

Refugee crisis: engagement and inclusion at Kaunas University of Technology Library

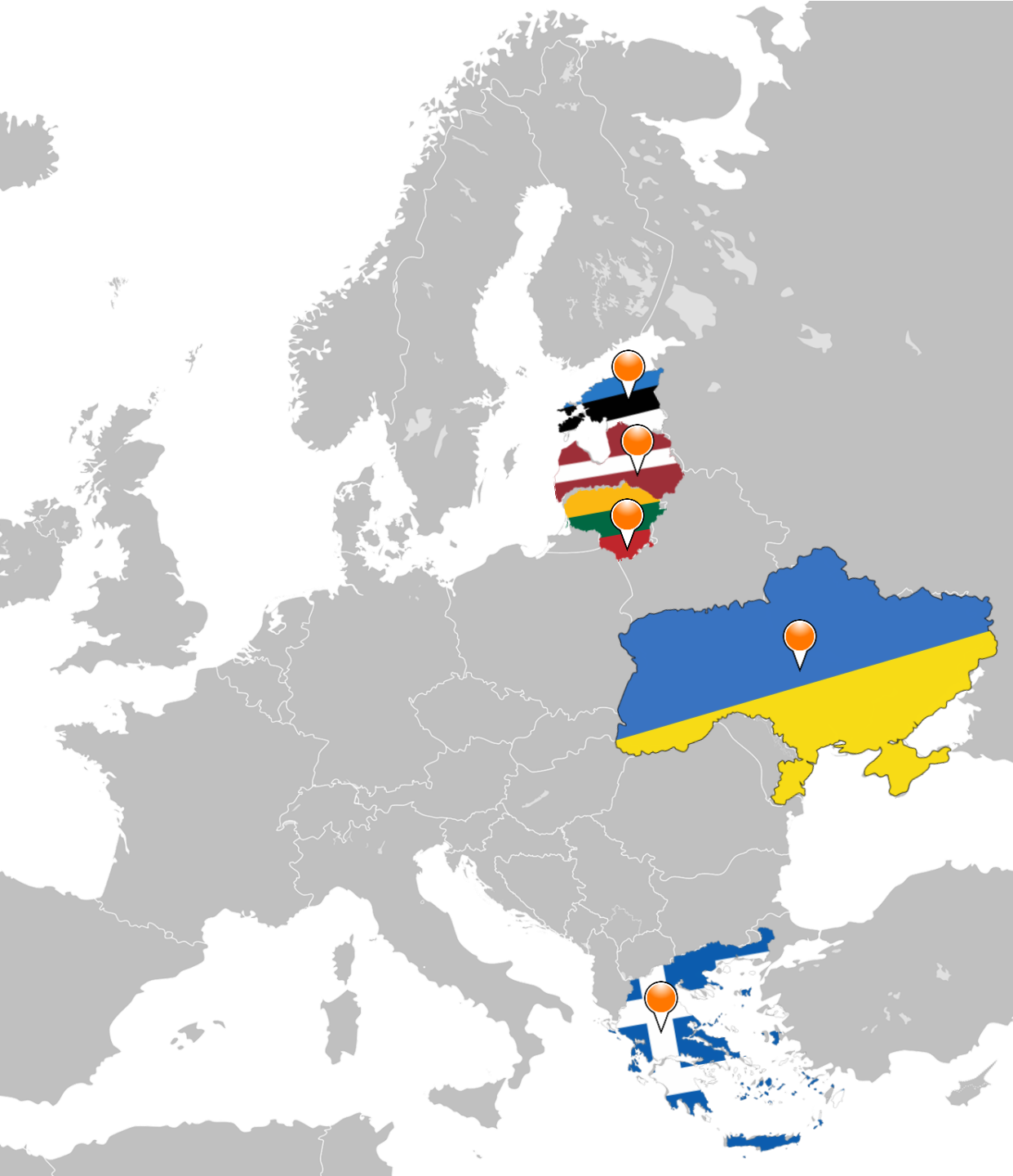
Head of reader services group Rasa Dovidonyte

Senior information manager Lina Jonaityte

Projects

- *“Higher Education resilience in refugee crises: forging social inclusion through capacity building, civic engagement and skills recognition” (AGILE).*
- *“Supporting Ukraine through citizen engagement at Baltic Universities” (Baltics4UA).*





Baltics4UA project partners



TLU

1

Tallin University



kaunas
university of
technology

2

Kaunas University of Technology



Web2Learn
Open. social learning

3

Web2Learn



UNIV. TARTU ÜLIKOOL-SE
UNIVERSITAS TARTUENSIS
1632

4

University of Tartu



UNIVERSITY
OF LATVIA

5

University of Latvia



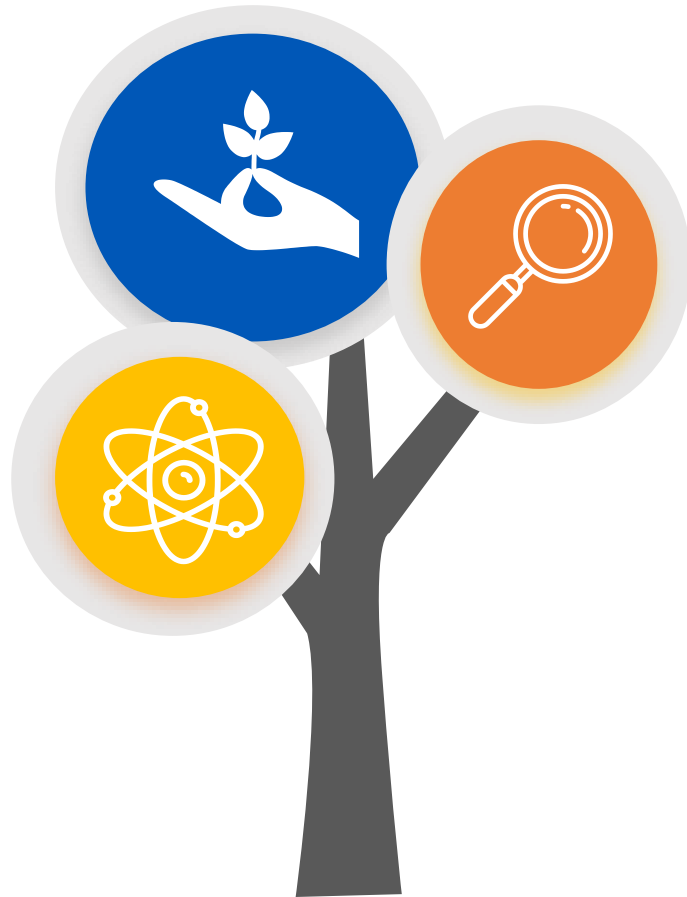
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
1816
LVIV POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

6

Lviv Polytechnic National University



The project foresees enhancing HEIs' resilience and cooperation with the quadruple helix actors (policy, industry, society) in humanitarian crises, as well as upskilling academic staff, students and citizen to actively engage in social action to support Ukrainian populations in the Baltics. The project will unfold in a series of experience cafés, the production of open educational materials for academic staff and the release of a podcast series in which higher education staff involved in citizen engagement actions will share their experiences.



Baltics4UA project results:

- Landscape analysis: [Examples of citizen engagement initiatives for Ukraine organised by Baltic Universities.](#)
- Open access publication: “Academia as catalyst of the quadruple helix implementation for social responsibility in the Baltics”.
- Policy brief: [Higher education in humanitarian crises: resilience, social inclusion, innovation.](#)
- 6 experience cafés.
- Methodology for the design, implementation and assessment of citizen engagement.
- Podcast series: [Capacity building with and for academic staff](#)
- Open access publication: Ukrainians in the country and abroad: social and technological dimensions in crisis response within and beyond HEIs.

AGILE project partners

- University of Ljubljana
- University Paris 8
- Lviv Polytechnic National University
- Kaunas University of Technology
- Polish Rectors Foundation
- University of Hamburg



Project implementation:

- Increase resilience of inclusive HE systems to address ongoing needs of refugees through social participation and recognition of skills in their learning pathways.
- Foster and assess the integration of refugees in professional and study life as well as in society through 3-level interventions.
- Use digital innovation, social participation and impact assessment to build strong academia-society cooperations for resilience and sustainability.

43 activities are grouped in 5 WPs:

- Project management (& quality assurance, communication, sustainability): 11 activities
- Landscape analysis of Higher Education crisis support mechanisms for refugee students: 7 activities
- Implementation of interventions at European universities offering refugee programmes: 10 activities
- Academia- society resilience in refugee crises: 6 activities
- Impact and sustainability: 9 activities.

Psychological support

- Meditation session together with psychologist Eimantas Lukosiunas (February, 27, 2024).



Art events

- Two art therapy sessions for Ukrainian students led by artist Indre Makelyte-Morkuniene (December 12, 2023; March 24, 2024).



Discussions

- Film "White Angel - The end of Marinka" screening and open discussion (March 14, 2024);
- Film "The Earth is Blue as an Orange" screening and discussion with the family who became the heroes of the film and lived on the front line in Donbas, Ukraine (March 27, 2024).
- Public lecture „Information war: Industry 4.0 enabled technologies to ensure freedom, security and justice” (November 15, 2023).



Exhibitions

- Beata Kurkul's exhibition "Fighting Ukraine" (November 20, 2023).
- Indre Makelyte-Morkuniene's exhibition "Between Shades of Grey" (March 21- April 21, 2024).



Exhibitions

- “Unissued Diplomas” – exhibition is a tribute to the memory of 40 Ukrainian students who will never have the chance to receive their diplomas (March 1-17, 2024).



Collaboration with NGOs

- Meeting with representatives of the Caritas organization (February 13, 2024).



Collaboration with academic community

- “Engagement of the academic community during humanitarian crises“
(April 26, 2024).



Collaboration with society

- "Sharing experiences in support of Ukraine: inter-institutional dialogue,, (September 16, 2024).



Lessons learnt

- Established collaboration with different target groups;
- Participants started organizing events by themselves;
- Collaboration among different academia and citizens;
- Regularly organized events encouraged engagement of academic community in providing support to Ukrainians and other groups currently experiencing humanitarian crisis.