healthy Eating, members of the University community were invited to taste a healthier lunch offer in the University cafeteria.



Figure 39 Example of healthy and sustainable lifestyle education

### INFRASTRUCTURE AND LANDSCAPE

MRU has two campuses in Vilnius and Kaunas, the total area of which is 142,000 m<sup>2</sup>, and the buildings occupy an area of 61,846 m<sup>2</sup>. Most of the buildings of the Vilnius academic campus are newly built or renovated. The buildings of the Kaunas academic campus belong to the national architectural and cultural heritage. All MRU buildings meet the requirements of European and Lithuanian building energy standards. They help promote people’s health by using sustainable construction or renovation materials, efficient use of water and energy. In 2020, MRU, implementing the strategy of sustainable activities approved by the council and aiming to increase the share of energy from renewable resources in the total energy consumption. Solar power plants were installed on the roofs of Student Houses. In 2023 of the total produced by the solar power plant - 52,903 kWh, 19,909 kWh of energy needed for the needs of the Student House was recovered.



Figure 40 Solar power plant on the roof of the MRU Student Dormitory

### OPEN GREEN SPACES

Green spaces are an important part of university infrastructure. The ratio of open space to the entire territory of the University is 63 %. The total area of open space of the University covers 14.2 ha of land. The forested territory of MRU covers 2.7 ha. 5.9 ha of the University territory is planted with vegetation. A water absorption system is important in infrastructure management, as it not only helps to absorb rainwater, maintain building safety, but also provides a convenient and aesthetic entrance to buildings. The water absorption area covers 28,400 m<sup>2</sup>.





Figure 41 MRU open green spaces

MRU opens its spaces and parks for various activities to the local community. Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, MRU has been sharing its premises with the Gravitas Schola school for war refugees. In the MRU park, children from the surrounding local communities constantly play and do sports, and seniors enjoy the beautiful and safe environment.

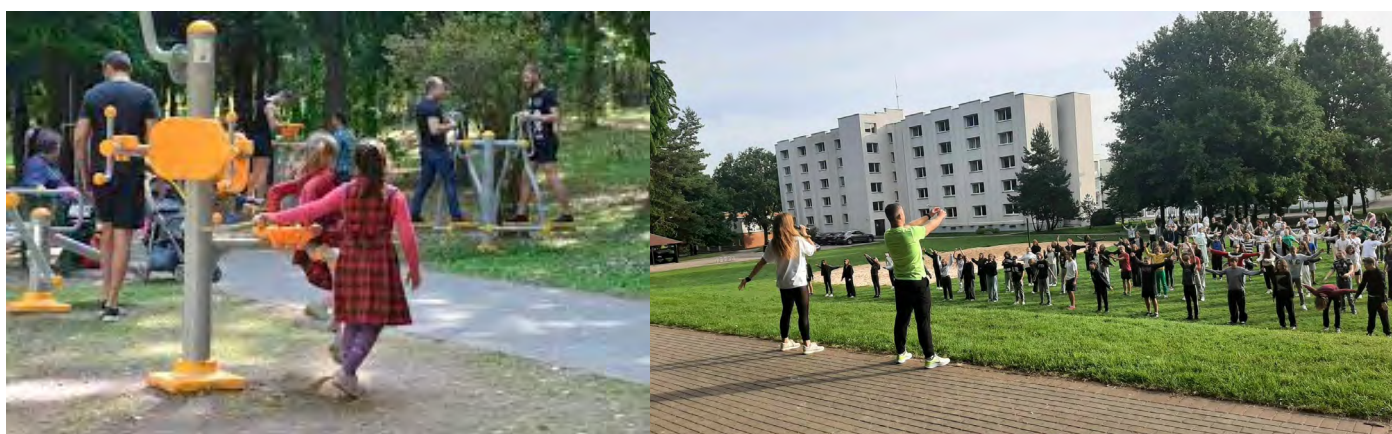


Figure 42 MRU opens its spaces to people from local communities

## SECURITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES INFRASTRUCTURE

MRU prioritizes the safety and well-being of its entire community. Buildings are equipped with constantly updated video surveillance systems and fire protection equipment. Clear signage designates the location of fire extinguishers and the path to emergency exits.

MRU is also committed to providing equal opportunities and a welcoming environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. This includes ensuring accessible study spaces and an engaging learning process. University buildings are universally designed whenever possible, allowing for easy navigation by wheelchair users. In buildings with limitations, wheelchair lifts are available near stairs, and dedicated baby feeding and care rooms are provided.





Figure 43 Examples of security infrastructure



Figure 44 Fostering a culture of equal opportunities

## CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES



### ELECTRICITY

MRU prioritizes responsible resource management and actively implements electricity-saving programs. University buildings are equipped with energy-efficient LED lighting and automatic light switching systems to minimize unnecessary use. MRU further fosters a culture of sustainability through educational activities that raise awareness about energy conservation within the community.

Electricity consumption at the university naturally fluctuates based on occupancy levels. Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the partial return to on-campus activities in 2021, electricity consumption understandably decreased compared to 2022, when full operations resumed. However, MRU’s ongoing efforts have been successful in stabilizing and even reducing electricity consumption in 2023, demonstrating a commitment to long-term sustainability.

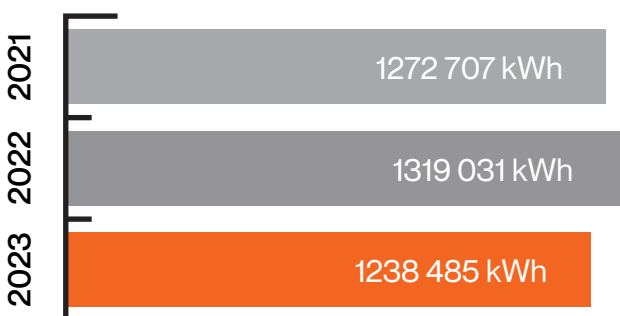


Figure 45 Electricity consumption in 2021-2023

## HEATING

MRU constantly monitors and analyzes the use of heat, and constantly looks for ways to save it. In 2022 after returning to study and work in the University premises, the full-scale heat energy consumption compared to 2021 grew up.

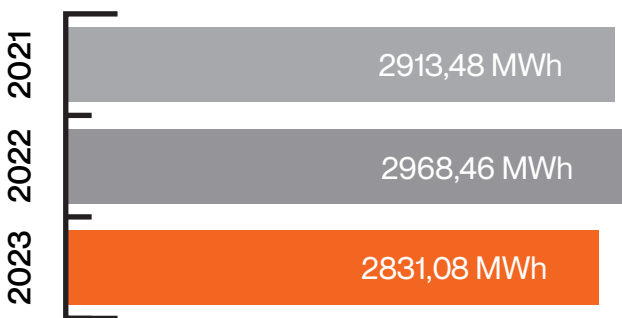


Figure 46 Heat consumption in 2021-2023



## WATER

MRU actively monitors and analyzes water usage, seeking ways to improve water conservation practices. As expected, water use is linked to the number of people on MRU campuses. While water consumption increased in 2022 with the full return to in-person activities, MRU has successfully stabilized this indicator in 2023. This demonstrates the university’s commitment to responsible resource management, even in the face of fluctuating occupancy.

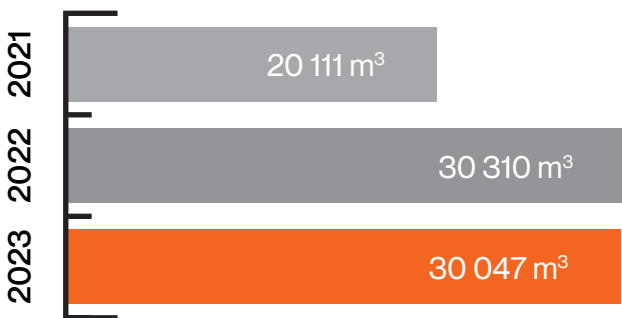


Figure 47 Water consumption in 2021-2023

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

MRU encourages a culture of sustainable consumption by promoting reduced purchasing and encouraging the application of circular economy principles. This includes student and faculty participation in waste sorting programs for plastic, paper, and glass. In 2023, MRU achieved a 15.71% waste sorting rate, demonstrating progress towards responsible waste management.

Catering companies operating on campus under public procurement contracts handle their own food waste and organic materials. MRU pays close attention to the design and accessibility of waste sorting stations, making the process convenient and user-friendly. The University also organizes the collection and transfer of inorganic waste for recycling in accordance with public procurement contracts.

Beyond general waste sorting, MRU provides dedicated collection points for batteries, small electronics, and printer cartridges, strategically located near high-traffic areas like the library, auditoriums, cafeteria, and coffee machines. This ensures convenient disposal options for students, employees, and guests. Overall, MRU strives to

make sustainability a seamless experience for everyone on campus.



Figure 48 Waste management infrastructure



According to the rating agency UI GreenMetric, MRU’s e-waste collection and recycling process is recognized among the 3 best universities in the world.



Figure 49 Recognition by GreenMetrics rankings agency

## HEALTH AND SPORTS

MRU prioritizes the health and well-being of its students and employees. MRU offers a variety of opportunities for physical activity, including group fitness classes (pilates, yoga, karate, badminton, volleyball, pickle-ball, basketball), individual gym workouts, and training programs for high-level athletes (wrestling, power-lifting, chess). The University also boasts a Hiking Club and organizes wellness events and competitions. In recognition of its commitment to promoting physical activity, MRU received a prestigious award from the Lithuanian President in 2022-2023 for its Walk15 app, which encourages walking within the university community. MRU is proud to be home to several successful sports teams, including the MRU women’s volleyball team, Rytas-2 men’s basketball team (a feeder program for the professional team), MFA Žalgiris women’s football team, and the MRU sambo, judo, power-lifting, and chess teams.



Figure 50 Examples of health and sports activities

Mykolas Romeris University believes in supporting both physical and mental health across its campus. We actively participate in community-building events within the Didlaukis academic campus, such as hosting spirited 4x4 volleyball and basketball tournaments.



Figure 51 Examples of mental health promotion

## HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

MRU fosters a safe and healthy work environment. In accordance with Lithuanian law, MRU offers its employees the opportunity for health check-ups every few years.

Further demonstrating its commitment to well-being, MRU's central building was additionally equipped with defibrillators in 2022, and a dedicated first-aid training room was established. Students and staff are empowered to learn essential first-aid skills through training sessions utilizing mannequins and CPR simulation tools.

MRU recognizes the importance of preventive healthcare. On World Hypertension Day, for instance, the university community was invited to participate in blood pressure screenings, raising awareness about the significance of regular health checks. MRU actively promotes healthy habits through the celebration of International Health Days.

## SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The University encourages students and staff to walk, cycle or take public transport to the University to maintain their health and fitness. The MRU community has twice participated in the national mobility challenge of Higher Schools Walk 15, where it took 3rd place. 2022-2023 more than 1,100 organizations gathered in Lithuania, which together raised more than 25 billion steps (476 times around the Earth).

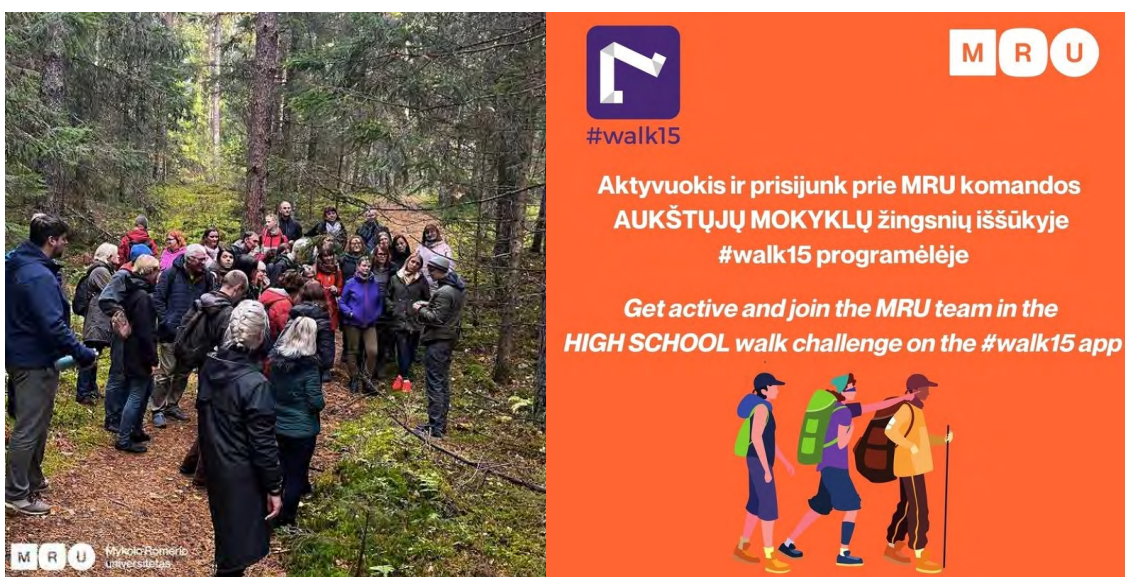


Figure 52 University steps challenge, in which MRU students and staff actively participated



MRU actively promotes sustainable transportation options to reduce its environmental impact. Infrastructure investments include 72 secure bicycle parking spaces, an electric car charging station (both with video surveillance), and strategically limited car parking areas. For accessibility, designated disabled parking space availability has been increased. To promote a culture of sustainable travel, MRU encourages participation in Car-Free Day every month, provides buses for group travel to external events, and ensures the Didlaukis academic campus and MRU central building are connected by well-lit pedestrian paths for safe and convenient walking. Pedestrian paths follow the natural environment, so students and staff can relax, rest and cultivate a healthy lifestyle while walking. Educational activities such as MRU Car-Free Days or Cycle September are carried out.

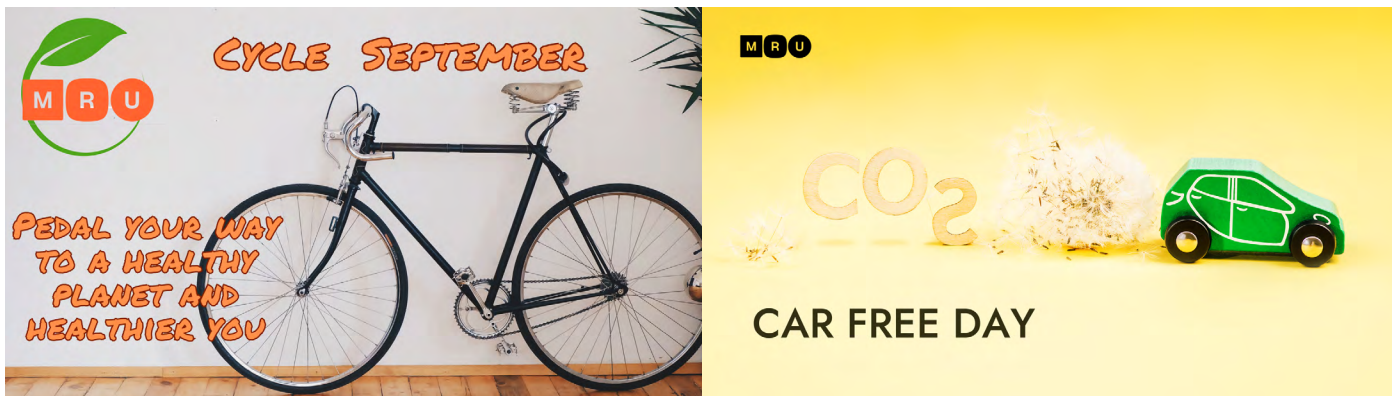


Figure 53 Educational examples of sustainable mobility

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSITY

In cooperation with the Office of the Equal Opportunities Controller, the training “Prevention of discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities” was organized for the MRU community, during which there was an opportunity to deepen knowledge and discuss how we understand equality and diversity, what does it mean to us personally? How could we notice and what could we do to make our colleagues, students, friends and acquaintances feel calm and safe in our environment?

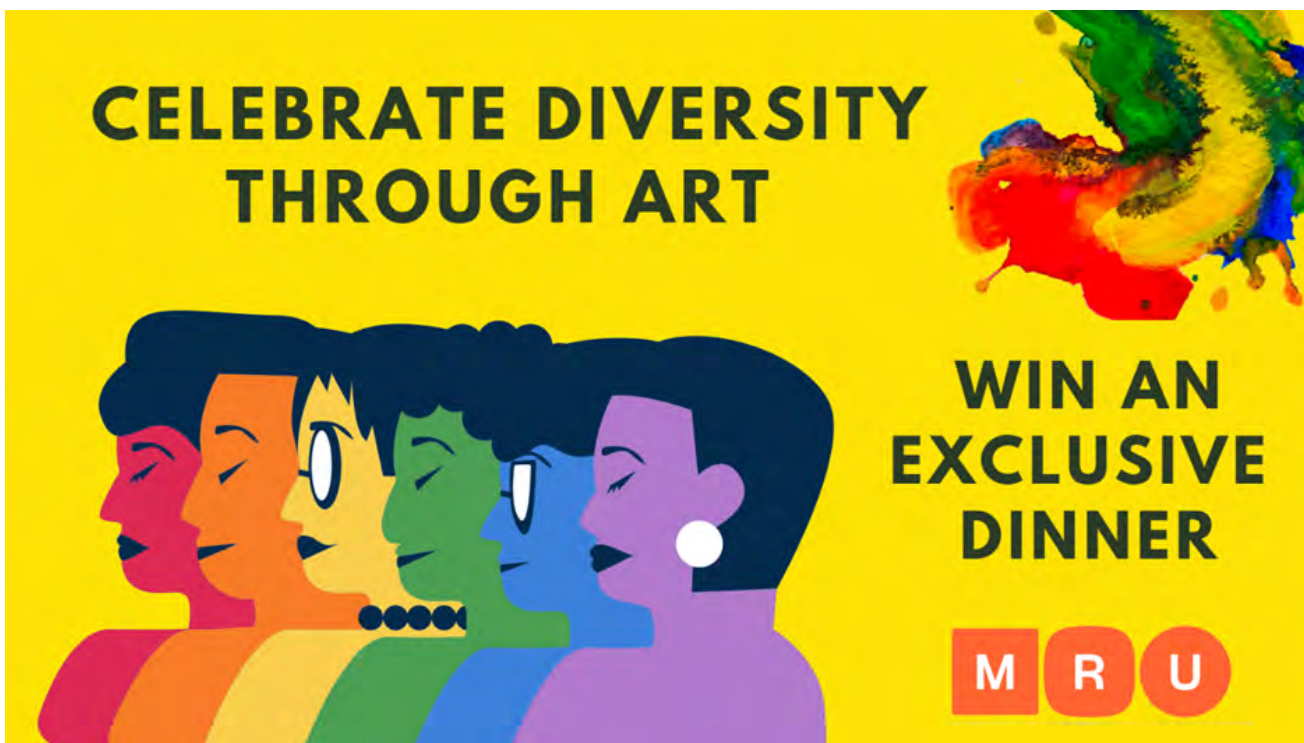


Figure 54 Examples of activities promoting equal opportunities and diversity

## INDIVIDUAL NEEDS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

MRU prioritizes creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. MRU is dedicated to ensuring equal opportunities and removing barriers for students and employees with disabilities, including those related to mobility, vision, hearing, or other needs. In 2022, MRU implemented a comprehensive accessibility initiative. This included staff training programs, an improved physical infrastructure, and the creation of a support structure to empower the university community to better understand and assist individuals with disabilities. MRU recognizes that accessibility is essential for student success. The university ensures equal access to educational resources and opportunities for all students. Between 2021 and 2023, MRU allocated €87,878 in scholarships to support student achievement and accessibility. This included: 24 scholarships for high-achieving students in non-state-funded programs. 131 scholarships for international students from developing countries, promoting diversity and inclusion.

### IF YOU HAVE DISABILITIES OR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

**The University aims to make studies accessible to all students, therefore we will:**

- **provide** you with accurate information about the adaptation of study conditions and assistance to students with disabilities or individual needs
- **discuss** the content of the study program and apply the most suitable study process
- **coordinate** study process with your teachers
- **advise** you on the state financial support
- **advise** you on the University social scholarship

**We are open to all students, thus please:**

- **inform** the University about the disability or individual needs before the start of studies or immediately after the disability or individual needs appear
- **discuss** individual needs with the academic department you are studying at
- **ask** what financial and other support are offered at the University
- **contact** the academic department and the head of the study program if you can't fully participate in the study process due to your health condition
- **communicate** with us because our goal is to help you!

*The University responsibly assesses the principles of confidentiality when handling personal information related to your health condition, disability or individual needs, so do not hesitate to apply.*


**PLEASE FILL THE FORM IN "MY STUDIES"!**

If you have any questions, we will be happy to help you:  
Anželika Vėžienė, E-mail [anzelika.veziene@mruni.eu](mailto:anzelika.veziene@mruni.eu)

Mykolas Romeris University

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Guidelines for the Academic Community



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**The priority of Mykolas Romeris University is to ensure the accessibility of studies and create a motivating study environment, therefore students with disabilities or individual needs have the right to appropriate adaptation of study conditions.**

**Together, let's promote *dialogue* between the student, the academic community and administration:**

- **inform** the students about the purpose of the University to respect the disability or individual needs of each student
- **encourage** students to discuss their individual needs with the academic department in which they are studying or the Social Affairs Department (coordinator for disability issues)
- **advise** to fill the University's questionnaire in "My studies" and disclose individual needs so that the study conditions are properly adapted to the needs

**Disorders that can affect the learning process:**

- **sensory disorders** – hearing, vision, language and speech disorders
- **mental disorders** – anxiety, panic, perception, dyslexia, somatic, activity and attention disorders
- **motor disorders** – movement disorders

**After assessing the student's individual needs together with the academic department and the disability coordinator, you can apply the following measures in the study organization process:**

- adapting the physical environment or adjusting the study schedule according to the accessibility of the auditoriums (for students with mobility disabilities)
- application of an alternative form of study (contact lectures, distance learning)
- increasing the time limit for study settlements or assignments
- use of study materials in an accessible format (using library equipment)
- application of other individual measures

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**IMPORTANT:** students must inform the University about their disability or individual needs before the start of their studies or immediately after the disability or individual needs appear!

If you have any questions, we will be happy to help you:  
Anželika Vėžienė  
E-mail [anzelika.veziene@mruni.eu](mailto:anzelika.veziene@mruni.eu)

Mykolas Romeris University

The University responsibly adheres to the principles of confidentiality when handling personal information related to your health condition, disability or individual needs, so do not hesitate to apply.

Figure 55 Examples of disability and individual needs support



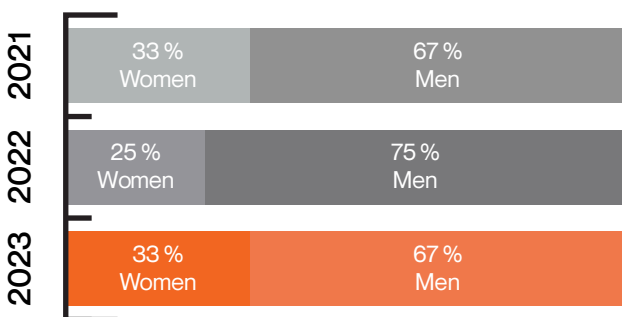
## DISTRIBUTION OF MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES BY GENDER

In 2022, the Mykolas Romeris University Council consisted of 75 % men and 25 % women. The Senate comprised 53 % women and 47 % men. Within the Senate, one commission was headed by a man, while three were led by women. The President and Secretary of the Senate were men, while the Deputy was a woman. The Rector’s closest team included the Vice-Rector and the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs. The University Rector is a woman. The Rectorate itself consisted of 72 % women and 28 % men.

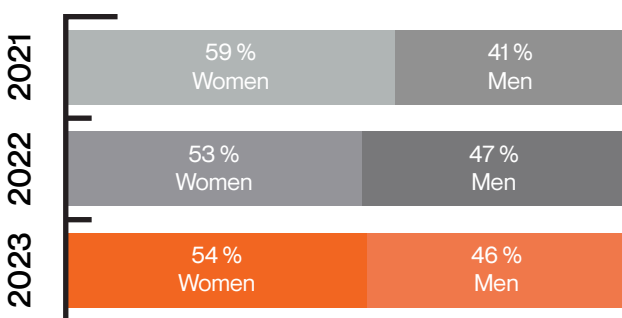
This trend of female leadership continues within academic departments. At the faculty level, 75 % of deans are women, with the remaining 25 % being men. Similarly, 80 % of vice-deans are women, while 20 % are men.



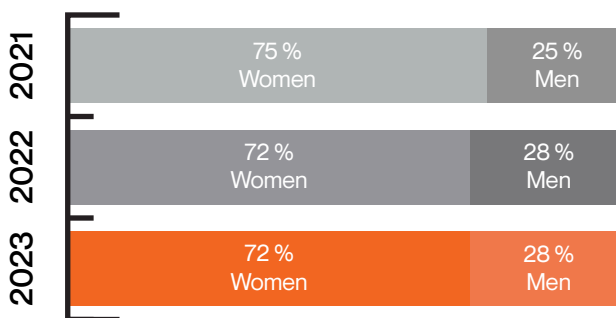
### COUNCIL



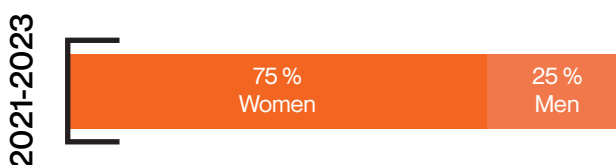
### SENATE



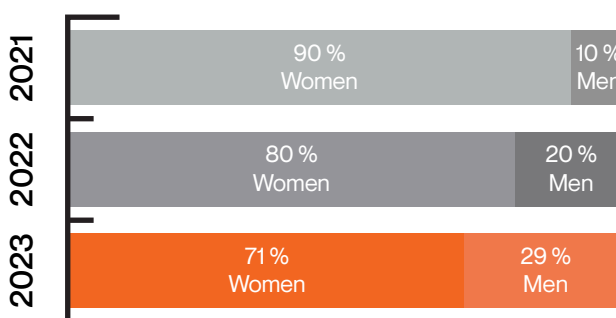
### RECTORATE



### DEANS



### VICE DEANS



## DISTRIBUTION OF ACADEMIC STAFF BY GENDER

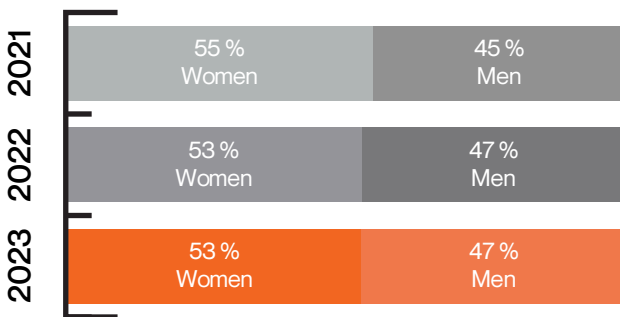
	2021	2022	2023
Professor	106	109	120
Associate Professor	72	69	72
Lecturer	202	201	203
Assistant	7	2	3

Figure 56 Qualification composition of teachers in 2021-2023.

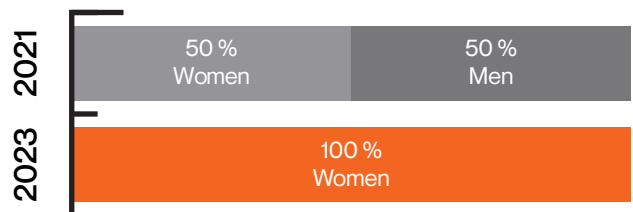
	2021	2022	2023
Principle investigator	13	19	13
Senior researcher	6	4	6
Researcher	8	12	17
Junior researcher	20	12	8
Total number	47	47	44

Figure 57 Qualification composition of research workers in 2021-2023

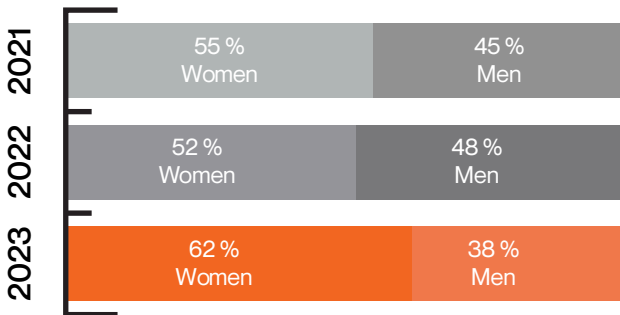
### PROFESSORS



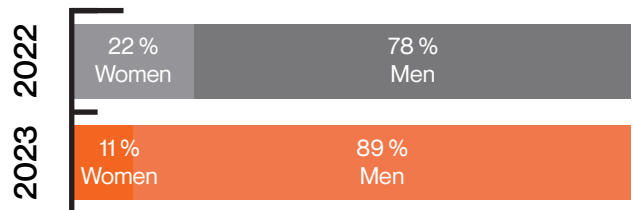
### ASSISTANTS



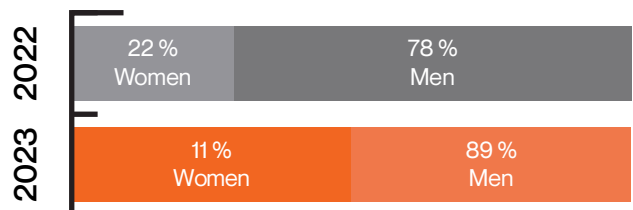
### ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS



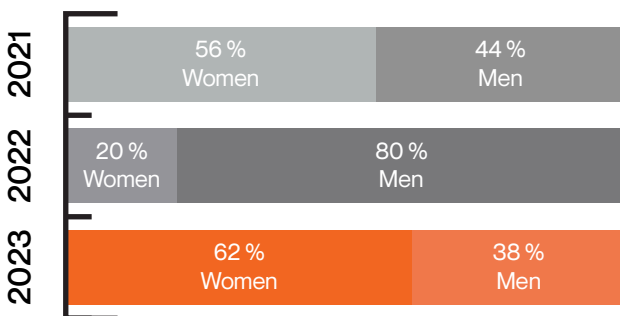
### PARTNERSHIP PROFESSORS



### PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

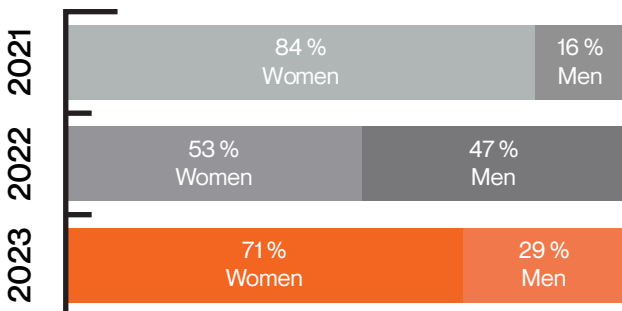


### LECTURERS

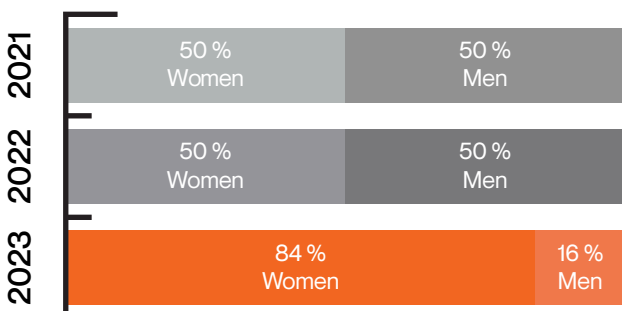


## DISTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH WORKERS BY GENDER

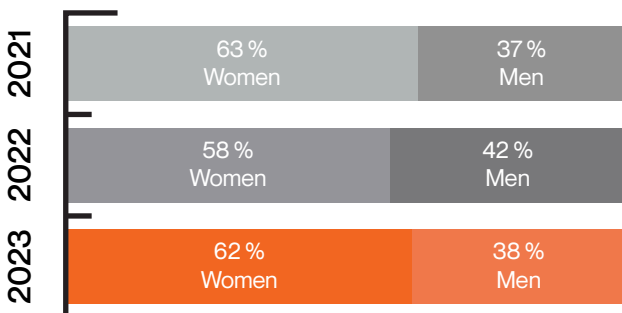
### PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATORS



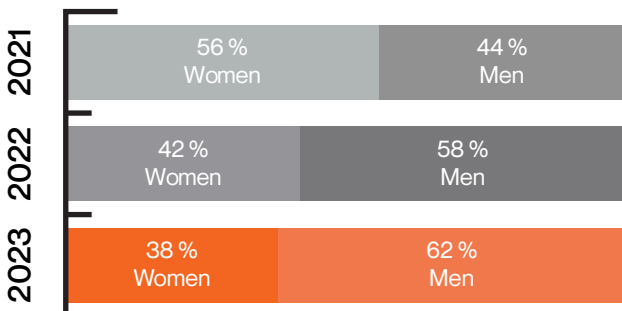
### SENIOR RESEARCHERS



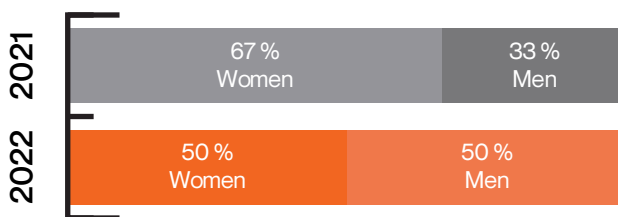
### RESEARCHERS



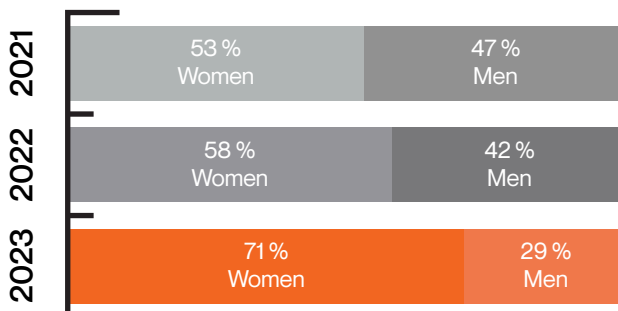
### JUNIOR RESEARCHERS



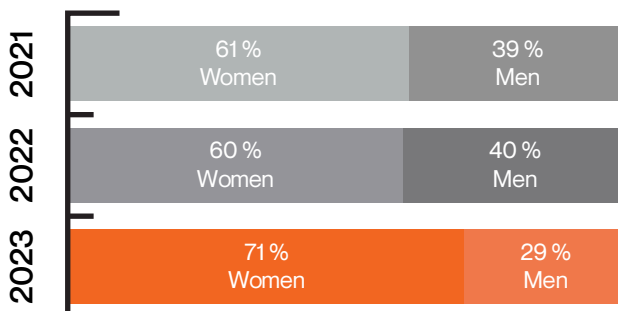
## EXPERTS



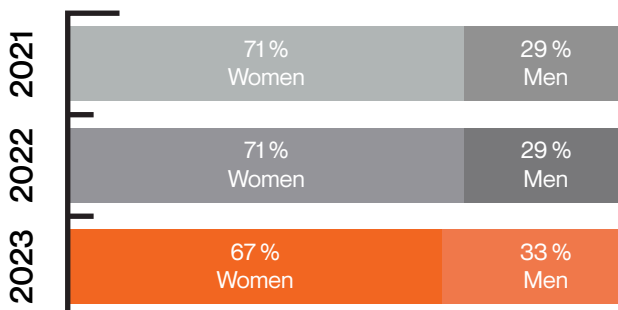
## DISTRIBUTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF BY GENDER



## HEADS OF INSTITUTES



## HEADS OF ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS



## SENIOR MANAGERS

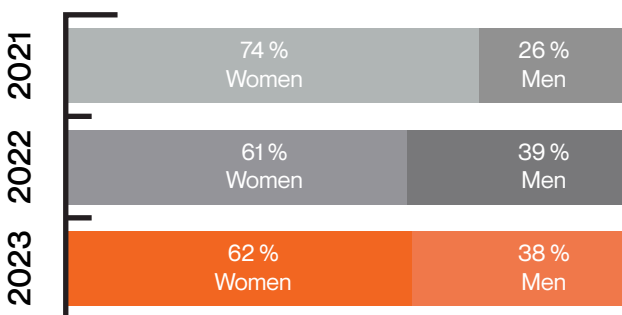




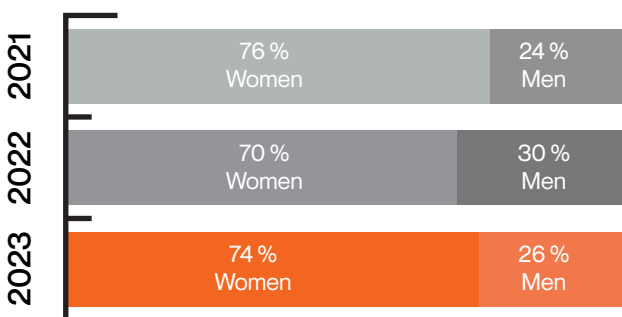
### DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS BY GENDER



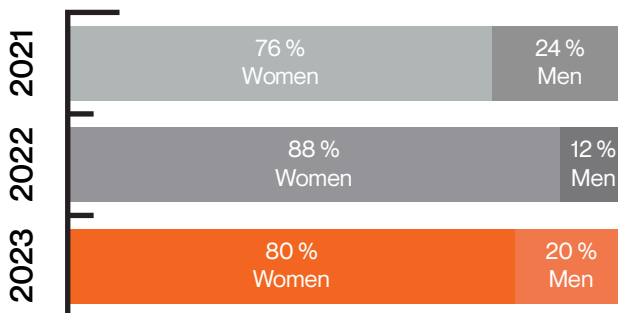
#### ACCEPTED FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES



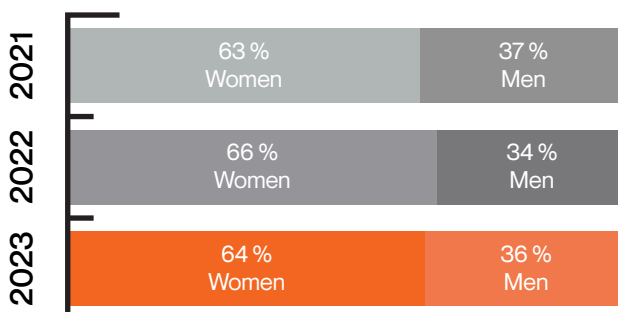
#### ACCEPTED FOR MASTER'S STUDIES



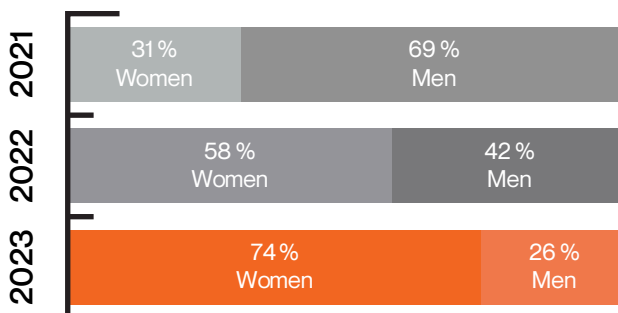
### ACCEPTED TO PROFESSIONAL PEDAGOGIC STUDIES



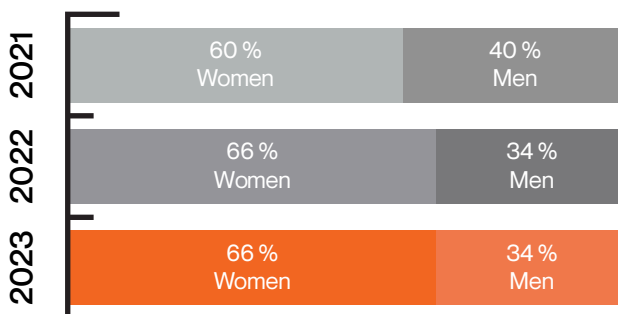
### DOCTORAL STUDENTS



### DEFENDED PH.D. THESES



### PREPARE PH.D. THESES



## DISTRIBUTION OF ACADEMIC STAFF BY AGE

Analyzing the distribution of academic staff by age, we observe a diverse range of age groups represented at the university. However, the smallest cohorts are among the very young (20-29) and older workers (70-79). The average age of MRU employees is 47 years.

Age category / year	in 2021	in 2022	in 2023
20-29	5 %	5 %	5 %
30-39	24 %	22 %	22 %
40-49	33 %	33 %	35 %
50-59	21 %	23 %	22 %
60-69	15 %	15 %	14 %
70-79	2 %	2 %	2 %

Figure 58 Distribution of academic staff by age

## DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS BY NATIONALITY

The number of degree-seeking international students increased by 48 %.

2021	2022	2023
513	694	757

The number of foreigners with special protection (refugees, etc.) increased by 618 % because of the war in Ukraine.

2021	2022	2023
16	118	115

The number of foreign and expatriate Lithuanians increased by 40 %.

2021	2022	2023
5	8	7

The number of citizens (or permanent residents) of EU countries increased by 34 %.

2021	2022	2023
59	71	79

According to the “Erasmus+” program, other exchange programs and the university’s bilateral cooperation agreement, the number of students who came to the University From 2021 the number of incoming students increased by 52 %.

2021	2022	2023
285	320	436

Figure 59 Distribution of students by nationality

From 2021 international teachers or researchers who have arrived for 3 months and for longer visits (under work, service or other contracts), the number increased by 80 %.

2021	2022	2023
30	49	54

International teachers or research workers who have come to visit for less than 3 months. for the period to teach under exchange programs or for internships increased more than three times and amounted to 30.54 % from all academic staff.

2021	2022	2023
61	96	135

The number of teachers and researchers who left to teach or conduct research in a foreign scientific or study institution increased by 35.29 %.

2021	2022	2023
116	128	184



-  Ateities st. 20, Vilnius
-  Mykolas Romeris University
-  [www.mruni.eu](http://www.mruni.eu)
-  [mru.university](https://www.instagram.com/mru.university)
-  Mykolas Romeris University