

Klaipeda University 2023:

The Premier Maritime Research University in the Baltic Region

In 2023, Klaipeda University will be the leading academic institution in the Baltic region in all matters concerning maritime-related research and education, including natural sciences, social sciences, economics and logistics. This focus will not take away anything from the existing work in other fields. Instead, the excellence of the university in maritime matters will strengthen the university overall and will enable all departments to expand their work.

In order to remain competitive on the international higher education market place, universities have to achieve two main goals: provide high quality higher education and conduct internationally acclaimed research. The latter builds on the former and can finance the former.

In 2023, Klaipeda University will be well on the way to become one of the most internationalized academic institutions in Northern Europe.

Rather than trying to be active in more academic fields, the existing institutions will be strengthened. In light of the city's particular location and the importance of the maritime and logistics sectors for the city and the region, the university's core competence in maritime matters will contribute to the overall

Wide understanding of maritime issues. In addition to natural and social sciences, this will also include emerging issues, such as culture, renewable energy and tourism, to give just some examples.

This will be funded in two ways: with external funding through cross-border research projects and through — selective, ethical and responsible — corporate funding. Researchers at all levels, from doctoral students to professors, will be encouraged to apply for external funding and to engage in international research projects. In order to ensure that the quality of teaching will not deteriorate from a strong focus on research, the individual teaching work load will be decreased and the number of research staff will be increased accordingly. This will be financed through external research funding, based for example on Centre of Excellence applications e.g. to the European Commission in the context of the Horizon 2020 program.

The university of the future will take into account the skills and experiences of the entire staff across all departments. It will not only be a place of learning and research but a true community. Students will be prouder than ever to study at

Klaipeda University and, thanks to increased funding and improved benefits for employees, will be among the most popular employers in Lithuania.

In order for this to work, this vision will need the support of the entire staff of KU. A stronger, economically sustainable, university which competes internationally both in terms of attractiveness for students and quality of research will only be possible with the support of all members of the KU community.

The university of the future will not necessarily be much bigger than today - but in many ways even better. Rather than replacing parts of the university, all departments will be strengthened. This will require a transitional period which will build on the existing work done at KU. Initially, this will require a stronger focus on securing external funding. To this end, existing international relations should be utilized and new relations with academic actors abroad will need to be forged.

Most importantly, KU has to be a true community. Together, the existing strengths can be harnessed in order to reach beyond what appears possible today.