



TRANSFORM4EUROPE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE: SYNERGY OF ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC STAFF (PROF-SYNERGY)

April 9–11, 2025

Vytautas Magnus University

Kaunas, Lithuania

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1 (9TH OF APRIL)

9.00–9.30 Registration and welcoming coffee

9.30–10.00 Opening session

Key-note speakers:

Prof. Dr. Vesna Kovač, Rijeka University (Croatia). *Innovative teaching methods: what happens in the backstage of successful students' performance?*

10.00–11.30 **Kristijonas Jakubsonas**, Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania). *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Navigating AI's Promise and Pitfalls in Education*

Prof. Dr. Inga Minelgaitė, Iceland University (Iceland). *Viva la Sisyphus? Progressing from result-focus to impact-making*

11.30–12.00 Coffee break

Professional growth sessions (I)

1 session **Digital learning technologies**

"Boosting Academic Writing with AI Tools: SciSpace, DeepL and Grammarly"

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mojca Žefran (University of Primorska)

"Digital Tools as Support for Student-Centered Collaborative Learning"

Dr. Andreja Klančar (University of Primorska)

2 session **Innovative teaching methods**

"Tools for creating Identity Safe Classrooms in Higher Education"

Kateryna Horlenko, Ling Yi Chu, Alba Rosa Menillo, Dr. María José de Urraza (Vytautas Magnus University)

"Engaging Lectures: Transforming Traditional Teaching into Active Learning"

Prof. Dr. Diana Soares (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)

12.00–13.30

3 session **Resilience skills**

"Resilience and Mindfulness: Integrative Approaches for Modern Challenges"

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gabija Jarašiūnaitė-Fedosejeva (Vytautas Magnus University)

4 session **Lifelong learning competences**

"Enhancing Professional Excellence in Writing Applications: Theory and Practice"

Edvinas Samys, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eglė Gerulaitienė (Vytautas Magnus University)

5 session **Development of quality culture**

"Shifting Focus: Building Quality Culture in Higher Education"

Kristina Sutkutė (Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, Lithuania)

13.30–15.00 Lunch

Professional growth sessions (II)

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| | <p>1 session Digital learning technologies "How to achieve didactic flow? How to immerse in learning? Some ideas to activate students" Prof. Dr. Mariola Sulkowska-Janowska (University of Silesia in Katowice)</p> |
| | <p>2 session Innovative teaching methods "The Big Picture: Active Learning in Large Classrooms" Dr. Maitê Gil (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)</p> |
| 15.00–16.30 | <p>3 session Resilience skills "Thriving at the Work–Family Crossroads: practical tools for everyday challenges" PhD candidate Tadas Vadvilavičius, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aurelija Stelmokienė (Vytautas Magnus University)</p> |
| | <p>4 session Lifelong learning competences "ResearchComp in practice – challenges, ideas, actions" Dr. Małgorzata Chrupała-Pniak, Katarzyna Wiecek-Jakubek (University of Silesia in Katowice)</p> |
| | <p>5 session Development of quality culture "University Microcredentials: A New Form of Tailored Education and Quality Assurance" Prof. Dr. Teresa Torregrosa (University of Alicante) "Students' voice and choice. New formats of individualized education" Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Trynda, Prof. Dr. Magdalena Bąk (University of Silesia in Katowice)</p> |
| 18.00–20.00 | Gala dinner and the T4EU awards ceremony |

DAY 2 (10TH OF APRIL)

9.00–9.30 Registration and welcoming coffee

Professional growth sessions (III)

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| | <p>1 session Digital learning technologies "AI-driven Innovations in ICT-based Education" PhD candidate Vigilija Žiūraitė (Vytautas Magnus University)</p> |
| | <p>2 session Innovative teaching methods "Next-Gen Language teaching: Harnessing AI for Better Results" Vaida Misevičiūtė (Vytautas Magnus University)</p> |
| 9.30–11.00 | <p>3 session Resilience skills "Psychological resilience training" Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aušra Lisinskienė (Vytautas Magnus University)</p> |
| | <p>4 session Lifelong learning competences "Professor, will a robot do my job?" Associate Lecturer Susana de Juana-Espinosa (The University of Alicante)</p> |
| | <p>5 session Development of quality culture "From Transformation to Excellence: Recognition of best Practices and Quality Assurance" T4EU award winners</p> |
| 11.00–11.30 | Coffee break |

Professional growth sessions (IV)

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| 11.30–13.00 | 1 session Digital learning technologies "Digital tools for creating learning materials" Dr. Jacek Francikowski (University of Silesia in Katowice) |
| | 2 session Innovative teaching methods "Creativity, communication, and cooperation as a base for effective teamwork" Dr. Magdalena Christ (University of Silesia in Katowice) |
| | 3 session Resilience skills "Overcoming study's challenges – a pedagogical view of resilience" Assist. Prof. PhD Karmen Drljić (University of Primorska) |
| | 4 session Lifelong learning competences "Caught in Conflict: How to Understand, Address, and Transform Workplace Challenges" Danguolė Kraskauskienė (Vytautas Magnus University) |
| | 5 session Development of quality culture "Key indicators for student satisfaction and academic success" Frenk Mavrič (University of Primorska) |
| 13.00–14.30 | Lunch |

Expertise Building Session

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| 14.30–16.00 | 1 session Digital learning technologies "Artificial Intelligence Tools for Innovative Teaching" Augustinas Balaišis (Vytautas Magnus University) |
| | 2 session Innovative teaching methods "Active Learning in Action" Dr. Rita Tavares de Sousa (Universidade Católica Portuguesa) |
| | 3 session Resilience skills "Communication for better relationship and job performance in organization" Prof. Dr. Loreta Bukšnytė-Marmienė (Vytautas Magnus University) |
| | 4 session Lifelong learning competences "From Ideas to Impact: Creative Exercises for Public Speaking" Jolita Ančlauskaitė, PhD candidate Vigilija Žiūraitė (Vytautas Magnus University) |
| | 5 session Development of quality culture "Implementing Service-Learning: Combining Theoretical Knowledge, Practical Application and Quality Assurance" Assoc. Prof. Dr. Luísa Mota Ribeiro (Universidade Católica Portuguesa) |
| 16.00–16.30 | Closing ceremony |
| 16.30–18.00 | Campus tour |

DAY 3 (11TH OF APRIL) (OPTIONAL)

All day Job-shadowing activities at respective departments of Vytautas Magnus University

Conference venue: Vytautas Magnus University, Daukanto street 28 and Putvinskio street 23, Kaunas, Lithuania

REGISTRATION FOR THE CONFERENCE

If you have any questions, please contact the event coordinators via Transform4Europe@vdu.lt