



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2019 - 2024

Basic version	CONFIRMED	Protocol/decision No.	Date (YY/mm/DD)	In force from (YY/mm/DD)
	The Council	No. 7/19	02/10/2019	03/10/2019
Amendments	-	-	-	-

Scientific Research and Innovation Development
Strategy 2019 - 2024 (ZPJAS2024) / Šteinbergs,
K. - Riga: Alberta College, 2019. - p 11

The Strategy has been discussed with the heads of
the study directions and study programme
directors of Alberta College, Vice Rector for
Science and International Relations of the EKA
University of Applied Sciences (*Ekonomikas un
kultūras augstskola*).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
1. Objectives and priorities of Scientific research and innovation development strategy	5
2. Strengthening of scientific research and innovation capacity	7
3. Development of academic staff and students' research and innovation.....	9
4. Cooperation with external stakeholders.....	10
Annex No. 1. The main tasks for implementing ZPJAS 2024	
Annex No. 2. Desirable indicators of ZPJAS 2024 to be achieved	

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ *Regulation on Alberta College (AC)* (Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 537 as of 07.08.2007) determines performance of research according to the study profile and facilitation of student scientific research activities as one of the tasks of AC.
- ❖ *Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia* for the period until 2030 underlines the need for closer cooperation among businesses, higher education and research institutions, thus fostering innovation development, implementation, and involvement of users in the innovation processes.
- ❖ *The Latvian National Development Plan 2014-2020* stresses that “It is the collaboration of science and business that continues to generate new, innovative and creative products and services that are competitive in the world markets.”.
- ❖ The national strategic document *The national concept of the development of higher education and the institutions of higher education 2013-2020* indicates the need for strengthening the link among education, research and business for facilitating research excellence.
- ❖ The AC research focus is **applied research and innovation** initiated by employers, branch associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), cooperation partners, state institutions and municipalities and implemented by the academic staff and students of AC.
- ❖ The AC scientific research and innovation activities are carried out in compliance with the directions of research and scientific activities and the annual research and innovation programme approved by the AC Council.
- ❖ The Director of AC is responsible for the development of the Scientific Research and Innovation Development Strategy (in Latvian – *Zinātniskās pētniecības un jaunrades attīstības stratēģija*, acronym – ZPJAS) and the annual research and innovation programme and achievement of their objectives.
- ❖ A separate funding is provided for the implementation of the annual research programme, which is approved by the AC Council after consultation with the College Director and heads of study directions, as well as funding for research and innovation projects is attracted.

1. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

1.1. The main objective of the AC scientific research and innovation is to promote the competitiveness of the College and its study programmes, achieving the learning outcomes in research and innovation set by the programmes, fostering provision of research-based learning by developing research competence and results of the academic staff and students, especially in the field of applied research and innovation, and enhancing cooperation with employers and other stakeholders.

1.2. Scientific research and innovation at AC is developed in the light of its stakeholders' needs and interests, thus contributing to the development of national economy and public administration, and the common good of the society.

1.3. The AC research and innovation priorities are set in line with the needs and interests: of the following stakeholders:

- internal stakeholders -
 - a administration of the College and programme directors;
 - b academic staff;
 - c students;
- external stakeholders -
 - a educational institutions in Latvia and abroad;
 - b employers and branch associations;
 - c state and municipal institutions;
 - d NGOs;
 - e other cooperation partners.

1.4. In view of the stakeholders' needs and interests, the following the AC scientific research and innovation strategy priorities have been set:

- strengthening of scientific research and innovation capacity;
- development of academic staff and students' research and innovation;
- cooperation with external stakeholders in scientific research and innovation.

1.5. The AC scientific research and innovation are carried out according to the following fundamental principles of academic honesty:

- facts and evidence are regarded higher than views expressed by scientific, social or political authorities;

- the actors of scientific research and innovation shall be responsible for their performance and objectivity of their conclusions made on the basis of the results of their activities;
- using the work of or an extract from other authors, a reference to the author or the source shall be made, otherwise it shall be qualified as plagiarism and copyright infringement.

1.6. An essential pillar of the AC scientific research and innovation is the AC library which, within its limits, provides the required literature and other information support for scientific research and innovation, for example, by facilitating the access to scientific data bases available at the Latvian National Library and libraries of other higher education institutions, making an electronic catalogue of scientific and creative works of students and academic staff, protected from copying and saving options.

2. STRENGTHENING OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITY

2.1. The AC research and scientific activity directions are approved by the AC Council for period up to 2024. The research and scientific activity directions are developed by the head of the respective study direction, in cooperation with study programme directors, academic staff, students and cooperation partners, taking into account their interests and the developments of Latvian and the European Union research and higher education policy, national economy and public administration.

2.2. The research and innovation programme for each academic year is approved by the AC Council at the beginning of each academic year. The programme is developed by the head of the respective study direction in cooperation with study programme directors and methodical commissions. The programme includes the implementation of specific research and innovation projects, taking into account the approved directions of the research and scientific activity. Funding is allocated to each research project and approved by the AC Board. The need for innovation project funding is assessed by the Board individually, in the light of the recommendations of the College Director and the head of the study direction.

2.3. For implementing research and innovation projects, the head of the study direction in cooperation with the programme director establishes a research group (for innovation projects – a work group), which includes the AC academic staff and, to the extent possible, representatives of AC students and employers, cooperation partners, external experts. Upon approving the composition of a research group, the head of each research group is also approved.

2.4. Research and innovation projects meeting the following criteria shall be regarded as priorities:

- they are implemented encompassing several study programmes or study directions (interdisciplinarity);
- various stakeholders are involved in their implementation: academic staff, students, employers, cooperation partners, etc.;
- foreign partners or experts are involved in their implementation;
- external funding is attracted or planned to be attracted for their implementation;
- their results can be commercialised;
- they are or will be integrated in the study process;
- their results will be reflected in high-quality publications (e. g., *Scopus*, *Web of Science*) or monographs – for research projects;

- their results are of a high social, artistic, national economy, etc. value – for innovation projects.

2.5. For scientific research and innovation quality enhancement, at the end of each academic year, results are summarized and analysed, reflecting them in the scientific and research activity report, which is devised by the College Director. The report is published at the College's website.

2.6. The following priority performance indicators have been defined (by the end of academic year 2023/2024):

- projects with commercialised results: at least 2 in each study direction;
- projects with attracted external funding: at least 2 in each study direction;
- publications in *Scopus and web of Science* indexed editions made as a result of projects: at least 3 in each study direction;
- other publications made as a result of projects: at least 1 publication per year in each study direction;
- projects the results of which are presented in scientific conferences: at least 1 publication per year in each study direction;
- projects the results of which are presented in student conferences: at least 2 in each study direction.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC STAFF AND STUDENTS' RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

3.1. The AC academic staff and students have the right to freely choose the theme, direction and methods of their scientific research and innovation, evaluating and publishing their research and innovation results.

3.2. AC aims at the development of research-based studies by fostering the integration of academic staff's research results into study course curriculum and application of research methods in the study process, thus developing students' competence.

3.3. AC provides institutional and financial support for the scientific research and innovation of its academic staff and students in line with the directions of research and scientific activity and annual research and innovation programme approved by the AC Council.

3.4. AC supports publication of the results of its academic staff and students' scientific research and innovation at conferences, papers, proceedings, monographs, reports, etc. forms and types of publishing, as well as promotes their commercialization.

3.5. AC facilitates enhancement of professional skills and competence of its academic staff and students in scientific research in, for example, mastering research methods, data processing, publishing research results.

3.6. For publishing results of scientific research and innovation, AC in collaboration with the EKA University of Applied Sciences (hereinafter referred to as EKA) organises annual international scientific conference *etECH - Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities* and annual international student scientific and practical conference *Student Research Activities: Theory and Practice*.

3.7. The following priority performance indicators have been defined:

- number of research / artistic creativity results of elected academic staff in the period of four academic years: 2 publications in reviewed journals: (one – international) and/or 2 achievements in the field of artistic creativity per each academic staff member;
- number of presentations in international scientific conferences of elected academic staff in the period of four academic years: 2 per each academic staff member;
- student participation in research and innovation projects – 100 %, in student conferences – 40% of the total number of students in the study programme;
- methodical events for professional competence enhancement of students and academic staff in the field of scientific research and innovation: two events per academic year.

4. COOPERATION WITH EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

4.1. Cooperation with external stakeholders (partner educational institutions, employers, branch and professional organizations, NGOs, public and municipal authorities) is a major prerequisite for AC's competitiveness, and one of the cooperation forms is collaboration in performing applied research and implementing innovation projects.

4.2. Cooperation with external stakeholders in scientific research may be implemented, for example, in the form of:

- performing research in line with the brief specified by the cooperation partner;
- performing research funded by the cooperation partner;
- introducing research results in the organization of the cooperation partner (commercialisation);
- involvement of cooperation partner's specialists in the work of the research group;
- transferring intellectual property rights of research results.

4.3. Cooperation with external stakeholders in innovation projects may be implemented, for example, in the form of:

- developing a business, marketing plan;
- developing a PR campaign;
- developing and implementing projects;
- organising corporate events;
- developing IT solutions;
- implementing staff training projects.

4.4. A crucial role in the access to premises and equipment suitable for research and learning process of students and staff is provided by resource sharing with EKA (AC's strategic partner university), for example, by using EKA's specialised premises and laboratories, specific software, equipment, etc.

4.5. Information on the scientific research and innovation services provided by AC to its cooperation partners is available at the AC website, and the College Director is responsible for their coordination.

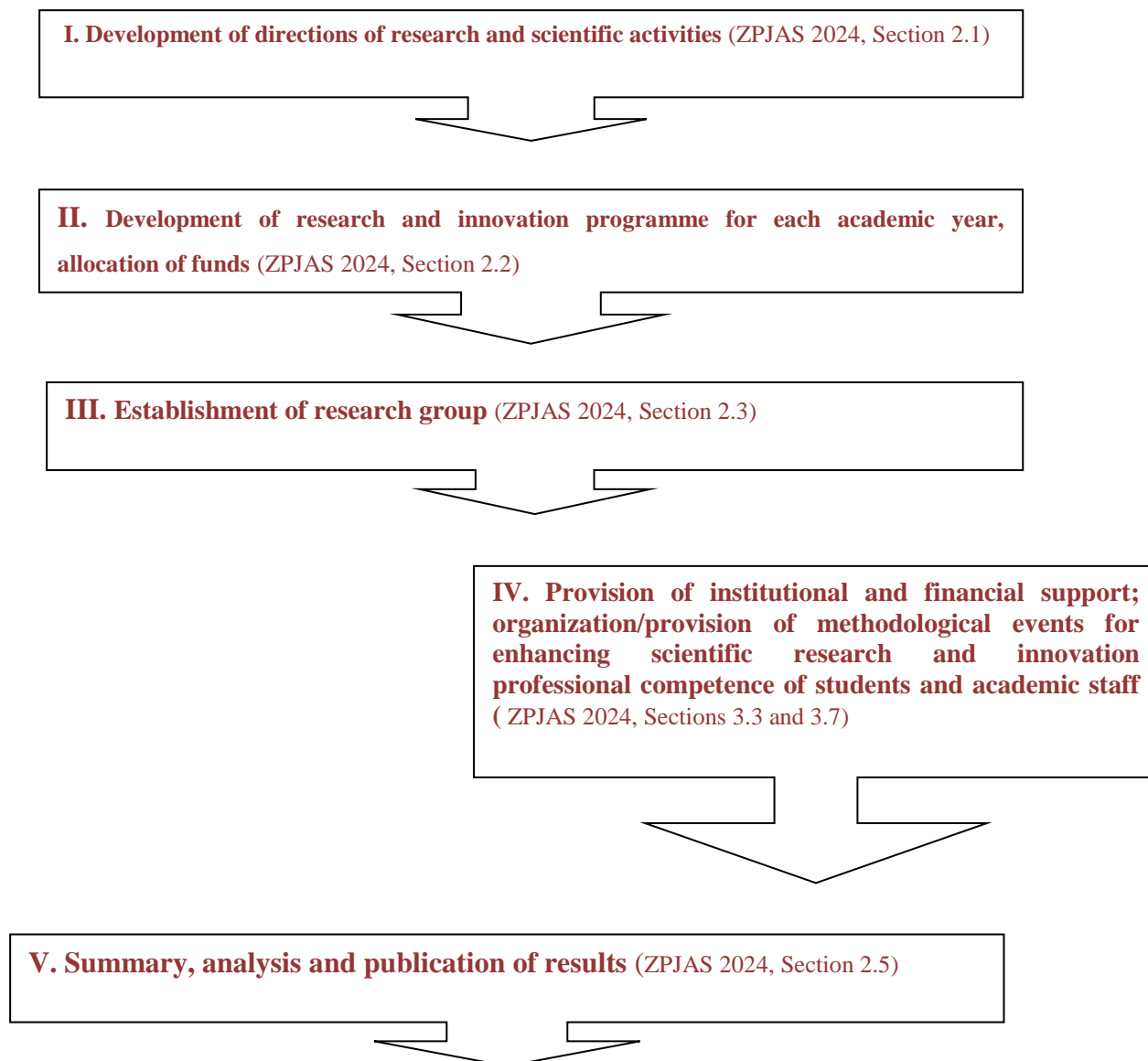
4.6. Dissemination and discussion of examples of good cooperation practice take place at the annual AC business forum *Business development in modern Latvia*.

4.7. The following priority performance indicators have been defined:

- involvement of cooperation partner's representatives in the work of the research group; 10 partners (at least 50% of all research groups);

- research projects initiated or supported by cooperation partners: 10 projects by the end of the academic year 2023/2024;
- innovation projects initiated or supported by cooperation partners: 10 projects by the end of the academic year 2023/2024
- held AC business forum *Business development in modern Latvia*: 4 by the end of the academic year 2023/2024.

The main tasks for implementing ZPJAS 2024



Activity	AC Council	AC Director	Head of the study direction	Stakeholders*	Board of AC Ltd.
I. Development of directions of research and scientific activities (ZPJAS 2024, Section 2.1)					
Time period: once in 4 years or upon necessity Person responsible: College Director		1. Directions of research and scientific activities: coordination of their development			
			2. Development of directions of research and scientific activities	X	
	3. Directions of research and scientific activities: approval				
		4. Coordination of information storage, uploading in MOODLE and publication at the AC website			
II. Development of research and innovation programme for each academic year (ZPJAS 2024, Section 2.2)					
Time period: each year Person responsible: head of the study direction		1. Coordination of the development of research and innovation programme for each academic year			
			2. Development of research and innovation programme for each academic year	X	
	3. Approval of research and innovation programme for each academic year				

Activity	AC Council	AC Director	Head of the study direction	Stakeholders*	Board of AC Ltd.
				X	4. Approval of funding, inclusion in the AC budget
		5. Coordination of information storage, uploading in MOODLE and publication at the AC website			
III. Establishment of research group (ZPJAS 2024, Section 2.3)					
Time period: each year Person responsible: head of the study direction			1. Establishment of research group	X	
			2. Approval of research group and its head		
IV. Organisation/ provision of methodological events for enhancing scientific research and innovation professional competence of students and academic staff (ZPJAS 2024, Sections 3.3 and 3.7)					
Time period: each year Person responsible : College Director		1. Coordination of the organization methodological events	X	X	
V. Summary, analysis and publication of results (ZPJAS 2024, Section 2.5)					
Time period: each year Person responsible: head of the study direction, College Director			1. Summary of study direction's results	X	
		2. Summary of College's results			
		3. Analysis of the results	3. Analysis of the results, improvement	X	
		4.			

Activity	AC Council	AC Director	Head of the study direction	Stakeholders*	Board of AC Ltd.
		Coordination of information storage, uploading in MOODLE and publication at the AC website			

** study programme directors, academic staff, students, graduates, cooperation partners etc.*

Desirable indicators of ZPJAS 2024 to be achieved

Priority/ criteria	INDICATOR	TIME PERIOD
I. Strengthening of scientific research and innovation capacity		
Scientific research and innovation projects with commercialised results	At least 2 in each study direction TOTAL: 10	By the end of the academic year 2023/2024
Scientific research and innovation projects with attracted external funding	At least 2 in each study direction TOTAL: 10	By the end of the academic year 2023/2024
Annual publications	At least 1 in each study direction TOTAL: 25	Once per academic year
Including publications in Scopus and Web of Science indexed editions	Incl. at least 3 in each study direction TOTAL: 15	By the end of the academic year 2023/2024
Presentation of research results in a scientific conference	At least 1 presentation in each study direction TOTAL: 25	Once per academic year
Research results presented in the annual student conference	At least 1 in each study direction TOTAL: 25	Once per academic year
II. Development of academic staff and students' research and innovation		
Number of research / artistic innovation results of elected academic staff	At least 2 publications in reviewed editions (1 international) and/or 2 artistic creation achievements per each academic staff member	By the end of the academic year 2023/2024
Number of presentations in international scientific conferences of elected academic staff	At least 2 reports per each academic staff member	By the end of the academic year 2023/2024
Student participation in scientific research and innovation projects	Every student in at least 1 project	Continuously
Student participation in student conferences	40% of the total number of students in the study programme	Each academic year
Methodical events for professional competence enhancement of students and academic staff in the field of scientific research and innovation	2 events TOTAL: 10	Each academic year
III. Cooperation with external stakeholders		
Involvement of cooperation partner's representatives in the work of the research group	Participation of at least 10 partners 50% of all projects	By the end of the academic year 2023/2024
Research projects initiated or supported by cooperation partners	At least 10 projects	By the end of the academic year 2023/2024
Held AC business forums <i>Business development in modern Latvia</i>	1 event TOTAL: 4	Once per academic year