

March 2021

International Evaluation of Scientific Institutions Activity

Panel Report: Humanities

Professor Svend Erik Larsen (chairman), Professor Naomi Segal, Professor Stefan Berger,
Professor Genoveva Marti, Dr. Carolyn Sargentson, Professor Rachel Armstrong



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1 Introduction

International Evaluation of Scientific Institutions Activity analysed the research performance and international competitiveness considering also socioeconomic impact and development potential of the institutions. Results of the evaluation can serve as input in policy making and will enable the institutions to improve their performance based on the recommendations.

The Humanities Panel evaluated 11 institutions:

- Faculty of Architecture and Design and Faculty of Media and Communication of RISEBA University of Applied Sciences
- National Library of Latvia
- Latvian Academy of Culture
- Riga Technical University Faculty of Architecture
- Ventspils University of Applied Sciences Humanities Research Platform
- Liepaja University Humanities and Arts Unit
- Daugavpils University Research programme "Regional studies, literature and arts"
- Art Academy of Latvia
- University of Latvia Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia
- Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music
- University of Latvia, Cluster of Humanities and Arts.

The Panel evaluated the institutions using the following criteria:

- Quality of the research
- Impact on the scientific discipline
- Economic impact
- Social impact
- Research environment and infrastructure
- Development potential.

The evaluation of each institution involved documentary review and Panel Members' online discussions with institutions. The final evaluation of each institute is the collective view of the Expert Panel.

Experts were provided with summary data tables for each institution that aggregated data from self-assessment reports in the following manner:

- FTE academic and research personnel 2018 – sum of all academic and research personnel in full-time equivalent in 2018 excluding other acting academic and acting academic research personnel, research attending staff, research technical staff and all level students
- Total number of self-reported outputs 2013-2018 – sum of i) Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings included in WoS or SCOPUS; ii) Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings not included in WoS or SCOPUS; iii) Monographs; iv) Patents (Latvia) as well as v) Patents (Europe and international)
- Total funding – sum of i) Total state funding (Base funding plus Competitive state budget funding plus EU Structural Funds plus Other national funding); ii) Total international funding (EU Framework Programmes plus Other international funding); and iii) Private funding.

The analysis of each institution by the Panel is presented in following sections.

2 Institution reports

H_1 Faculty of Architecture and Design and Faculty of Media and Communication of RISEBA University of Applied Sciences

2.1 Institute data and description

Faculty of Architecture and Design and Faculty of Media and Communication of RISEBA University of Applied Sciences	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	History and archaeology Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music)
Related fields of science	Civil engineering Educational sciences Media and communication
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	2,15
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	2,00
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	4,15
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	5
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	68
Monographs in period 2013-2018	7
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	2
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	82
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	1,20
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	19,76
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	0
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	323.354
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	77.917

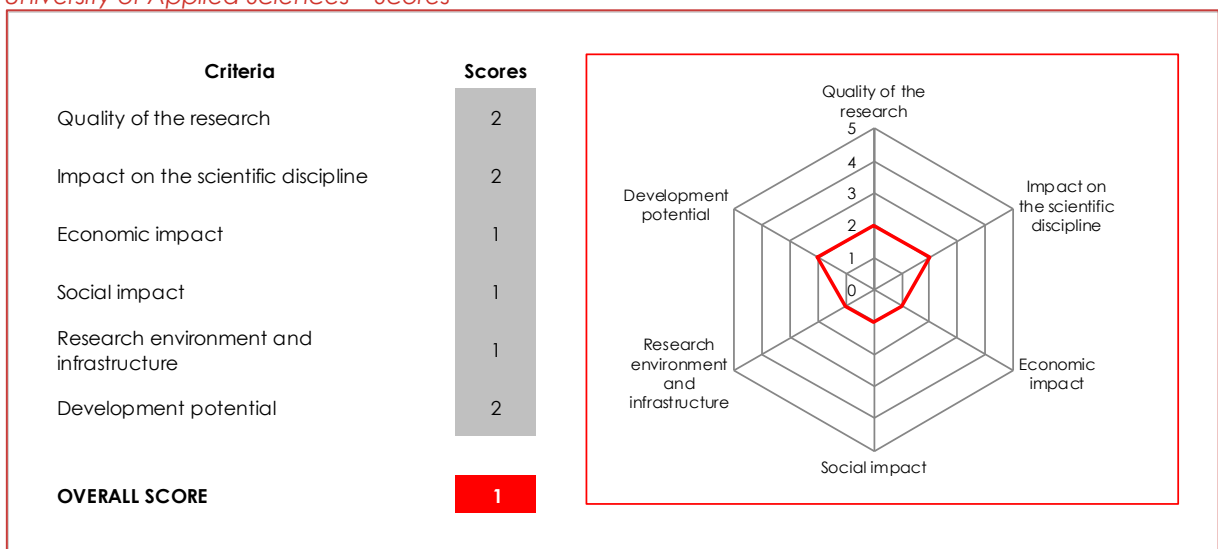
The Scientific Institution of Arts and Technologies (SIAT) of RISEBA University of Applied Sciences is a small private university that is composed of the Faculty of Architecture and Design (FAD) and the Faculty of Media and Communication (FMC). The FAD implements the study field Architecture and Construction, which includes the academic bachelor's programme Architecture and the professional master's programme Architecture, while the FMC includes Audiovisual Media Arts and Advertising and Public Relations. These fields of study are part of

RISEBA's strategic goal of becoming an internationally recognised business, arts and technologies university. All departments have a relatively small number of academic staff, whose research focuses on narrow and specific yet innovative research areas which informs the foundation of the FMC's competitive position in research in New Media and Audiovisual field. There are no full-time research professors and no doctoral students at SIAT.

2.2 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 1: Faculty of Architecture and Design and Faculty of Media and Communication of RISEBA University of Applied Sciences – Scores



Overall score

Score 1: poor level of research

The overall score awarded is 1 to indicate a poor level of research performance at the Scientific Institution of Arts and Technologies of RISEBA. Having scored a 2 in the 2013 Research Assessment in the Social Sciences Panel, the institute underwent reorganisation in October 2018 that resulted in a refined focus for research through the establishment of three research groups Architecture and Design, Audiovisual Media Art and Advertising and Public Relations. These groups have their own research interests that align with their academic fields with little cross over between research streams. There are neither full-time research professors, nor doctoral students in SIAT and since 2013, there have been no PhD student graduations. The quality of the organisation's research outputs is heterogenous, yet occasionally published by nationally recognised publishers and journals. Overall, the unit's impact on the field of science is stable in the national scientific community, but the interaction between the institution and the private/public sectors is yet to be established. While the institution has good technical infrastructure, it is still in the process of creating an internationally comparable research environment. Although the ambitions and enthusiasm of the institution are noted, the overall score reflects the nascent impacts of the recent reorganisation, whose effects on research quality and impacts are yet to be formally evidenced.

Quality of research

Score 2: adequate

RISEBA's outputs are expressly national and have not yet positioned the institution in an international context. Outputs are organised according to the unit's three main research streams within the Faculty of Architecture and Design (FAD) and the Faculty of Media and Communication (FMC). The research trajectories are largely led by part-time senior researchers, with oversight from the RISEBA Scientific Committee. Scientific research directions are approved by the committee and revised every two years. The main areas of FAD's research are the consolidation of architecture and engineering sciences and the impact of environmental disciplines on the development of architecture within the framework of the resource saving and sustainability paradigm shift. The originality within the art history arm of FAD has a strong national significance, while the applied results are sporadic and, though important, are not sufficiently sustained in terms of their significance. Research within FMC is arts-based (VR narratology) and its significance is currently national but is growing through active networking. The European Narratology Network (ENN) expressed their wish to hold their next conference, i.e. the 6th Conference of the European Narratology Network, at RISEBA. While there are obvious compatibilities between some of the works carried out across the departments, interdisciplinary synergies between them have not been exploited, owing to the recent reorganisation of the institution, the lack of doctoral students and the part-time institutional investments in research activities. The theoretical research of the Advertising and Public Relations Department deals with the history of advertising and advertising pedagogy. Overall, the research work of the department is mostly important for Latvian academic and research circles but with growing relevance to international audiences with an interest in the Baltic States.

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 2: adequate

Across the faculties and departments RISEBA's outputs are strongly national and are heterogeneously distributed within research groups, which are small and centred on the interests of lead researchers. An insufficient number of research publications are produced, particularly in top academic journals, with a total number of 82 research outputs including 2 Latvian patents, 5 peer reviewed articles, 68 articles not appearing in WoS or SCOPUS, and 7 monographs. There are no doctoral students to expand or develop the established research fields of key researchers in any of the research strands. The impact of personal international contacts has not yet materialised in daily work at RISEBA.

Economic impact

Score 1: poor

Overall, the research generated by RISEBA is aimed at other academics and does not reach a non-academic audience. No formal partnerships in the public and private sectors are established, although conversations are ongoing, events are sporadic; however, there is potential for developing and consolidating such relationships. Researchers in FAD observe the latest developments in industry requirements and by studying labour market needs offer new study programmes for high-level professionals to support graduates with research skills within relevant industries. While non-academic support for the work of the department was advocated by the leadership during the online visit, evidence for the diversity and sustainability of non-academic partners in applied research is not clear. The existence of RISEBA production provides opportunities potentially for incubators, new enterprises and community FabLabs, but

with the recent reorganisation the opportunities to leverage this potential have not yet been exploited.

Social impact

Score 1: poor

Public engagement with research themes within RISEBA is limited and yet to be formally, and strategically established. Major outputs are publications in popular science and other non-academic magazines, knowledge transfer through outreach talks and seminars and media appearance. FAD shows a social engagement coordinated in concert with research project outputs, yet specific events tend to be student-led, rather than organised via key researchers. Owing to the small key number of researchers in FMC, engagement is sporadic and targeted at specific interest groups, including an experimental 360-degree theatre (Hong Kong, 2018) and an international conference on narratology. The research work of the Advertising and Public Relations Department focuses mainly on studies of Latvian communication history and problems in that area, which is also the department's 'niche' in the global research environment. Beyond the contributions that students make to solving real business problems during their studies, the department is seeking joint external partners for social advertising research projects, such as South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University, but the social impact of the research is still to be established.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 1: poor

The research interests of the academic staff are mainly related to the study programme. Oversight is provided by the RISEBA Scientific Committee which approves scientific research directions and revises them every two years. The Scientific Committee draws up research plans for RISEBA departments and monitors their results in implementing research tasks and achieving research objectives and develops proposals to improve the quality of research work. While RISEBA's goals are clear and commendable, the specific steps to achieve them are not so well defined and are largely based on individual achievements rather than the overall progress of RISEBA as a research entity. While RISEBA's policy is to stimulate interdisciplinarity it is notable there is no interconnectedness between the different research strands and the overall research environment is weak. An integrated research platform, facilitated by a shared vision, aims and specific goals capable of establishing and developing obvious synergies between the research strands on a day-to-day basis, does not presently appear to be in place, although immediate opportunities for research synergies at RISEBA appear to lie within the digital realm. The material infrastructure of buildings and technology for the various departments seems to be a sufficient and commendable investment in equipment is made on a regular basis.

Development potential

Score 2: adequate

While the three research groups within the two faculties share RISEBA's ambition to become an internationally recognised business, arts and technologies organisation, it is not yet placed to become an international player. To foster academic excellence, it is necessary to ensure that by the end of the strategy period in 2021 the proportion of academic staff with a doctoral degree reaches 75% at the FMC, just as at RISEBA overall. The unit has a good technical infrastructure, a supportive university environment and, as a private institution, has the capacity to move quickly to respond to emerging challenges. When aligned with increased

interdisciplinary exchanges within the unit, this same infrastructure and networks also have the potential to initiate new research directions. The ongoing review, along with investments and management structures in place that oversee the research process, could be instrumental in this process.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

Currently there are no doctoral students in SIAT and the infrastructure to offer doctoral studies is not in place. While there is good technical infrastructure there have neither been full-time research professors, nor doctoral students in SIAT. Since 2013, there have been no PhD student graduations. Incentives for staff to develop their own research abilities are needed as well as active efforts in securing research income to establish the capacity for SIAT doctoral students. However, FMC actively collaborates with Liepaja University in the joint master's programme for New Media and Audiovisual Arts, in which work on a joint doctoral programme in new audiovisual media arts studies is underway and scheduled to start in 2021. Plans for doctoral studies in FAD and Advertising and Public Relations Department are not outlined.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

Overall, the research scope is in line with Smart Specialisation Strategy of Latvia, however the volume is limited. Section 1.5 of self-assessment report (SAR) suggests that the work of the unit is useful in terms of RIS3 educational values, and that research developments in new audiovisual media and digital arts also contribute to it. In relation to smart materials and technologies, the materials research (plywood output) seems particularly well-aligned. Information included in SAR also provides some acknowledgment of the relationship between research activity and fostering creativity.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

The connectivity of this institution to industry or other economically productive contexts is currently still poor and research outputs have weak links to economic and social development. In the assessment period there has been sporadic delivery of some knowledge transfer and contribution to practical innovation. Initiatives for human capital development for science, technology and innovation sector are only in their rudimentary phase.

Recommendations

Recommendations for the next 6-years are:

- Active management of the development of the research environment at the institutional level.
- FMC to actively pursue collaboration with Liepaja University (LiePU) to develop a joint doctoral programme in new audiovisual media arts studies, anticipated to start in 2021.
- Plans for doctoral studies in FAD and Advertising and Public Relations Department should be outlined and pursued.
- The strategic RISEBA vision should be developed into specific SIAT goals, tasks, milestones, identification of specific resources matched with funding allocation. A responsible person on the ground within the institution needs to be appointed to oversee and facilitate the everyday running of the research platform—not with their own specific research interests in mind, but with a view to creating a shared, meaningfully integrated research environment.
- Conduct a mapping and evaluation of external partners that could take the institution towards strategic development goals, such as local stakeholders (businesses), national stakeholders (policymakers) and international partners.

- Conduct a mapping and identification of full range of outputs that will maximise research impacts e.g. academic publications (how to increase citation index status), incubators, SMEs, patents, civic services. Set targets and review within the SIAT research platform so that the research community feels that it is integrated, working together and learning together on shared challenges.
- Engage with national and international grant-writing process to build external research income as a resource for research development and the recruitment/funding of doctoral students. Consider employing grant-writers to assist the process.
- Practice-led/artistic research-based submissions should be in place for both FAD and FMC. Form a peer-review community to establish what constitutes a practice-based submission and involve external experts to advise on what comprises high quality submissions.
- Develop incentives for existing staff to embark on doctoral research such as protected time for research, increased salaries with these qualifications etc.
- Active advertising of doctoral programmes to international and national students to stimulate interest in and demand for PhD training programme.

H_2 National Library of Latvia

2.3 Institute data and description

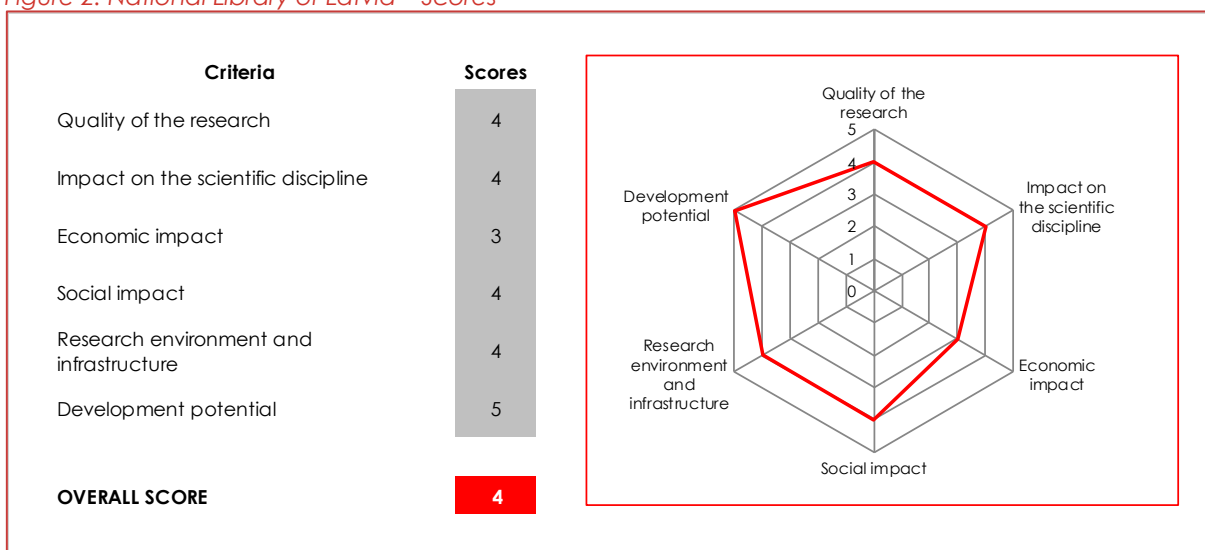
National Library of Latvia	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	History and archaeology Languages and literature Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music) Other humanities (Library science, book history) Computer and information sciences Media and communications Other social sciences
Related fields of science	Computer and information sciences Media and communications Other social sciences History and archaeology Languages and literature Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music) Other humanities
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	0
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	8,50
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	8,50
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	27
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	101
Monographs in period 2013-2018	2
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	130
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	3,18
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	15,29
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	1
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,12
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	3.830.906
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	450.695

The National Library of Latvia was founded in 1919. However, it only acquired the status of a scientific institution in 2007 and hence, as a research institution, it is relatively young. It recently moved to a new strikingly avant-garde building in Riga which must be seen as a major resource for the library. It has developed a range of research foci in areas where the holdings of the National Library have been particularly strong, and it has been highly successful in establishing international links in those areas making them fruitful also for its outstanding attempts at science communication.

2.4 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 2: National Library of Latvia – Scores



Overall score

Score 4: very good level of research

The National Library of Latvia has been able to establish itself as a major player in the cultural and research landscape of its country and, over recent years, it has built strong international links making it also a significant international player. It has made good use of its many valuable holdings in order to develop a host of interesting exhibitions and its research foci are also well-aligned with its holdings. It plays a strong public role, not only by hosting many public events, but also by seeking to develop materials that can be used in schools in Latvia and by advising policy makers in a range of different fields, from research policies to heritage policies. It has taken important steps to become more internationally visible, in particular through research staff attending major international conferences and being invited to present there, but also through holding major international conferences. Its best international links seem to be with the other Baltic states, Sweden and the UK. The building of research teams through the identification of common and relevant themes is an ongoing process at the National Library and, despite the lack of base funding after the 2013 Research Assessment, the internal reforms of research practices has already led to considerable achievements which are now supported by the new location of the library.

Quality of research

Score 4: very good

For a National Library it is perhaps not surprising that the research foci are on national topics on which the holdings of the library are particularly strong. Particularly impressive is the research on the Moravian Brethren movement in which important research results with strong international significance can be expected in future years on the basis of the very impressive research already done. The library itself holds a valuable collection of handwritten manuscripts of the Moravian Brethren. The National Library has also networked very effectively in this field of study; this has provided it with many relevant international links that improved the research design and put the library at the helm of international research on the Moravian Brethren. Another notable research area is that of the history of the book. There have been a variety of important publications in the field of book publishing, and, once again, the library has been successful in establishing a range of international links (e.g. with the University of St Andrews) that have enabled its researchers to participate in internationally excellent research networks. The National Library's involvement with the Association of European Research Libraries also strengthens its international networking in targeted fields relevant to its research foci. To mention a third area of research excellence, the library has developed an important semantic annotation tool with considerable potential for international use. Researchers at the National Library regularly participate in international conferences. They publish not only in Latvian, but also in English and in German, and the quality of the publications submitted is very good throughout, even if internationally excellent output options should be explored more strongly. But overall, in terms of publications, there has been a good upwards trajectory over the recent years.

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 4: very good

Within its fields of expertise, the institution is strongly networked within Latvia and its research has significant influence internationally in the fields in which the researchers are active. Evidence of international impact includes the distribution of research findings at international conferences and the holding of international conferences at the institution. In its core research areas: the study of the Moravian Brethren movement, the history of the book and linguistics, the latter in particular through the semantic annotation tool it has developed, the impact on the respective scientific disciplines is internationally considerable. This is also reflected in the noticeable activity of key researchers at the National Library in national and international learned societies. Similarly, the international project on cultural heritage in the digital environment is particularly promising, as it links well with the internationalization strategy of research at the National Library. The steady stream of international visiting scholars to the National Library as well as the frequent international visits of National Library researchers abroad also testify to the increasing impact of the institution internationally.

Economic impact

Score 3: good

One would not necessarily expect research at a national library to have economic impact. However, the institution should perhaps explore further to what extent it can cooperate with actors in the economy especially on digital humanities projects (e.g. publishers, IT-developers), on heritage projects (tourism industry) and in promoting the commercial use of some of the tools that are being developed at the National Library, in particular in the areas of data mining and the development of annotation tools. The latter is, as far as we understood, developed jointly with a private company and the rights of exploiting it are with that company. This points

to the need to ensure that the fruits of research remain the intellectual property of the researchers (or are at least co-owned by the library with others) and that, in cooperation with commercial companies, researchers also look to retain appropriate rights over the commercial application of research findings.

Social impact

Score 4: very good

The social impact of the National Library of Latvia is very strong, as it plays a major role within the social life of the country, through numerous public events, through publishing for a wider public, through hosting outstanding exhibitions with strong public appeal, through assistance to researchers in data mining, doctoral students in particular, and through advising ministries on policies ranging from research policies to heritage policies. Its research programme on documentary heritage is successfully building a range of synergies between research and society at large. Its digital agenda is also making its valuable collections available to a wider public. Of particular importance here is the outstanding national dictionary project which is used extensively within Latvia and provides reliable research-based information to the population of Latvia. The variety of science communication with a high social impact is also considerable. It ranges from information on the use of online media to education programmes for school children and from various dialogues with local communities, through public events, to exhibition-related events and popular science publications.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 4: very good

The research infrastructure of the National Library is very good, especially after it was able to move to its current new state-of-the-art premises. The opportunity for members of staff to take sabbaticals is a key innovation which allows them to network more effectively, including internationally. A concern is the large percentage of part-time research staff – there are only 8 full-time researchers compared with 34 part-timers – but the interview showed that the part-time researchers add considerable expertise to the overall research team and are well integrated into both the research structure and the team-building exercises within the research department of the National Library.

Development potential

Score 5: outstanding

The institution is already a very strong national player and a strong international one with the potential of becoming an even stronger international player, if it keeps developing its international profile in the promising areas that it has embarked on, in particular the history of the Moravian Brethren, the history of the book, Baltic histories and generally aspects of the pre-1918 holdings of the library, in which it is particularly strong. The researchers need to concentrate even more in future on publishing in high-profile international journals and with high-profile international publishers. The number of publications has been increasing in recent years and the interview showed convincingly that this upward trajectory would continue in the years to come. The same is true of research income, although here more international research income is needed to make the institution more of an international player. It should be encouraged to use opportunities to apply for European funding through the diverse schemes run by the European Union and to do so as principal investigator.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

The National Library is not an institution which itself can offer doctoral studies, but it is systematically encouraging its part-time staff to gain doctoral degrees in areas relevant to the research foci of the library. Furthermore, the research staff at the library are involved in doctoral and postdoctoral training events, and they make good use of the outstanding collections of the library to give additional training to doctoral students across a very wide range of higher education institutions in Latvia. The library's participation in the Erasmus+ programmes has also added to its capacity to act as a training provider for doctoral students.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

Being a knowledge centre for collection and distribution of knowledge, in this case combined with clear strategic goals and collaborative experiences across the public and private sector the National Library is relevant for the implementation of the national RIS3 strategy. The Library is a major driver for the development of Digital Humanities, in particular in the fields of data management, data mining and semantic interoperability. Here it has developed intriguing research initiatives, often in collaboration with other institutions outside of Latvia. This has a positive horizontal impact on the RIS3 aims, especially in the priority area on information and communication technologies.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

The National Library contributes to the objectives of Latvia's scientific and technological development in a number of ways. It has been able to establish itself as a major player in the cultural and research landscape of Latvia making good use of its many valuable facilities and archives and exploiting synergies with other national research institutions. It plays a strong public role, not only by hosting many public events, but also by seeking to develop materials that can be used in schools in Latvia and by advising policy makers in a range of different fields, from research policies to heritage policies. Concrete steps have been taken to become internationally more visible. The Library is a focal point for enabling and developing Digital Humanities field in Latvia which is important for increasing scientific excellence and international competitiveness also for other national humanities research institutions. Library's research activities contribute directly to modernisation and integration of research and education sectors, increasing their ability to respond to future challenges.

Recommendations

The National Library has developed over recent years into a strong research institution despite a relatively small number of core research staff.

- In order to keep up the momentum and further strengthen the library's international research excellence, more permanent research staff should be employed.
- Base funding for the research undertakings of the National Library should be increased substantially, in order to allow the institution to build on the upwards trajectory of recent years.
- Research staff at the National Library should be allowed to co-supervise PhD students, in particular in those areas in which it has developed demonstrable international research excellence.
- Prepare more joint EU projects in those areas where there is a track record of excellent and internationally networked research excellence, in particular on the history of the Moravian Brethren and in book history.
- Establish collaboration with more international institutions that share the research foci of the library, not just in Europe, but also in the Americas and in Asia.

- Think about more innovative ways of exploiting the economic benefits of some the research and research-related activities of the library.
- Work towards becoming a national hub for all higher education institutions in Latvia, especially in the field of digitization and cultural heritage.
- Consider using the international networks of the institution in order to improve the quality and quantity of publications in internationally outstanding publications, which should not be measured by abstract criteria alone such as Web of Science or Scopus.
- Consider taking a more active role in leading research clusters across Latvia where the research performance over recent years has been particularly strong.

H_3 Latvian Academy of Culture

2.5 Institute data and description

Latvian Academy of Culture	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music) Other humanities (Cultural heritage, Cultural and creative industries)
Related fields of science	Economics and business Sociology Law Political Science Media and communications History and archaeology Languages and literature Philosophy, ethics and religion Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music) Other humanities
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	67,00
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	8,00
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	75,00
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	35
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	79
Monographs in period 2013-2018	95
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	209
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,47
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	2,79
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	12
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,16
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	3.343.781
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	44.584

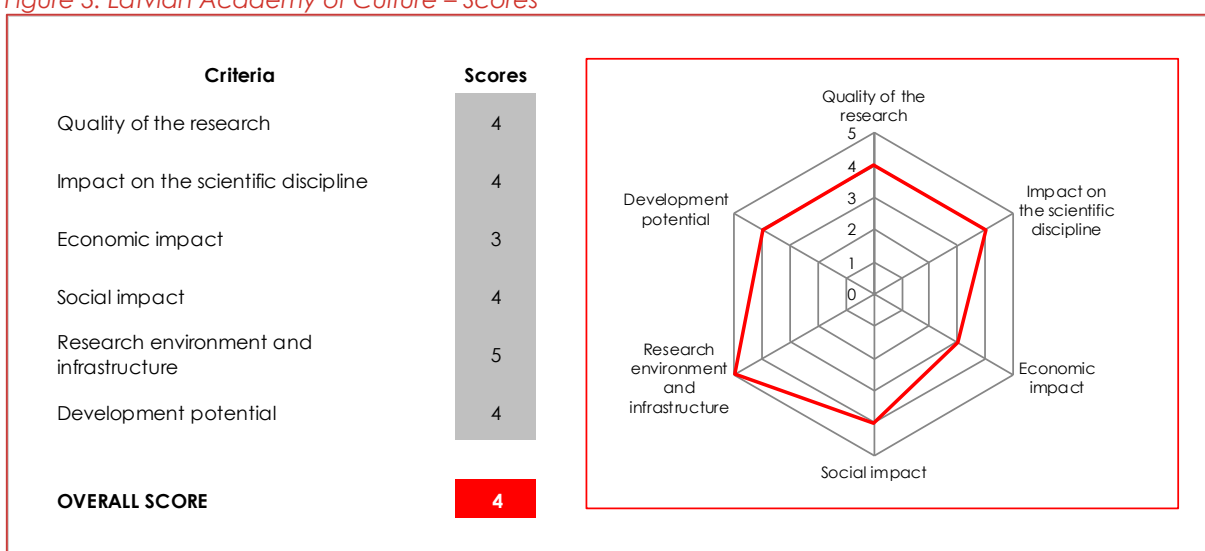
Since 2013 the research activities at the Latvian Academy of Culture (then evaluated as a Centre for Scientific Research) have undergone a major reorganisation based on a number of

transversal themes and projects, which cover a range of research areas: History and Archaeology; Arts, Language and Literature and Philosophy; Sociology and Economy; Law, and Media Studies. The common denominator is the study of tangible and intangible heritage and its cultural function in contemporary society. Priority is given to collective projects that require interdisciplinary approaches and are carried out with national and international partners, including the creative sectors. Towards the end of the assessment period a doctoral programme is being developed together with the two other Latvian Academies. In 2022, the Academy will be relocated to the Tobacco Company creative quarter.

2.6 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 3: Latvian Academy of Culture – Scores



Overall score

Score 4: very good level of research

Based on the existing strong points in its research portfolio and with an impressive determination and strategic vision, the Latvian Academy of Culture (LAC) has widened the scope of its research engagement and produced new projects and opened new research directions. This development is the result of a major transformation of the research practice after the last research assessment in 2013. The internal reorganisation of cultural heritage studies through collective interdisciplinary projects and increased international collaboration has prompted a remarkable research progress. Nationally they have developed a unique research focus (quantitative and qualitative) on cultural policy of the creative industries, including amateur activity such as the Song and Dance Festival. With a clear strategy for research activities and for staff development LAC has succeeded in creating a dynamic and inclusive research environment of highly motivated researchers inspired by shared goals. The relocation to new premises in 2022 will support the continued momentum of the institution.

Quality of research

Score 4: very good

Despite the loss of two years of base funding due to the low scores in the 2013-assessment, LAC has successfully carried out an extensive transformation of its research practice and improved its output. The introductory presentation during the interview was exemplary and showed clarity in the research focus and a collective determination in the research activities. The result of this reform has been impressive in terms of research focus, direction and output. The number of FTEs have gone up from two in 2013 to eight in 2018 (though difficult to extract from the tables), and a systematic integration of doctoral students in research processes has given LAC some needed increase in research volume, but eight FTE remains a low number. Nonetheless, the reorganisation of research in research teams across disciplines has improved the quality of the research output and broadened its dissemination. With a broad engagement in national and international projects, the traditional strength of LAC - the local heritage studies (not least intangible heritage of song and dance) - have acquired new dimensions (with special attention to the post-Soviet heritage and through the Latvian-French project Osmosis on heritage law and the Horizon 2020 project CoHERE on new ways of approaching cultural identity). These studies have branched out in other directions, some new, some already existing in LAC but now enriched by the larger context (heritage law, cultural sites, social rights, cultural economy, audio-visuality). In this context the nationally funded interdisciplinary project (2013-2016) on the Svetupe river basin as a material and cultural landscape deserves special mentioning. The basic heritage research has also led to applied research on community participation, amateur arts activity and, from 2018, digitisation of museums, closer collaboration with creative artists and creative industries (the folk oratorio "The Rivers of our Being").

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 4: very good

LAC's impact on the broader discipline of heritage studies is developed in international collaboration, which inspired the LAC to adopt a range of new perspectives on the study of local heritage in different directions with national, regional and European funding - ranging from classical ethnological studies of folklore (Baltic/Nordic context) and cultural identity (broad European context with partners from twelve countries in the Horizon 2020 project CoHERE) to more special studies on legal issues (with France) and economic issues with spin-offs in communicative projects, teaching material and youth studies (Habitus). At the same time, the international engagement has also added to the visibility of Latvian research on cultural heritage, both the traditional heritage and the broader Baltic post-Soviet heritage. This reciprocity is supported by a significant number of international researchers visiting LAC and a good international presence of LAC's staff inside and beyond Europe. A number of international conferences on cultural heritage, theatre and film have also attracted an international audience. Since 2017, LAC has held the UNESCO Chair in Intangible Cultural Heritage Policy and Law.

Economic impact

Score 3: good

With the development of the legal, sociological and economic components of the LAC's research profile, the Academy has opened up avenues for an increase in its economic impact. Sociological surveys of economic conditions for amateurs and for the precariat working in the creative arena (including under the particular conditions of the COVID-19 crisis), analysis of audiences for the national symphony orchestra and the Song and Dance Festival present basic

facts and materials for economic impact. Also, their multiple contributions to Latvia's celebrations of its first hundred years, for which they won a national competition, are of economic importance. Their plans for future explorations of the relation to creative industries are promising, but at present only on the drawing board.

Social impact

Score 4: very good

The social impact of LAC is considerable and points in several directions. First, participation in the Habitus project has provided UNESCO with an indicator system for intangible heritage with a potential for international application. Second, institutional partners like museums and the symphony orchestra have benefited from audience surveys that assist them in attracting new audiences. These partners also assist trainees, in particular students in Museology, to improve their job situation. Third, partners from the education sector have received pedagogical material via exhibitions, schoolbooks and other types of teaching material. Fourth, LAC has played a role in cultural policy making on various levels.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 5: outstanding

On the current premises the material infrastructure is adequate and has been continuously updated. However, the transfer of LAC in 2022 to the Tobacco Company creative quarter offers the institution a major upgrading of the physical infrastructure which no doubt will have productive influence on the research environment. Apart from its present main location, LAC also has other locations (museums, studios) for drama and film. Since 2013, investment has increased in equipment which can be moved to the new building in 2022. The library is sufficient with online access to relevant catalogues and it was updated after an audit in 2015. The research environment has been managed admirably since 2013 and has been instrumental in LAC's research progress. The addition of two recent posts – Vice-Rector for Science and Deputy Director for Internationalization – will contribute to the future sustainability of this positive development. But first and foremost, the inclusive research strategy for all academic staff, doctoral students included, has generated a forward-looking collaborative spirit that has been translated into thematic research teams and collective projects, which are also for a collegial peer review of research output. They are supported by internal peer review processes and competitive access to some in-house funding. The self-assessment is precise with clear institutional goals and procedures, including a special strategy for staff development, and gave the impression of a stimulating environment, which was confirmed by the interview.

Development potential

Score 4: very good

A future strategy is on the drawing board with the clear aim of widening international collaboration in research (two EU projects have been submitted), in doctoral training and in exchange of researchers. Also included is a promising a new practice-based doctoral programme, involving co-supervision, to be launched in 2021 in collaboration with external partners from creative environments and with the two other academies. Parallel to the creation of the doctoral programme, LAC plans to pursue partnerships with creative industries more systematically. With a separate strategy for the development of scientific staff LAC has an efficient tool to maintain the motivation of researchers and also to further their involvement in outreach activities. With the positive experiences carried forward since 2013 a solid foundation has been established for further development in a continuous extension of the research

flagship fields: cultural heritage studies. The relocation into new buildings with upgraded facilities will no doubt make LAC an attractive partner in the European research landscape.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

With the new practice-based doctoral programme LAC will raise doctoral training to a new level, together with the other Latvian academies. Alongside the planned national reform of doctoral training and the improved institutional and economic status of doctoral students, the new programme will be a major step-forward for doctoral training in Latvia. The plan to introduce co-supervision also has potential for international co-supervision (*co-tutelle*). The meeting with the doctoral students demonstrated their enthusiasm for the LAC, an interesting diversity of projects and future plans to enter arts management or creative activity.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

The research focus of LAC has a potential to have horizontal impact on the general objectives of RIS3 strategy. Since 2013, LAC has refocused its research and communication objectives and, as the SAR shows, these have been deliberately directed to cohere with national priorities, especially education, national identity and societal welfare. LAC develops important collaborations with creative industries and promotes an ongoing development of a teaching environment that includes artistic creativity.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

The research of LAC has been specifically developed to follow national strategy regarding education, communication and monitoring of cultural identity. It contributes to the development of human capital in research and creative industries, promotes the international competitiveness of humanities and arts research, and supports the modernisation and integration of research, education and practice-led sectors.

Recommendations

LAC is well-managed research unit with a sound strategic vision. Our recommendations underline activities to be continued as well as suggestions for new initiatives.

- Intensify the international collaboration by including more mutual exchange.
- Integrate international partners in doctoral education, for example as local or nation-wide masterclasses for doctoral students/younger staff.
- Prepare a joint EU project with LAC as the host institution.
- Establish collaboration with other national and international institutions to attract more doctoral students and co-supervisors.
- Increase the number of private partners of LAC in the creative industries.
- Further develop partnerships to increase trainee positions and internships so as to improve future job opportunities in the cultural/creative industries.
- Consider the creation of an international advisory board for LAC.
- Consider instruments for an increase staff FTEs.

H_4 Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture

2.7 Institute data and description

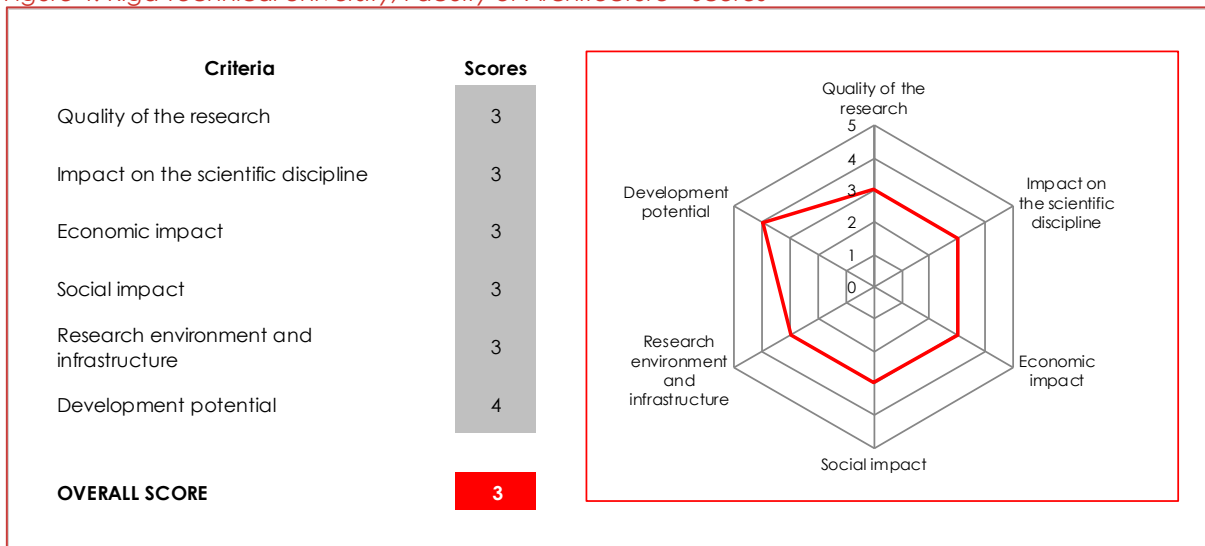
Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music)
Related fields of science	Civil engineering Environmental engineering Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries Other humanities
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	10,10
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	1,93
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	12,03
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	14
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	187
Monographs in period 2013-2018	13
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	214
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	1,16
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	17,79
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	4
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,33
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	364.817
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	30.326

Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture (FA) is the only higher education institution in Latvia offering three level (undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral) education in the field of architecture and is the major research institution in the field of architectural heritage and urban regeneration. The organisation of the FA is compact with four units: Department of Architectural Design, Department of Architectural History and Theory, Department of Fine Art and the Centre for Urban Planning. The total number of students is around 250 with 30 Masters level graduates each year. Its main research directions are the preservation and development of architectural heritage, climate change adaptation and improvement of quality of living environment by urban regeneration. The overall strategy takes an integrated, interdisciplinary approach where the FA is closely interrelated with architectural and urban development practice.

2.8 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 4: Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture - Scores



Overall score

Score 3: good level of research

The institution occupies a stable position in the international scientific community and is considered a respected and recognised centre of competence. Research outputs are important for the economy and society generating streams of employment, developing national economic potential and being actively involved in civic society. Research by the institution demonstrates a good standard of quality in terms of originality and importance. The institution's outreach activities are at a level that is expected of recognised academic institutions through stable, mutually interdependent partnerships. The focus on multi-disciplinary approaches secures stakeholders' interest and ensures potential for successful results in capacity for participation in research projects and publications. The institution provides a research environment that promotes the development of the field as well as the careers of young researchers. When the six research strands outlined in the SAR are fully implemented for intensified collaborative and interdisciplinary projects, the FA has the potential to move to a higher level with increased international visibility. The FA takes part in educational and research activities in the EU ensuring topicality of studies and research with a number of signed agreements with international organizations.

Quality of research

Score 3: good

Since the last reporting period the amount of EU funding has doubled and less than 30% of funding is allocated as base funding. The number of research papers has increased by more than 30%. Research outputs include in-depth single-authored fundamental research publications, as well as collaborative, applied research projects. Yet, there is an ongoing challenge of an insufficient number of publications in high citation indexed international scientific journals relating to architecture, urbanism, urban planning and the social sciences. The research fields of FA correspond to contemporary themes in the theory of architecture,

preservation of cultural heritage, assessment of impact of climate change for sustainable environmental planning, linkage of urban development strategies to social processes, and visual interpretation of spatial environment in design, including the use of ICT in design and planning. Research directions include the preservation and development of architectural heritage and identity of the urban environment well as an investigation of the 'dissonant' post-Soviet heritage in Latvia.

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 3: good

The institution occupies a stable position in the international scientific community and is respected and particularly well-recognised as a national centre of expertise. The FA is a member of a number of academic and research networks. During the assessment period, the FA has actively participated in development of projects proposals, collaborating with research institutions across Europe and in China. Participation in international networking activities has recently resulted, for example, in summer schools 2014–2017 for Dutch, German, Portuguese, British, Turkish and Latvian schools of Architecture. FA researchers also actively participate in COST Actions and Horizon 2020. However, international partners are mostly in Northern Europe, with growing partnerships in the East (common projects have been developed with Chinese universities), where there is room for more development and expansion. In particular, an insufficient number of publications in high citation indexed international scientific journals have been produced relating to the architecture, urbanism, urban planning and social science. As a result of this long-term research, Riga itself has gained international recognition as a significant metropolis of Art Nouveau and the historical city centre is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the period 2013–2018, the FA has increased the number of publications, especially published in ISI. In total, 12 articles were indexed in Web of Science or SCOPUS databases in the period of 2013–2018, in comparison with 2 articles in 2006–2011 period. Also, the RTU journal Architecture and Urban Planning is currently being submitted for evaluation to be included in the Scopus database.

Economic impact

Score 3: good

The FA's interactions with the private and public sectors, and with its public, are at a level that is expected of recognised academic institutions, where architecture is considered an industry with a significant horizontal impact, as well as making a direct contribution to economic transformation. FA carries out both basic and applied research. Currently, a slightly larger part of the research is made up of basic research, but FA also conducts applied research both on behalf of various municipalities (e.g. studies on the historical centre of Riga) and on behalf of companies (e.g. swimming pool construction facilities in Riga) in cooperation with other faculties and universities. With strong support from the institution FA's research teams engage in interdisciplinary research and funding applications, which increases overall economic impact with transferability and relevance to enterprise and business. SIA Saint-Gobain is cooperating with FA by organising an international student competition to popularise the company's design solutions and also offers student placements, through which both students and university create applied knowledge transfer with respect to energy efficiencies and people's comfort inside buildings.

Social impact

Score 3: good

The main social impact of FA's research activities is manifested through close cooperation with various NGOs to support the non-governmental sector in their efforts to activate civil society. FA researchers collaborate with NGOs (e.g. neighbourhood associations of cities and towns such as "Lielā Talka", Alliance for Neighbourhood associations) in developing multiple neighbourhood regeneration concepts. Another branch in the field of social impact is the institution's close relation with school youth. To raise the interest of schoolchildren in the scientific activities the researchers of FA engage pupils in research work through consultancy of the research projects developed by schoolchildren, promotion of summer workshops, etc. Among research partners are municipalities as well as other public or private institutions. One of the most significant study of this period was research "Housing development in the historical centre of Riga and its protection zone" initiated by the Riga City Council.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 3: good

Internal funding of the FA is distributed based on staff performance at RTU; 70% of funding is thus allocated through an Annual Research and Valorisation Plan (RVP). Recruitment and retention of research staff within the FA is needed as there is a small number of key researchers. The HR processes at RTU support the international competitiveness of academic and research personnel through staff training programmes (including course on language and digital technologies). Additionally, staff also participate in mobility programmes in Nordic and Baltic States. In the longer term, different internal management structures beyond horizontality will be needed to supervise and review the research development in key research areas, as growing staff numbers will require active coordination of research activities throughout the institute, so they are evenly maintained. The FA plans to further promote internationalisation, to improve its HR programmes and system, and clarify academic, scientific and technical staff workload ratio in relation to student numbers. The production of high quality national-standard outputs are consistently and evenly distributed throughout the institution rather than based on the efforts of a few individuals. Regular meetings of FA researchers increase mutual awareness among researchers and encourage and monitor research applications. The physical infrastructure in terms of buildings, library, IT equipment and other technology is sufficient and is updated on a regular basis

Development potential

Score 4: very good

The FA's research and education is well-integrated and the unit has made internationalisation a key long-term priority. During the reporting period it has successfully invested in building international partnerships, networks, and researcher capacity to respond to the European research agendas for interdisciplinarity. The research partnership network is being actively developed in cooperation with strong Chinese universities. Outcomes and impacts of these investments are likely to be observed in subsequent reporting periods. It is commendable that RTU has developed six Research Platforms that combine researchers in interdisciplinary and collaborative projects. Significant investments have been made into the FA's technical infrastructure to increase access to knowledge and facilities needed to support internationally competitive research and an increase in external funding through successful EU projects is promising. There is an ongoing challenge of an insufficient number of publications in high citation indexed international scientific journals relating to architecture, urbanism, urban

planning and the social sciences. Additionally, planning for recruitment and retention of research staff within the small but high-performing FA suggests future potential for increasing national levels of scientific competency.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

The FA provides a range of doctoral programmes in Architecture yet only with four completions in the reporting period. The RTU Doctoral School provides additional fundamental research training that includes a variety of seminars and workshops on transferable skills for both doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers. The FA also offers a short PhD Summer camp before the 1st year of PhD studies which orients students in the practice of research. Post-doctoral researcher numbers are stable and these are actively involved in FA research activities. Currently, there is ongoing work on development of an academic career pathway for students and young researchers as well as testing of new instruments and collaborations to support early career academics and the identification of funding opportunities.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

RTU FA has a good grasp of the RIS3 aims, and its research focus on architectural engineering and design, as well as urban planning aligns well with such smart specialisation priority areas as smart energy, smart materials and ICT. The FA also participates in cross-border and cross-sector co-operation and networking. It expresses commitment to advancing the knowledge base especially in the areas of preservation of Latvia heritage, and also highlights strong engagement with addressing the challenges of local municipalities.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

RTU FA articulates clear alignment with the aims of national scientific and technological development as laid out in the Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030, the National Development Plan (2014-2020), and Science Technology Development and Innovation Guidelines 2014-2020. RTU FA attracts young researchers by involving them in different research projects at various levels. It promotes innovative projects and organises workshops for industry and offers continued professional training. FA undertakes also the digitisation of educational and culturally relevant materials, through design and deployment of geo-spatial systems within open access infrastructures.

Recommendations

Recommendations for the future

- Active management in developing the research environment at the institutional level as research groups develop and grow, including succession planning towards delivering the FA vision.
- Continue to develop the doctoral programme and consider employment of part-time and/or part-practice young researchers from recently graduating doctoral cohorts.
- External advertising of full-cycle architectural studies to international and national students to stimulate demand for PhD training relevant to FA's ongoing research directions to build the necessary inflow of students; internal HR support should be in alignment with this.
- Promote FA's strengths internationally to increase visibility in relation to potential research partnerships and perhaps student exchanges.
- Include in FA and RTU planning and evaluation processes the need to increase peer-reviewed textual outputs in the forthcoming assessment period. Perhaps form a peer-review

community that could involve peers in similar institutions and/or external experts to advise on high quality peer-reviewed publications.

- Consider institutional evaluation processes for assessing economic and social impacts, especially those that do not immediately translate into revenue streams, to improve the way the FA articulates the influence of its research. Perhaps involve non-academic partners in these discussions.

H_5 Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, Translation Studies Faculty

2.9 Institute data and description

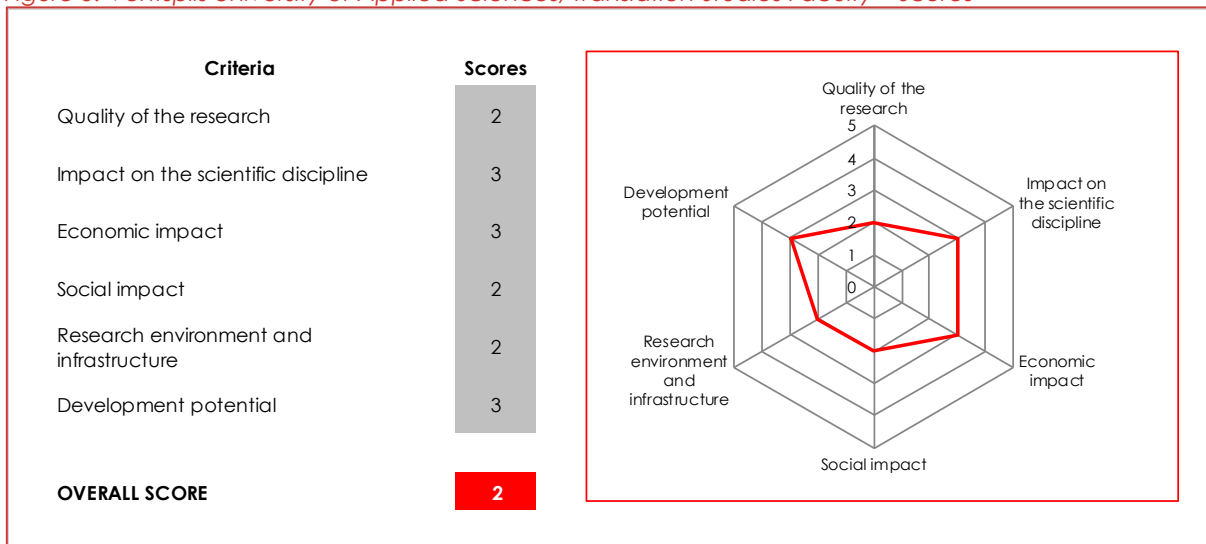
Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, Translation Studies Faculty	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	Languages and literature Other humanities (subdisciplines of linguistics: applied, comparative and contrastive linguistics (translation studies), sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, contact linguistics, cognitive linguistics, literary science)
Related fields of science	Languages and literature Other humanities
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	22,23
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	4,92
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	27,15
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	13
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	191
Monographs in period 2013-2018	9
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	213
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,48
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	7,85
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	6
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,22
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	1.190.115
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	43.835

Ventspils University of Applied Sciences (VUAS) is a small provincial university with strong connections to its locality, in Northern Kurzeme. The assessment unit is the Translation Studies Faculty (TSF), which has 17 FTE academic/research staff and 17 research-only staff, as well as a lively student body. Its Doctoral Programme, run in collaboration with Liepaja University, is well established and successful. The TSF focuses on a number of fields in language studies, with a stress on translation, corpora, terminology, Languages for Special Purposes and other applied language areas.

2.10 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 5: Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, Translation Studies Faculty – Scores



Overall score

Score 2: adequate level of research

Currently the focus of TSF's research is the Latvian language in its historical and current state, with an emphasis on maintenance and development of usage. TSF also conducts research in applied language of various kinds and in translation studies, mainly with English, Russian, German and various dialects of Latvia.

In addition, TSF's research in a range of linguistic sub-fields could be further developed in a comparative and international context – legal language, medical language, hate- and cyber-crime, botany, migration, online language-learning and the development of apps, urban and youth language. There is much room for further progress here.

The TSF is very well networked in the Ventspils locality and Northern Kurzeme region, including placing interns in local businesses and working on terminology development with the Ventspils Oil Company and municipal bodies. It has also been active at the forefront of national research projects on the Latvian language.

Quality of research

Score 2: adequate

The institution is a satisfactory national player. The items submitted included a substantial co-authored monograph in German on the history of German-speaking Latvia and articles in English on the historiography and current practice of translation (other items were in Russian and Latvian). The TSF is active in applied linguistics and translation studies, plus various areas of Languages for Special Purposes (LSP): terminology, dictionaries, pedagogy including digital, and specific areas such as medicine, botany, legal language, urban language, literary translation. A number of projects are particularly current, including language-teaching apps, adult literacy, migration, cyber-crime, hate-speech. However, it is not clear that these have produced innovative research or outputs.

At 200 items, the total of outputs is considerable for a unit of this size (with notably a high spot of publications in 2016), though most of these – including some of the items selected for the panel to read – are in Latvian. Though there is a large range of focuses, they all relate to the current (as well as historical) context of the Latvian language, with some stress on maintenance of 'standards', sustaining the use of Latvian among young people.

Clearly it is essential to conserve and maintain the Latvian language as a living resource and this is of major significance in the local and national context, but ways should be found to disseminate the principles of this research more broadly in Europe and beyond. In discussion during the visit it was suggested that the unit might think of extending its well-established core research to more general or parallel issues of translation studies and theory of translation in an international context, e.g. comparison with other 'lesser-spoken' European languages, inter-medial translation, online language-learning, including differences between text-based and app-based dictionaries, the social politics of urban or youth discourse or the language of crime, etc.

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 3: good

The research of the TSF is entirely focused on Latvian, including dialects and usage in a variety of circumstances (in the family, the city, medical or legal discourse); within this rather narrow context they have a substantial impact. This is demonstrated by the number of State Research Programmes they have led, such as *National Identity*, *Letonics I*, *Letonika*, *the Latvian Language*, and by other national collaborations. In addition, they have international collaborations with France, Portugal, Germany, Russia and Belarus, as well as the other Baltic states Lithuania and Estonia.

Research visits have been made to a total of 12 different countries during the evaluation period, and academic collaborations include with France, the Czech Republic and Germany.

Economic impact

Score 3: good

The TSF and its students work in close collaboration with local and civic enterprises such as Ventspils Oil Terminal, Bucher Municipal, Arbo and the Municipal police, as well as Ventspils City Council. This contribution is particularly in the area of specific terminology, for example creating an ESP glossary for the Ventspils Oil Terminal.

Several local companies provide internships for TSF's students and TSF researchers offer seminars, workshops, guest lectures etc. to the Ventspils International Translators' House, as well as two Riga-based units, the Goethe Institut and Skrivanek. Local businesses benefit from collaboration with the TSF on language technology such as machine translation etc. Among the doctoral students some had come out of local enterprises and retained active connections.

More broadly, TSF researchers have been at the forefront of projects of the state language policy-makers through major scientific projects such as *Letonika* and the programme on *National identity*.

Social impact

Score 2: adequate

The SAR from Ventspils TSF unfortunately gives no detail of its social impacts so these can only be inferred in a general way. The TSF has a number of interactions with national language agencies, language-companies and local schools, libraries etc. presenting their research and also conducting interviews, publicising their scientific publications, essays, lectures, workshops, and running exhibitions and training courses in Latvian schools, and *European Researchers' Nights* in Ventspils.

There is room for further development of communications, since much of the research could be popularised to all ages. The aim of encouraging young people to use Latvian more and English less would suggest that youth-led social media communication should be exploited, and local interest in language and dialect use could be built up in a grassroots way.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 2: adequate

Infrastructurally the TSF maintains a solid system of hardware and software for the purpose of creating databases, corpora etc., which they annotate and analyse using these online resources. Library resources are very good. The research strategy tends to stress continuation of the same work on which they are engaged currently and indications of forward thinking beyond the bounds of their present activities are insufficient.

Following VUAS strategic plans (running to 2020) TSF is looking to increase its staffing. However, academic research staff grew rather unevenly, from 4.61 in 2013 to 6.75 in 2018, with a spike of 9.55 in 2017. The specialties of new researchers are not specified, but new research competence to help TSF to move in new directions seems to be needed.

The doctoral programme was founded in 2009, in conjunction with Liepaja University. The students run an annual conference, *Via Scientiarum* and publish its proceedings. The doctoral students who participated in the interview were extremely impressive, interesting and committed to TSF.

Development potential

Score 3: good

As noted above, it was gratifying to meet the three TSF doctoral students, who were bright and energetic and spoke enthusiastically about their projects (respectively: rendition of proper names; diminutives; knitting patterns). They were no less enthusiastic about the support they found at Ventspils TSF and were very loyal. This is propitious for the future of the unit, as long as it can speedily integrate these students and also develop its current MAs into a similar future cohort. It is clear that the main issue, not unique to this unit, will be funding – the potential of bright young people to be able to hold on to an academic career.

It is also a question of the potential of staff currently researching at Ventspils TSF to open up the possibilities of the many exciting areas they are working in, currently still rather marginally. Thus we would urge them to develop such areas as legal language (in the EU context), youth/urban language (in a more exploratory spirit) and build up more international contacts and activities in translation theory, inter-medial translation, online language-learning etc. in order to integrate the most recent research trends in translation studies into their research agenda.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

This already exists. TSF's doctoral programme was founded in 2009, in conjunction with Liepaja University. This initiative represents a conscious effort to create a centre for research students working on the Latvian language (and its dialects) outside the capital, as a west-coast collaboration. It builds on the TSF Legal Text Translation master's programme; other specialisms include the development of Latvian terminology, child language and language acquisition in bi-and multilingual situations, literary translation, science discourse. The students run an annual conference, *Via Scientiarum* and publish its proceedings.

As noted above, the doctoral students who appeared at the visit were lively, with a good range of topics, on which they spoke very interestingly. They were well integrated and spoke warmly about the support they received from TSF staff.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

TSF's research focus on applied linguistics, comparative linguistics and translation studies aligns with the RIS3, especially the priority area of ICT which benefits from advancements in computational linguistics and language technologies. TSF has its main focus on research application, e.g. focus on urban language, 'mobile' communication. If possible, a closer cooperation with institutions of media studies and information technology would in all likelihood be necessary to enhance this process. Some interactions already exist but this could be extended across various types of media and all-age education.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

TSF is a lively and active unit in the dissemination of (historical and contemporary, in EU context) research on the Latvian language. Translation is of the highest relevance for developing social, cultural and personal ability to position Latvia in an international context. TSF is in conformity with the national objectives of scientific and technological development as it contributes to the development of human resources for research, language technology and translation sector and promotes the modernisation and integration of research and education sectors.

Recommendations

- TSF's research on the historical and particularly the current and future situation of the Latvian language could lend itself to international comparisons, for instance: general or parallel issues of translation studies, practice of corpora development, theory of literary translation, inter-medial translation, theories of online language-learning, differences between text-based and app-based dictionaries, issues of self-translation, etc.
- TSF's work in applied linguistics includes research in a range of sub-fields that could be developed comparatively in an international context, for instance, the social politics of urban or youth discourse, the language of hate- or cyber-crime, medical language in the context of the pandemic, etc.
- In the EU context – or beyond – a practical comparison with the situation of other 'lesser-spoken' European languages could yield fruitful results.
- As raised already in the last Research Assessment, TSF should aim to publish more in English, as well as German and Russian. While we accept that developing Latvian as a language of science is one of its key goals, it remains true that publishing in Latvian limits the dissemination of its results. One possibility is monograph publication in bilingual parallel text.
- Social impact seems currently to be limited; yet the secure base in the city and region of Ventspils/Northern Kurzeme could be further developed, e.g., by involving the public of all

ages in exploring and maintaining Latvian. A strategy for such activities could help to develop a concerted outreach effort on the part of the unit.

- TSF has an excellent resource in its research students and it is to be hoped that these can be speedily integrated into the staff.

H_6 Liepaja University, Humanities and Arts Unit

2.11 Institute data and description

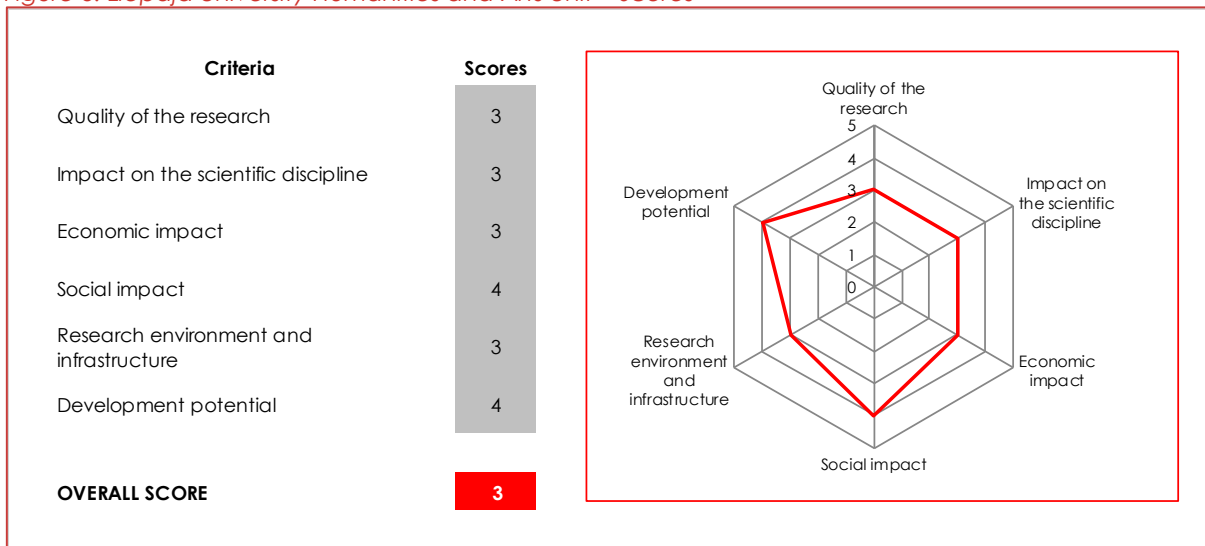
Liepaja University, Humanities and Arts Unit	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	Languages and literature Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music) Other humanities
Related fields of science	Educational sciences
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	24,31
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	9,00
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	33,31
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	28
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	80
Monographs in period 2013-2018	73
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	181
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,84
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	5,43
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	11
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,33
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	1.636.917
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	49.142

Liepaja University is a small university that serves as a centre of higher education, science and cultural activity within the Kurzeme region. Fundamental and applied research of this unit is delivered by the Faculty of the Humanities and Arts (HA) across two physical sites and concentrated in two structural research units: the Kurzeme Institute of Humanities (KIH, since 2007) and the Art Research Laboratory (MPLab, since 2006). The University offers joint doctoral studies in Linguistics with Ventspils University College and a doctoral programme New Media Art has been recruiting students since 2013. Plans to develop both programmes, the former with Ventspils University College and the latter with RISEBA and other European partners are well-developed.

2.12 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 6: Liepaja University Humanities and Arts Unit – Scores



Overall score

Score 3: good level of research

HA is a strong regional and national player with some European partnerships and some valuable international research engagement. Research is well aligned with the city and Kurzeme region, is embedded in regional infrastructures and participates in national and Baltic-region debates about regional and national culture, memory and practice. HA clearly distinguishes its research terrain from that of other Latvian scientific institutions working in related areas (including Ventspils, the Art Academy of Latvia, RISEBA) and works symbiotically and generously with each of them. The unit has some solid partnerships with related institutions in Lithuania, Estonia and Norway as well as some institutions farther afield. Researchers in this unit of assessment are organised within one of four faculties of the University (Humanities and the Arts) and are distributed across two of four research institutes (Kurzeme Institute of Humanities - KIH) and the Art Research Laboratory (MPLab). KIH researchers work in four areas: Latvian Folklore; History of Latvian Literature; History and Theory of the Theatre and Cinema; Latvian Diachronic and Synchronic Linguistics. The language/linguistic/arts and culture group focuses on regional and national identity, culture and memory, publishing in Latvian and English text form as well as basing significant language-focussed work in the speech laboratory setting. Second, the newer Media Arts Unit, with its own lab space (MPLab, a collaboration with Rixc in Riga), whose research is artist- and practice-led, faces outwards to engage with the creative industries and new media communities at a local, national and international level. The quality of the research is generally good, though somewhat variable across research areas, with a few examples of research of an international standard of originality and significance. The institution achieves a strong '3' for its overall score, and a combination of '3's and '4's for specific areas, as below.

Quality of research

Score 3: good

The unit's research falls into two main fields: the linguistic and cultural-identity studies of the Kurzeme region with anchors in both local and European research networks, and new media arts (MPLab), practice-led and networked internationally. Some of the unit's research themes are unique within Latvia and indeed outside the country, including child language recognition and the broader area of speech therapy (in a major collaboration with Liepaja Hospital) and the history and theory of Latvian theatre; other research themes speak directly to more global themes of post-colonialism, totalitarianism and post-Soviet identity. The new media art research connects both with local communities and with global theory and practice. Overall, the unit focusses most on the publication of monographs and traditional academic texts. Research outputs have increased significantly between 2013 and 2018 (monographs went up from 10 to 16), and the number of articles published in peer-reviewed journals (SCOPUS and WoS) rose from zero to six during the assessment period. The quality of the research outputs submitted for close reading was somewhat variable, and the scores for individual outputs are averaged to a '3' to reflect the performance of the whole unit. In relation to practice-led work from the media research cluster, we note that the lively and prolific MPLab listed 50 items in 2018 alone. We note that this unit would very much benefit from the inclusion, in the next Research Assessment, of practice-based outputs – whilst this is true for several of the Latvian institutions participating in this evaluation it is especially relevant to the MPLab researchers.

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 3: good

The University's HA unit produces work that has a high impact on the relevant disciplines at the regional and national level and the influence of some research clusters and individuals extends to the international plane. There is good representation of research staff on editorial boards and the University itself publishes or co-publishes five journals in its research areas. Some of the latter are of long standing and in the unit's traditional research areas. *Acoustic Space* is a more recent project; this was an existing journal (established 1998) that was in 2007 commendably re-formulated by MPLab as a peer-reviewed journal and acts as an important space for publishing transdisciplinary research on art, science, technology and society. Among some partnerships that underpin impact on the scientific discipline we note relationships with the Liepaja theatre and hospital, and (in relation to IT support for developing LiepU's linguistics research) the Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Latvia. Research impact and leadership is extended through international visits (21 researchers and 10 countries), collaborations, and the dissemination of web-based artworks. Although this possibility did not emerge clearly in the virtual visit, there was some useful discussion of local language conditions, bilingualism etc. that suggest that the unit's research could be positioned to engage more effectively beyond its immediate context. The MPLab is well networked both nationally and internationally; it is prolific particularly in non-text outputs (which we suggest should be invited in future Research Assessments); also, new-media arts work includes an important ERASMUS+ funded project on virtual reality in relation to bullying. In these ways some applied research has direct impact. The grade given here reflects the fact that the submitted research did not show this sub-element of the unit to best advantage.

Economic impact

Score 3: good

This unit is very much based in its city and region, both of which have strong identities with multi-cultural and multilingual dimensions. The research is competitive in a number of areas in which is the unit is leading, or uniquely specialised. The work on language acquisition is clearly integral to regional and national policy and to the wellbeing of populations who work in many economic sectors. The unit provides valuable support to local and municipal bodies and the city's development representative spoke very positively at the virtual visit about the contribution made by the University. Non-academic partnerships are rich and rewarding for stakeholders in the areas of youth, sound, and media art. Several individuals as well as the Art Research Lab overall have been recognised for their contribution to the cultures of Liepaja, the Kurzeme region and Latvia. The unit works with six local enterprises (including Liepaja Hospital, as cited above) and thirteen public bodies. It also collaborates with ten enterprises abroad. The Art Research Lab offers the Open Ideas programme to the creative sector and encourages understanding of the interface between science, art and technology through festivals and events. Interactions with companies such as Dirty Deal Audio support product development. We particularly commend the cooperation with industry (e.g. via the Latvian Designers' Union), and the partnering with the Liepaja Business Incubators scheme. A new doctoral programme holds promise for economic impact and sound professional career trajectories for its graduates (see below; it is supported by Liepaja Business Incubators). The SAR did not make sufficiently explicit the way in which the city's Business Incubator scheme supports arts and humanities researchers in creating research partnerships and economic impact – it is often challenging for arts and humanities clusters to design research for impact (including co-creating research with stakeholders), and to articulate the benefits of their research at the economic level.

Social impact

Score 4: very good

At the virtual visit partners spoke enthusiastically about the unit's openness to collaboration. For some international partners (e.g. Lithuania) the unit is a central collaborator for its Latvian language-related activities. The unit works with six local enterprises (including Liepaja Hospital, as cited above) and thirteen public bodies. It also collaborates with ten enterprises abroad. It is clear that the unit is the natural partner in the city for theatre and the arts (indeed in the MPLab the city has a highly valued asset in the form of the E-LAB and arts programming). We note that the unit makes records of some of the city's cultural events, in consultation with the municipality. Relations with young people seem lively and successful whilst cultural-identity outreach includes lifelong learners. The unit has an important and well-established relationship with local schools and children who benefit from encouragement through the 'young scientist' activities and competitions. LiepU is particularly active in popularising science and encouraging curiosity. There is community benefit from the annual Arts Lab iWeek festival and impact is extended to a collaboration with Helsinki to deliver an annual arts festival. At the virtual visit we heard about some of the issues relating to youth experience of bullying in Latvia and note that the MPLab is beginning to make a difference with its work on VR technologies in anti-bullying programming. Evidence of productive collaborations and partnerships between MPLab and Latvian bodies bring innovative cultural programmes to the region; MPLab's partnership with other European bodies places them on the main stage of European developments in these areas and adds competitiveness to LiepU's value. Both doctoral programmes hold promise for economic impact and sound professional career trajectories for their graduates (see below).

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 3: good

The SAR presents two research areas with an infrastructure of four sub-structures, which may make sense on the ground - and historically to the University itself - but from the outside seems over-complicated. The MPLab is clearly an entity that is freer to determine itself, while there appears to be blurring - at least in the SAR itself - between the over-arching HA and the components FHA and KIH - this is rather confusing and may discourage integrative conversations, decision-making and resource allocation. Annual income, both state-based and competitive funds, are growing significantly and steadily, pointing to the unit's sustainability and its capacity to support considerable future development. This is the case for both research areas, which is encouraging. There is evidence of capital investment in the LiepU estate, mainly the renovation of key teaching spaces and the equipping of art workshops and media-arts facilities. Linguistics labs also appear to be well-equipped. The University organises the research staff of this unit across faculties and research institutes. Academic research personnel increased from 10 to 23 over the assessment period, which is encouraging. The Panel noted that Benedikts Kalnacs is based largely in a different institution (in fact he appeared at this virtual visit as a partner); such arrangements weaken the infrastructure. Management planning is sound, taking its lead largely from university-wide development plans, though the SAR itself was sometimes opaque, and tended to list aspirations rather than illustrate them. There is good provision of facilities for staff and students, and explicit plans to digitise resources for the humanities; some digital resources (KIH) have been made available to the public. A significant part of the research activity of this unit is reliant on lab-based practice which is both integral to the research itself and one important way of connecting with users and communities. The University's physical infrastructure was recently renovated and the Arts Lab is particularly well equipped, enabling it to be flexible and mobile (for example, for field work). In terms of the way the University integrates its researchers and research themes there is a sense of good connection between staff and mutual support, but little evidence of strategic dialogue between research clusters. For example, the MPLab is doing some leading work with youth (using VR) while the Linguistics labs are basing their work on rather traditional practices with their communities of young people. One wonders whether some dialogue about working with the arts and new media approaches might enliven some of the research in the area of linguistics, language and multi-culturalism, and if so, what internal structures and culture shifts would support that. On the doctoral level the University is creating a Doctoral School for its two PhD programmes: one in Linguistics, jointly with local partner Ventspils University College, and also with an innovative collaboration with the University of Latvia's Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science. The second programme in New Media Art is being re-developed in partnership with RISEBA, OSLO Met and Aalto University, Finland.

Development potential

Score 4: very good

The unit presents 33.31 FTE researchers. There is a slight decline in numbers since 2013. However, the number of professors has more than doubled, to 3.8 FTE. We note that staff have established a good record of attaining PhDs. The researchers in this unit are delivering research in important areas of Latvian society and economy, are well embedded in lab-based practice and successful in increasing the publication of peer-reviewed research. Members of the unit's doctoral cohort are enthusiastic and loyal to the University, and plans for a forthcoming joint doctoral programme with RISEBA and international partners are highly promising. Potential is indicated in several areas. Plans for development beyond this assessment period (presented in the virtual visit) indicate some useful directions that include participation in National Research

Programmes and a new project 'Uniting History', which looks to be a very useful research direction with the potential to attract partners and funding and engage with international debate. The MPLab is successful in its delivery of local programmes, online content and international developments in new media arts. The lab was a partner in the 'VR not bullies' project, and as a next step the researchers might usefully consider what research they would like to initiate in this area (for example, can VR experience extend beyond 'candy' for young people?). A good range of international relationships (within the Baltic region and with other countries in northern Europe, as well as some connections further afield) suggest potential for further partnership development, with an eye to funding opportunities. Competitive funding increased impressively in 2017-2018, which shows encouraging potential for sustainable research development. Building on their relationship with the museum in Liepaja would expand existing research in the areas of arts and heritage and may open up new conversations about curating, cultural preservation and museology.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

There is a good infrastructure for doctoral programmes. The unit is currently developing its doctoral offering in line with its strongest areas of research and expertise, and in relation to state policies concerning development. One is with Ventspils University College in the area of linguistics (Joint doctoral studies in Linguistics). In response to a student survey research methodology courses will be improved, and IT for linguistics research will be incorporated with the support of the University of Latvia's Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science. The other doctoral programme is in New Media Art – the only doctoral programme in Latvia aimed directly at practising artists. The latter has been rethinking its current programme, creating new partnerships with RISEBA, Oslo MET and Aalto University, Finland, and expanding into the audio-visual media sector. The MPLab has an innovative, inclusive approach to its postgraduate provision, including recruitment (a joint MA with RISEBA may create a useful pipeline), and the repositioned doctoral offer is a strategic and promising development. LiepU has a good infrastructure for this unit's doctoral programmes, both of which have a strong 'hands-on' dimension. The students who participated in the virtual visit were enthusiastic, loyal and committed to their various projects and future careers. The students in the language/linguistics/cultural research areas were more focussed on careers in academia and in Latvia; the artists and new media researchers had an eye to more international job markets. All felt embedded in the University, especially through teaching roles that brought them together informally. It was less clear whether the University was bringing the students together at the formal level, as doctoral students (rather than as employees), but we note that a Doctoral School is currently being formed in the expectation of the Ministry's structural and financial reform of doctoral studies to take effect.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

HA's new media art and language research programmes conform to the RIS3, particularly to the priority area of ICT. For example, MPLab implements interdisciplinary projects that combine STEM subjects with Art (STEAM = STEM + Arts), make use of 3D printing, drones, etc. Interdisciplinary efforts are also sought in linguistics e.g., research in machine translation. In addition, HA plays an active part in local education, engaging schoolchildren in the ideas of science, and contributing research on language pedagogy.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

LiepU has continued to develop its two main research areas in a way that conforms well to the national scientific and technology development objectives. It is clearly in strong alignment with the goals of strengthening regional and national competitiveness through its education

activities. LiepU also shows commitment to the modernisation and integration of research and education sectors, increasing their ability of respond to future challenges.

Recommendations

- LiepU is encouraged to explore with other small, regional universities how to build a sustainable model for excellent research, multi-dimensional impact and research of international significance.
- It will be useful to consider how to engage with broader debates about intangible heritage, bilingualism, multilingualism and multi-culturalism.
- The University will need to ensure that research areas dependent on individuals (eg theatre) are planned for, encourage staff completion of PhDs and continue to invest in early career researchers.
- The linguistics group need to engage not only at the level of practice but also in local/global discourse, including themes of language, bilingualism, multilingualism and multi-culturalism. MPLab needs to consider how to improve the quality and significance of textual outputs.
- Development of the 'digital humanities', in dialogue with other leading institutions in Latvia (for example, ILFA), would be useful.
- The unit must continue to explore how to shape innovation and product design and consider how working more consistently with the city's museum might bring shared research agendas to light, expand impact to museum audiences via both physical and virtual sites, and offer opportunities for student engagement.
- We recommend continuous attention to opportunities for European funding; there is room to build on success with ERASMUS+ and KA2 funding sources.
- We recommend cross-disciplinary contact throughout the doctoral cohort through the new Doctoral School.

H_7 Daugavpils University Research programme "Regional studies, literature and arts"

2.13 Institute data and description

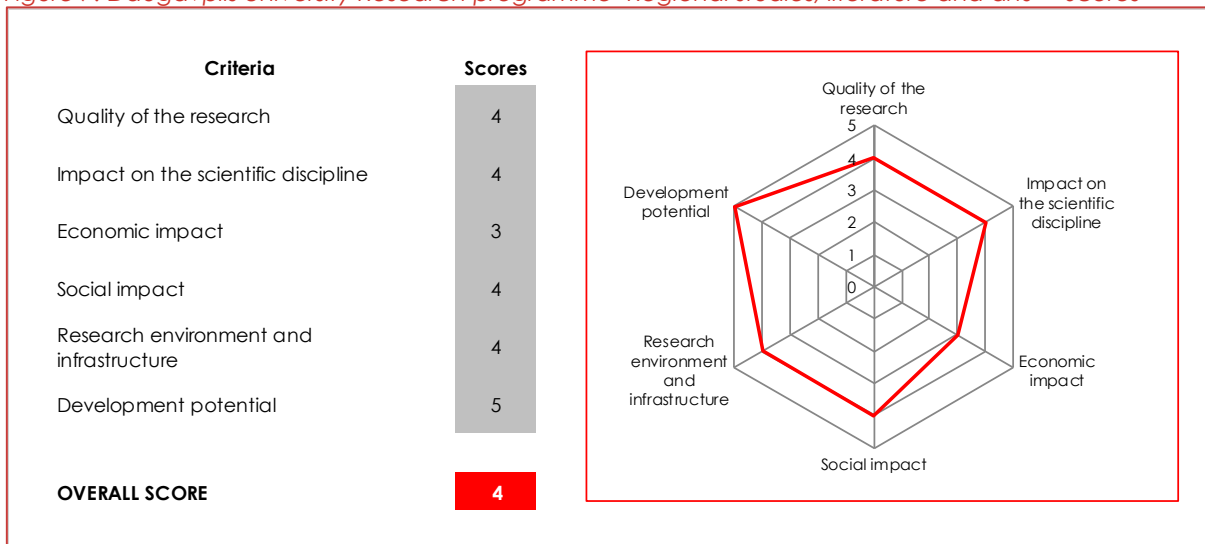
Daugavpils University Research programme "Regional studies, literature and arts"	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	History and archaeology Languages and literature Philosophy, ethics and religion Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music)
Related fields of science	Educational sciences Sociology
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	36,35
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	5,51
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	41,86
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	117
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	406
Monographs in period 2013-2018	22
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	545
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	2,80
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	13,02
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	15
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,36
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	15.219.338
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	363.577

The Daugavpils University Faculty of Humanities was established in 1952 within the then Pedagogical Institute. Since 2015 the research has been organised across research units and departments for both teaching and research in the research programme Regional Studies, Literature, and Art (RSLA), including research in history/archeology, literature, the arts, language and philosophy and affiliated with sociology and pedagogy. With an emphasis on interdisciplinary studies within those fields the research foci are regional studies in a broad national, regional and international perspective.

2.14 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 7: Daugavpils University Research programme "Regional studies, literature and arts" – Scores



Overall score

Score 4: very good level of research

The establishment of RSLA in 2015 resulted in remarkable research progress, building on the research areas that have been developed in Daugavpils during the last Research Assessment period and before. The RSLA has been instrumental in bringing these areas to a new level through international collaboration and by expanding into new research topics. It has clearly been a sought-after partner in international research projects and will continue to be so in future years. The process of integrating excellence in research based on the region of Latgale with international research on borderlands and regions has given the local and regional focus new dimensions and new perspectives and has provided the international collaboration with a local and empirical anchoring. The international organisation of the research work has intensified collaboration between staff in an interdisciplinary environment. The integration of doctoral students as collaborators and the attempt to broaden the portfolio of partners testifies to the active strategic and inclusive management.

Quality of research

Score 4: very good

Since the reorganisation of research activities in 2015 with the creation of RSLA considerable progress in research has been made within the general framework of comparative cultural studies. The period 2013-2018 saw a widening of the scope of research and a rise in the quality of the submitted papers, of which only the submission in Philosophy falls below the mark. New topics like youth culture and new approaches to cultural identity studies, including memory studies and Jewish studies in Russian, have been taken up and published internationally. The Centre for Oral History with its strong global international contacts has done outstanding historical work. Many of the research results have broadened and intensified the focus on the Latgale region as a border region with analyses that RSLA successfully transferred to other European contexts. Despite a falling number of active researchers from 2013 (36.10) to 2018

(27.12) and of academic staff as a whole (from 87.79 to 66.15) the level of the research activity has either gone up in terms of peer reviewed international research publications (from 4 in 2013 to 25 in 2018) or remained on the same level as is the case for monographs. This testifies to the energy and innovative research engagement of the RSLA. At the same time, the number of international research collaborations has grown, including increased access to international funding, and the research outreach has been strengthened with a number of new regional partnerships. Doctoral students are actively involved in research projects and supported financially from the RSLA's budget for various research related tasks, a staff policy that has increased the potential for research despite the gradual drop in staff numbers.

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 4: very good

Since the 2013 Research Assessment the RSLA has successfully implemented its strategy of intensifying its international reach, not only in English but also in Russian and German of particular relevance in the Latgale region. Over a short period of time the RSLA has developed its international collaborations with external funding, mainly as a result of the multiple approaches to the Latgale region as a border region through the disciplines integrated in the RSLA's research activities; this has made visible the cultural importance of multilingual border areas in an international context. The RSLA has participated in Horizon 2020 and FP7 programmes as a partner and should in the future aiming for the role of coordinator and host. The programmes running in the period 2013-2018 have included universities across Europe and RSLA staff have taken part in international conferences and received international guests; however, a more systematic approach to exchanges should be taken in the strategy for the coming years. Some of the in-house journals edited by the RSLA have been listed in EBSCO and Scopus, but they seem to have overlapping research subjects and a reorganisation of the resources in this domain could be considered.

Economic impact

Score 3: good

The impact of humanities research will most often be channeled through its social and cultural impact as a driver for social development; this includes an economic impact. RSLA is engaged in three ongoing activities that have local impact. One set of activities concerns the tourist industry, including partners such as local museums, the municipality and the regional authorities. The second impact activity based on competence in Latvian/English/Russian is a collaboration with the IT-company LatinSoft Ltd, and the RSLA has also assisted five local companies with visual and verbal advertisement and branding. The third impact is generated by RSLA's linguistic and cultural work with immigrants and minorities in the border region, in order to improve their integration into Latvian society as an asset to the local job market.

Social impact

Score 4: very good

RSLA has engaged in a broad scope of outreach activities in various formats, most of them in collaboration with partners in local institutions like museums, schools, archives, the municipality and the region (exhibitions, research to underpin restoration and development material for tourism). Cooperation with the Czech Republic on a European survey of political engagements of youth groups and other activities related to youth culture are inventive contributions to social impact (including the game "Hit!100" in connection with the Latvia 100 year jubilee, e-museum "Vita Memoriae", training for teachers, thematic contests for school children in cooperation

with other countries). Together with the ongoing project on collecting oral histories which reflects the linguistic and cultural diversity of the region, the cross-linguistic work with minorities (Russian/Latvian) and immigrant communities inside and outside the school system is important for local cultural life as a whole. RSLA has made major attempts to make the region attractive to young people and to establish an open and participatory culture in the diverse ethnic and linguistic regional environment. With an outward-looking perspective RSLA has shown a clear commitment to the local culture as a whole.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 4: very good

The material infrastructure is sufficient for teaching and research activities, with necessary technological, digital and other equipment such as musical instruments. The library is integrated into a larger network of online national library catalogues. Despite the shrinking number of scientific staff, through the reorganisation after 2015 RSLA has succeeded in further developing the research environment into a vibrant and open-minded workplace for researchers, thanks to a well thought-out strategy and the ability to implement it. Doctoral students are closely integrated into the research process, even with a system on remuneration for some of their tasks, and a system of regular allocation of sabbaticals has been established. The self-assessment and the interview revealed a spirit of innovation, mutual commitment and openness toward social demands, research development and outreach.

Development potential

Score 5: outstanding

DU RSLA has defined ambitious but realistic goals and a sound strategic plan for institutional organization and future development. The cooperative spirit of the staff has also made it possible to implement the strategy, which has consolidated the RSLA and helped to keep a balance between research activities addressing local issues and international ambitions creating a dynamic interaction between the two dimensions of RSLA's research profile. The process of enlarging the number of partners across the public and private sectors offers clear potential for continuation and may also be used to create possibilities for students as trainees and to keep a well-educated young generation in the region despite the less favorable current demographic and economic conditions. The well-structured and attractive research commitment of RSLA has the potential to contribute to a turn-around of this development and to increase future recruitment of both senior staff and doctoral students/postdocs. There is potential also to enhance international exchange and attract both foreign doctoral students and Latvian returnees to work in Daugavpils.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

RSLA is already engaged in doctoral studies via the various programmes of the departments of the university. Units like the RSLA with a very good research environment have the potential to recruit more students, including from abroad. However, the present number of staff and the present institutional structure of doctoral studies in Latvia may reduce the potential.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

DU RSLA research contributes to a wider understanding of regionalism and regional identities and it aims to do so in comparative perspective. Its research focus has a notable contribution to the local tourism. The unit has made some interesting initiatives in science communication, and its links to businesses in the art, cultural and heritage sectors are strong. There is plenty of

good evidence that various members of the research programme are actively working with schools and teachers. The research programme also shows important contribution to the integration of migrants and minorities in Latvian culture and society that helps to enhance social cohesion. Overall, DU RSLA has a horizontal impact on the objectives of the RIS3. It's most important work is in niches that are somewhat less emphasised by the strategy.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

DU RSLA conforms strongly to the national objectives of scientific and technology development. It contributes to the development of human capital in science, technology and innovation sectors. RSLA internationalisation strategy and its successes have been impressive, and it should be able to build on this in future years to become an internationally leading research group promoting the competitiveness of science.

Recommendations

RSLA is a strong institutional formation within Daugavpils University. Nevertheless, recommendations for a sustainable future evolution are useful.

- In order to maintain the momentum and further strengthen the RSLA's involvement with all its researchers, regular self-evaluation seminars, for example on an annual basis are recommended.
- Use the existing international networks to develop new research areas and directions.
- Intensify international collaboration by including more mutual exchange, for example through international masterclasses for doctoral students/younger staff.
- Prepare a joint EU project with Daugavpils University as the coordinator/ host institution.
- Establish collaboration with other national and international institutions to attract more doctoral students.
- Increase the number of private-sector partners of RSLA in the region.
- Further develop the partnerships for trainee positions and internship to improve job opportunities for upcoming generations.
- Consider reducing the number of in-house journals and instead create international outlets with international advisory boards.
- Consider the creation of an international advisory board for RSLA.

H_8 Art Academy of Latvia

2.15 Institute data and description

Art Academy of Latvia	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music)
Related fields of science	History and archaeology Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music) Other humanities
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	104,00
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	9,00
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	113,00
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	22
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	28
Monographs in period 2013-2018	14
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	64
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,19
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	0,57
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	15
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,13
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	1.642.370
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	14.534

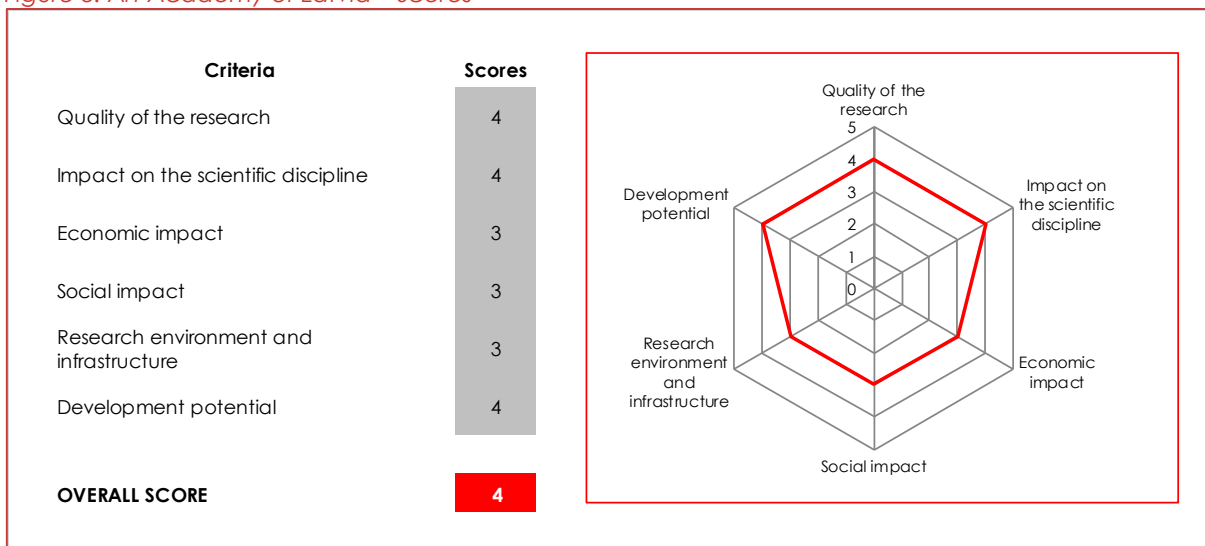
The Art Academy of Latvia (AAL) clearly identifies itself as Latvia's leading institution for art history and art practice across a number of disciplines. Established in 1919, it occupies a neo-Gothic building in Riga that is itself a fine expression of architecture and the applied arts. The Academy created departments of Art History and of Design in the 1960s, and in 2002 founded an Institute of Art History (IAH), which is a significant part of this research submission. In 2018, the Academy became a scientific research institution of Latvia. Overall, the blend of a sizeable art history faculty alongside practice-based clusters is unique in Latvia and internationally distinctive - most European and American art schools, for example, are driven by practice with their humanities faculty operating at an adjunct level. The Academy possesses a significant Library which includes some unique archival material and is accessible to researchers in art disciplines. Over 700 students are inscribed in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes,

working in art history and across practice-based disciplines including art, design, new media, drawing and the humanities. A Doctoral Study Program was accredited from 2001.

2.16 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 8: Art Academy of Latvia – Scores



Overall score

Score 4: very good level of research

The AAL makes an important distinction between art history in Latvia and Latvian art history, avoiding a nationalistic agenda for the arts. During this assessment period it began to publish ambitious and internationally important research including the IAH's *Art History of Latvia*. There is evidence of engagement through visiting programs, networks and collaborations with a good range of academic institutions and some work with museums; there is more potential for work with museums and in the field of museology. The SAR gives evidence of forward-thinking research, strong infrastructure and good non-academic engagement. There is evidence also of grant income generation, and potential for more. The virtual visit showed a strong commitment to research quality, evidenced by the strength of research outputs that are significant within the discipline, and a new collaboration between the AAL and art schools across Europe holds promise. There is a challenge, common to all art and design schools, in deepening engagement with the creative economies. Mindful of the risk that Riga-based organisations can easily draw resources to the centre to the disadvantage of the regions, we recommend that the Academy's development plans are shaped with a view to national and regional agendas for scientific research, the arts and creative economies, and social cohesion. There is evidence of engagement through visiting programs, networks and collaborations with a good range of academic institutions, including museums, inside and outside Latvia with more potential for work with museums and in the field of museology. There is evidence also of solid grant income generation.

Quality of research

Score 4: very good

The IAH covers an unusually long chronology (prehistoric to contemporary) of Art History. Research is focused within a national framework while being designed to engage at the international level with the writing of national art histories, especially European art histories. This mission is well-expressed in the ongoing *Art History of Latvia*, which is an outstanding project. The individual volumes in this series are impressive. Many of the other submissions are empirically focused and several engage well with global issues in theory and ideology. They include original works on urban planning and architectural history; particular histories of sanatorium architecture and cathedral architecture form reference works on particular building types. Scores for these vary between 3s and 4s and most are internationally significant. Note that there is a reliance on the work of one individual (Klavins, who authored or edited six of the eleven outputs offered for close reading). The ambition to develop practice-based research along with IAH's focus on theory will rely on sourcing appropriate researchers and experts who are capable of working across theory and practice (potentially with other arts institution partners).

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 4: very good

The Academy is extremely well-networked across European universities, art academies and museums and is an active partner in the Baltic Art Historians' conferences, hosting one in 2016. The AAL's *Journal of Art History & Theory* is in Latvian and indexed on SCOPUS. It is hoped that the best of the Journal might also find its way into English and other foreign language publications to increase exposure and engagement with the broader discipline. Six faculty members sit on other journal editorial boards; six of these are in SCOPUS and others in ERIH. The *Art History of Latvia*, published in English, is an internationally influential work that stands within the field of Art History as an extraordinary resource and a benchmark of scholarship on national art traditions. The unit committed to this in 2013, and it formed a large part of the collective research activity of the IAL during this research assessment period. This core multi-volume output is in English. As a recently-accepted member of RIHA the Academy is part of international conversations about art and its institutions – this is an important membership, unique in Latvia, as there is valuable knowledge within that network.

Economic impact

Score 3: good

The SAR presents an institution with well-established networks, a good number of relationships with non-academic partners and some design collaboration with industry; one notable example is the AAL's contribution to the food-water-energy nexus (Horizon 2020). There is significant impact in the areas of heritage and tourism, and some evidence of collaboration with enterprises. AAL provides a pipeline of trained experts for the museums and heritage sectors, the ministries and in the broader arts and creative industries – it sees its graduates as key actors in developing external relationships. Museum collaborations include the 2018 exhibition at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris: *Wild Souls. Symbolism in the Baltic States*, conceived by the Latvian National Museum of Arts, supported by the Ministry of Culture, and co-created with partners in Lithuania and Estonia, and an exhibition focussing on The Dusseldorf School of Painting in Estonia and Latvia (Art Museum of Estonia). The Academy works also with the Latvian Contemporary Art Centre and the Jarmarka art fair, that offer important impact via cultural tourism - the latter opens up a marketplace for art sales.

Social impact

Score 3: good

Senior faculty of AAL and IAH have seats in organizations concerned with public policy and governance. Significant social impact is derived from the AAL's research on the preservation and interpretation of national cultural heritage, especially in Latvian public institutions. The galleries at the AAL, including the new 'experimental art space' are not mentioned in the SAR but other sources indicate that these create social impact for tourists as well as local visitors. *Art History of Latvia* is distributed to art schools at no charge – there is valuable educational impact here. The Horizon 2020 project on migrations, if funds are awarded, will be an important project to share with communities, and a pivot for talking about significant local and global themes, politically, culturally and artistically.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 3: good

The advice of 2013 Research Assessment has been successfully implemented at the infrastructural level. New strategies are articulated, with clarity on direction and some detail on how to achieve institutional goals. Planning has paid off with SCCF, H2020, ERDF/ESF and INTERRG successes. Conversion of networking and cooperation agreements into productive partnerships within the creative economies will be important. Academic staff numbers over a hundred, yet include only seven "leading researchers and researchers". Research outputs are heavily weighted to one individual, as acknowledged in the SAR. It is important to consider how the institution can enable research activity and excellence across more of the academic staff and how early career appointments will support a succession planning process. There are plans for investment in facilities, including an increase in private sector investment. The Kuga house, a part of the estate, plus the Kalpaka Bvd site, will be modernised and the former will be, in partnership with the municipality, deployed for both doctoral work and functions. Riga Makerspace will be established in a third re-developed site for the use of AAL and the Riga Design and Art Secondary School. The structural alignment of the Technology Transfer Office within Project and Development is over-loaded and needs reorganisation.

Development potential

Score 4: very good

The Academy will need to build on its strongest achievements so far, while creating an aspirational and innovation-centred research culture with more direct engagement with the creative economy (the AAL cites the Royal College of Art as an inspiring model). One part of this roadmap will be the new partnership with a network of leading European art schools. The AAL aspires to increased participation in international, interdisciplinary research consortia and cross-disciplinary design research in the context of technology and knowledge transfer. Research on knowledge transformation in the Latvian economy is a useful start in the next phase of engagement with the creative industries. 'Riga Makerspace' is already an exciting new venture that is very much in alignment with international practice – this appears to be a space to watch. Issues around ethics and research integrity may also be an area where the AAL could lead. The realization of the AAL's potential will rely on extremely clear resource planning and the securing of European grants. Support from the Teterev Foundation is a good start, and the H2020 migration project is an excellent innovation.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

The Academy's student numbers are currently BA: 496; MA 200; PhD 34 suggesting a sensible distribution and pipeline between undergraduate/postgraduate/doctoral work and potential for increased capacity at the doctoral level. The Doctoral Study Department is in place to support a new programme of theoretical doctoral research (with the Latvian Academy of Music and Latvian Academy of Culture). The Academy has conducted a review to identify obstacles to success and to move forward it has created new strategies, based on incentivising students and supervisors, the development of a new doctoral studies program, and creating more facilities (including summer school space in the Kuga House) and joint doctoral schools. New training for supervisors and students will be put in place, and mentoring may also help here. We note that funding for the expansion of this programme is being supported by EU Structural Funds, as is post-doctoral training; the employment of graduates is monitored.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

AAL aligns strongly with the RIS3. The Academy research in the fields of art history and design has a catalytic effect on the creative industries offering a potential for high value-added products. Fashion, textile technology, material technology and design are all areas that support the specialisation area of smart materials, technologies and engineering systems. AAL plans for private sector investment in its infrastructure (facilities, especially in design specialisms). The Academy explicitly advocates for focus on the creative industries and explains its strategic commitment to and endeavours in these areas.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

AAL shows clear engagement with State aspirations, values and policies and is actively contributing to aims of the national scientific and technology development. AAL, based on the potential elaborated by the Institute of Art History of the AAL, continues commitment toward high research culture. The Academy has contributed to the cooperation between researchers and enterprises by conducting industrial (applied) research and experimental developments, encouraging cooperation between industry and academic staff and students and establishing, maintaining and fine-tuning respective structures, as the Design Department, the Technology Transfer Office and the Project and Development Department, emboldening the practice to address industry and society-related problems. AAL is also the partner of the Investment and Development Agency that manages Creative Industries Incubator.

Recommendations

- The new strategy needs more precision. Internally there is room for a discussion about current management structures and whether they are fit for purpose for the next phase of development; for example, The Academy needs to diversify income and resources as defined in the SAR-specific infrastructural roles relating to fundraising and partnerships may be useful here.
- At the project level, as the ambitious publication of *The Art History of Latvia* comes to a conclusion during the next assessment period, new projects, perhaps again collective and collaborative, that serve the strategy should be defined.
- Externally there is a promising partnership with European art schools, and this would be well-complemented by a precise plan for collaboration with industry, museums and other cultural bodies, supported by a newly configured and probably renamed Technology Transfer Office (see below).
- The current structural alignment of the Technology Transfer Office within Project and Development is causing concern as the latter is over-loaded. This area of infrastructure

demands urgent attention and some freeing up, restructuring, or different resource plan, so that the experimental and design-thinking unit can, as fully as possible, support future productivity and impact. The AAL indicates in the SAR that the Riga Makerspace may be the venue for such a unit.

- The Academy itself points to the need for a platform for bringing researchers and enterprises together, and the TTO must be configured to perform that role effectively across sectors and disciplines. The AAL also proposes a peer-reviewed open access online journal could usefully support such endeavours, and this may become a valuable source for all institutions facing the same challenges. Discussions about this resource should be dovetailed with those about the future configuration of the TTO.
- The SWOT analysis defines a lack of technical staff; this must be addressed if the infrastructure is to be sustainable and fit for purpose.
- The Academy's academic staff numbers over a hundred FTEs yet includes only seven "leading researchers and researchers". Research outputs are heavily weighted to one individual who has been an anchor for the Institute of Art History since the early 1960s (Klavins). This demographic is cause for concern, as the unit fully acknowledges in the SAR, and HR development and succession planning are essential.
- In the longer term it would be useful to consider how the institution can enable research activity and excellence across more of the academic staff, how it can develop interdisciplinary and artistic research projects, how early career appointments will be funded to support a succession planning process, and how younger researchers can be attracted into the institution.
- Planning for furthering internationalisation of research and significant interdisciplinary collaborations, such as the funded Sustainable Urbanisation Global Initiative (SUGI)/Food-Water-Energy Nexus and the H2020 project on early modern migration of artists and architects, and other such opportunities, must be actively pursued and built on.
- We recommend that developments in doctoral programmes are fully integrated with institutional strategies and planning cycles.

H_9 Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia

2.17 Institute data and description

Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	Languages and literature Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music)
Related fields of science	Earth and related environmental sciences Media and communications
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	0,00
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	36,37
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	36,37
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	62
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	210
Monographs in period 2013-2018	32
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	304
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	1,70
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	8,36
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	3
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,08
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	5.637.131
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	154.994

The Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art (ILFA) is a research-only institution, with 36.37 FTE research academic staff (in 2018). Its research is nominally split between three main units – literature, folklore and art (*sic* = arts, specifically music and theatre).

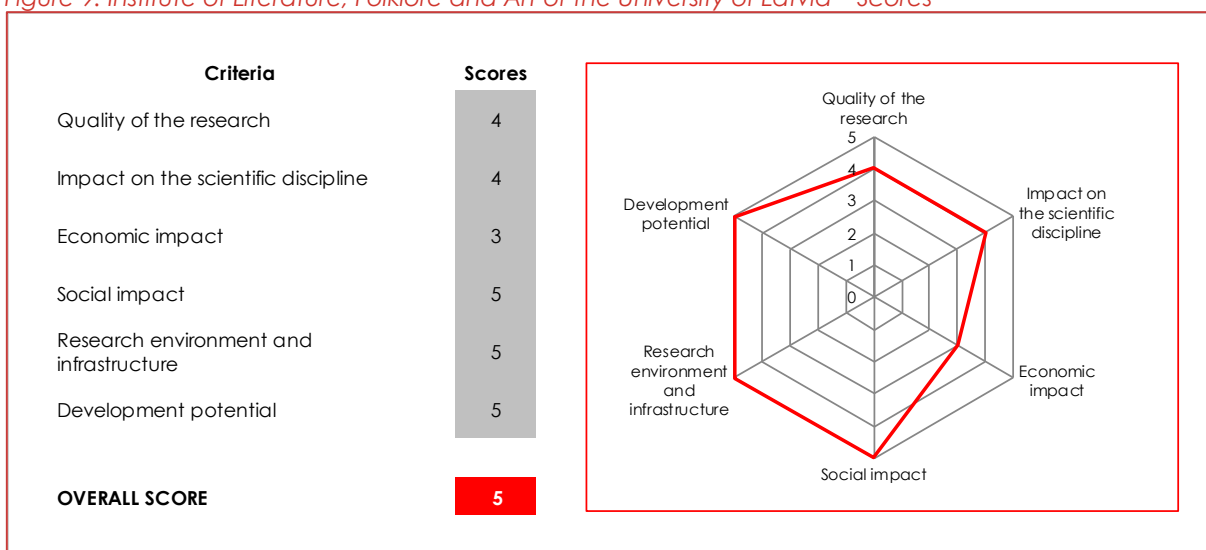
Located now within the National Library of Latvia, while also attached administratively to the University of Latvia, ILFA has the advantage of a location that hosts their landmark Archives of Latvian Folklore (ALF) as well as a wealth of other archival material relevant to their research; it also allows for public access to this material and for support in digitising it, a task which is well on the way to completion.

The research carried out at ILFA is firmly rooted in the study of Latvian culture and traditions. Yet at the same time they have projected those research topics towards global issues (such as gender identity, cultural memory and life-writing, colonialism and post-colonialism, the role of crowdsourcing in the preservation of traditions, digital humanities and environmental humanities), taking active critical angles, thus contributing to placing Latvia and its culture in the international interdisciplinary research scene.

2.18 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 9: Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia – Scores



Overall score

Score 5: outstanding level of research

ILFA has a clear conception of where they stand nationally and internationally, and of the significance of their research. The SAR is lucid and well-structured. It provides a clear sense of their plans and strategies to build on their strengths and to tackle the areas in which further progress can be made.

The virtual visit was very well prepared, giving the panel a good grasp of the depth and breadth of their different research lines and projects. The interview was very informative, as were the video and the introductory PowerPoint presentation. The panel's questions were answered succinctly, and the queries addressed perspicuously.

The meeting also demonstrated the strength of strategic management, as well as the atmosphere of mutual support, exchange and cooperation among the staff. Early-career researchers are integrated into all research projects. Doctoral students, based at the University of Latvia and the Latvian Academy of Culture etc, are taught and mentored by ILFA; they are strongly encouraged to build an international study profile and to network among themselves.

ILFA is well connected to Latvian society (including diasporic) through digital and outreach activities, most strikingly through their ground-breaking use of crowdsourcing to create banks of transcribed folkloric material; this involves both schools and the general public and has led

to international imitations. Social impact is also assured by the ongoing collection of 'life narratives' and, most recently, 'pandemic diaries'.

The quality and impact of the research during the evaluated period suggest that ILFA is a strong international player, a centre of reference for the study of the culture, literature and traditions of Latvia and the Baltic region. And the expansion to wider areas of research that ILFA has undertaken makes the institution extremely close to the position of being a global leader.

Quality of research

Score 4: very good

The quality of ILFA's publications is consistently high.

ILFA has the advantage of being a research-only unit, whose staff are dedicated to a mix of conservation/archival work and research in a range of a cross-disciplinary humanities fields. Though its academic home is within the University of Latvia (UL), it has a marked degree of intellectual and financial independence and has autonomy in e.g. grant applications, plus it is physically located outside UL in the context of the main academic infrastructure, the National Library of Latvia. But ILFA goes well beyond the baseline of these advantages. Its research was revealed, at the visit as well as in the advance documentation, to be imaginative, interdisciplinary and proactive. They take nothing for granted. For example, in relation to the question of national cultural identity – which is, after all, their main focus – they take a constructivist angle which allows for a critical-historical approach; and in ethnomusicology they work with the Roma minority. As far as folkloristics is concerned, they are, with the University of Tartu, among the top players in the CEE/Baltic area.

Of the five publications assigned for review, four focus primarily on Latvian and, more generally, on Baltic culture and traditions. The fifth one, on how crowdsourcing is changing the participatory practices in the development of tradition archives, addresses a more general issue of global interest for anyone specialising in the collection, preservation and analysis of culture and traditions. The five pieces are of high quality, and three of them arguably top notch.

All the other publications have, to a large extent, a focus on Latvian and Baltic culture and, via that focus, several of them project the research towards global issues, such as gender identity, cultural memory and life-writing, literary anthropology and colonialism and post-colonialism.

A recent project, the Pandemic Diaries, also reveals ILFA's capacity to adapt their research very quickly to new challenges.

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 4: very good

Publication (or media-based equivalent) in internationally recognised outlets is a tenure requirement at ILFA.

Several publications are in well-ranked journals, some of them with a substantial number of international citations. One unusual aspect is publications in bilingual parallel text (LV-DE & LV-FR); ILFA also has an in-house journal, *Letonica*. In general, it is obvious that ILFA's researchers strive to have international impact, both via publications and via participation in conferences.

ILFA is in dialogue with the fields they research in, and ahead of the field in some areas – folkloristics, CEE postcolonial theory, cultural memory studies and ethnomusicology of the region. Their work in digitisation of their archival holdings is well developed and their crowdsourcing transcription work is highly innovative and has been taken up by other

countries; similarly, the collection of life stories (including the pandemic diaries) is forward-thinking. In the area of digital humanities (DH), they initiated the Baltic DH Summer School and cooperation with digitised intangible cultural heritage collections of the Baltic region. More broadly, ILFA has run or co-run 15 international conferences and 34 international projects, plus four COST actions in the period 2013–2018.

Discussion during the visit reinforced the impression of an international outlook combined with national commitment which had been gained from the advance documentation – for instance, ILFA encourages doctoral students to study abroad but this is mainly fieldwork and does not lead to ‘brain drain’.

Economic impact

Score 3: good

The research performed by members of the institution has cultural and social rather than economic impact. It is to be appreciated that the SAR makes that point clearly: the non-academic institutions that they collaborate with are mainly cultural bodies, the Ministry of Culture, etc. Some of ILFA's projects have indirect economic impact, but their full potential is still insufficiently explored by the institution.

ILFA attracts visitors to the Library (in normal times), for example to exhibitions such as that based on the Barons Folksong Cabinet (listed as a UNESCO Memory of the World item 2001), but it is clear that most of the access to their folkloristic, ethnomusical, etc. holdings is remote, due to ongoing digitisation. Most of their very energetic involvement with non-academics, such as schools etc. has no direct economic impact, though it may be understood to have indirect economic effects.

Social impact

Score 5: outstanding

ILFA's research has very high social interest and social impact, both in Latvia and potentially beyond.

Popularisation activities include exhibitions, storytelling, narrative-writing etc.; there is also collaboration with ministries, NGOs and other cultural bodies. The partners we met during the visit were enthusiastic about ILFA's activities in intangible heritage etc.

In this sense it is clear that the interaction between ILFA and society goes both ways, since issues that arise among the general public shape part of ILFA's research. For instance, the crowdsourcing project started with schoolchildren and then grew to include ‘citizen scientists’ of all ages, and it is contributing to make the voices of the public play an important role in the collection and preservation of traditions. The Pandemic Diaries project not only gathers and disseminates public sentiments and reflections on the effects of the pandemic but, by articulating the contributions as a coherent whole, it will surely provide an excellent instrument for future research in Latvia and beyond.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 5: outstanding

ILFA's infrastructure is excellent, not least in the sense of physical environment – located in the architecturally innovative National Library, with immediate access to resources on a reciprocal basis and high-level infrastructural support. This also sustains their digitisation of the archives (ALF), display of the cabinet, material artefacts etc.

In addition, ILFA is a cohesive unit in which the different areas of study are properly integrated. There is an unusual level of mutual cooperation among both staff and students, and it was clear from the interviews that management is conducted in the 'non-hierarchical' spirit claimed in the SAR: clear strategy direction together with encouragement of independent thinking. Publications and events are discussed in an open staff forum. Morale is visibly high, and this has effects throughout their activities.

Thus, ILFA's research leaders have a clear conception of the importance of the research carried out at the institute, and think ahead about the development of new synergies. For instance, the plan to hire an environmental scientist to strengthen the new area of research on humanities and the environment is a good example of this attitude.

The institution strives to be internationally competitive and to promote excellent research. As noted above, international publication is a requirement of tenure advancement and there is an emphasis on open access dissemination. The impact of the publications suggests that they are an institution of reference in their specific areas of Latvian and Baltic studies and beyond.

Development potential

Score 5: outstanding

ILFA's current staff (all research-only) is 36.7 FTE or 53 individuals (no age information supplied). The SAR notes that about one-third of these are 15 early-career researchers (ECRs) including four postdocs working alongside experienced researchers, who act as their mentors. Collaboration among staff and students is reinforced by open discussions and surveys of research and events. This combination of number of researchers, the ratio of senior vs early career researchers and the close interaction among them suggest that the Institute is in a strong position to develop and consolidate further its international standing.

ILFA's focus on issues of global interest in digital humanities, queer studies, cultural memory and life-writing, postcolonial studies, environmental humanities, etc, as well as their highly interesting specific projects (ethnomusicology, crowdsourcing, the Pandemic Diaries), are strengths that will contribute to cementing the international standing of the institute.

As shown above, ILFA is already active in several international collaborative projects, with substantial success in acquiring external funding from ERDF and building collaborations with other Baltic countries; it is also involved in four COST Actions. An application to Horizon 2020 is under development, and the research strategy places international competitiveness directly alongside a 'sound interpretive "reading" of national culture' in the context of digital and interdisciplinary humanities. The potential for raising this to an even more global, comparative level is clearly there – see Recommendations.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

ILFA collaborates already with several universities, especially UL and LAC, with whom they have close collaboration; they provide an excellent research environment to PhD students in a variety of fields. They also teach some courses as part of doctoral studies programmes. (See further comments regarding doctoral studies in the Recommendations section.) The doctoral and postdoctoral researchers show a high level of loyalty to ILFA and the encouragement to work and study abroad only increases this, being part of the intellectual collaboration with the wider world. The most commonly used epithet was 'inspiring'.

The resources and the high-calibre expertise housed at the ILFA is appreciated by ministries and other non-academic bodies. Arguably, it is currently under-utilised by the Universities. Presently, ILFA personnel only teach as guest lecturers or invited professors, without the

continuity that would allow a stable contribution to the doctoral programmes they participate in.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

ILFA shows convincing alignment with the RIS3 strategy. The institute engages in international research in the fields of Latvian literature, intangible cultural heritage, theatre, music and cinema. It develops innovative digital resources (e.g., garamantas.lv, iesasties.lv) and, among other fields, works on interdisciplinary projects in digital and environmental humanities. This focus is of horizontal relevance to such RIS3 priority fields as ICT and the sustainability and coastline economy related aspects of bioeconomy. ILFA also shows a strong contribution to education in its outreach to schools and promotion of lifelong learning, as well as the innovative capitalisation of human resources in its crowdsourcing campaigns.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

ILFA conforms strongly to the national objectives of scientific and technology development. It plays an important role in the promotion of internationally competitive science, development of human resources in research, as well as modernisation and integration of research and education sectors, increasing their ability to respond to future challenges.

Recommendations

- ILFA should continue to develop its new areas of research. In particular, it should lead more international collaborations, by building further cross-national comparative research on the basis of its well-established Latvian and Baltic core. Virtually all their large research questions – what is cultural identity, narrative memory, environmental or digital humanities – could benefit from further internationalisation.
- Such projects should seek international funding, both within the EU context (ERC, COST etc) and potentially further afield; this has begun, but there is room for more active development.
- The development of the digital infrastructure is a strength, and it should be continued.
- The potential for economic as well as social impact is high. As an institution that promotes cultural sustainability and development, it should not be difficult for ILFA to find partners in the arts industries, in Latvia or abroad, that would be interested in benefiting from and in collaborating actively in, some of ILFA's projects. Similarly, the digital humanities and crowdsourcing expertise could potentially be collaboratively developed for greater economic impact. However the institute needs to devote resources to, and provide incentives for, these activities.
- It may be beneficial to all parties if ILFA researchers, without losing their basically research-oriented status, could participate in a more stable fashion, via formal agreements, in training and supervising or co-supervising doctoral students, teaching courses etc.
- Some of ILFA's research areas might benefit from formal collaboration with other humanities units e.g. ethnomusicology with JVLAM or intangible cultural heritage with LAC.
- In relation to staff development, this is well developed but could be further consolidated, especially at the postgraduate and postdoctoral level.
- Preserving the fundamentally research-oriented nature of ILFA, as well as that of other institutes, may well mean that institutes as such should not function as PhD-granting institutions, organising doctoral studies that include a two- to three-year programme of coursework. This task seems to belong more naturally to the faculties. However, in order for doctoral programmes to utilise and profit from all the available research expertise, it would

be important to establish a system of formal agreements and collaborations with faculties in universities that would allow the research personnel in institutes to have stable teaching connections with doctoral programmes, as well as the capacity to officially supervise or co-supervise.

H_10 Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music

2.19 Institute data and description

Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	Philosophy, ethics and religion Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music) Other humanities Other engineering and technologies Psychology Educational sciences Social and economic geography Media and communications
Related fields of science	Psychology Sociology Media and communications Languages and literature Art (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music) Other humanities
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	41,51
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	6,15
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	47,66
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	13
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	141
Monographs in period 2013-2018	6
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	160
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,27
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	3,36
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	17
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,36
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	719.591
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	15.098

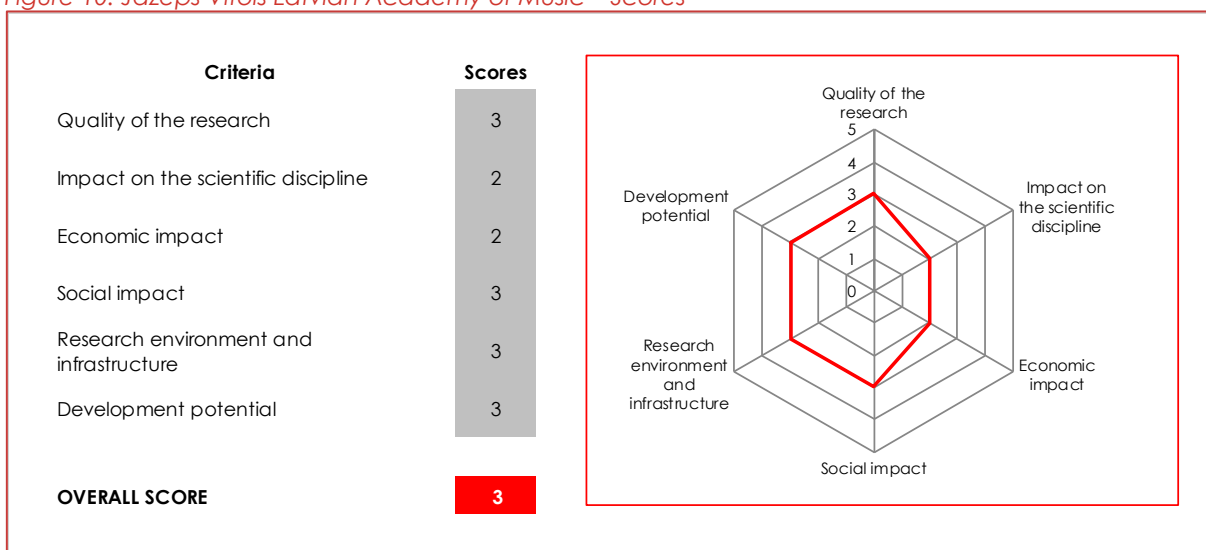
Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music (JVLMA) is a state-run higher education institution with a broad research profile in Musicology, comprising Ethno-Musicology Latvian musical

heritage), Latvian history of music and systematic or theoretical musicology, the latter research field with a main focus on psychology, supported by disciplines like pedagogy, media studies, technology and neuroscience. In 2018, JVLMA acquired the status of a scientific institution which has allowed it to develop a doctoral program in Musicology and consolidate its research. Because of the recent transformation of its institutional status, JVLMA is still in transition and thus its research development is a work in progress following strategic plans for internationalization, internal reforms and outreach.

2.20 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 10: Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music – Scores



Overall score

Score 3: good level of research

The Academy of Music is the only musical academy in Latvia. In 2018, it obtained the status of an institution of research and higher education, pursuing research, as well as BA and MA education and doctoral education. Its research focus is threefold: Ethnomusicology (Latvian musical heritage), the history of music in Latvia and also in other parts of Europe, and the psychology of music which is now leading to projects in music and the brain with an interdisciplinary relation to neuroscience in a still developing international collaboration. Because of its recent institutional redefinition, the research and other activities of the Academy are mainly presented in the self-evaluation report as plans and intentions, but concrete and promising steps are already taken in terms of increased internationalization. Although most of the research is to be developed in the future, the Academy is clearly competent to support the research focus and to outline a development platform, for which various plans are presented, even though the implementation is only in its early stages.

Quality of research

Score 3: good

The submitted publications offer an indication of the foundation of the plans laid out by the institution. They represent the three prioritised areas of research: (1) musical psychology is

presented by an international collective article; (2) the research line on ethnomusicology is represented by texts, published with CDs, on a particular Latvian song tradition (multipart singing); (3) Latvian musical history is exemplified by a well-researched analysis of contemporary symphonic music. Four of the five publications are published internationally. Ethnomusicology is the area most established in the history of the Academy, which is evident in research output, international networking and broader dissemination, and digitization of musical archives is an ongoing and necessary national endeavour. The most recent research profile, music and the brain, has attracted doctoral students and is integrated in a collaboration with research institutions in Germany (Heidelberg) and Taiwan. The submitted collective international article on musical psychology does not deal primarily with musicology, but with language deficiency and the role that musical experience plays in improving sound perception in subjects with this impairment. Nonetheless, the publication demonstrates the existence of a project that can contribute to promote the Academy's research production internationally, and with the doctoral students the research is carried out in a research team. Four of the five doctoral students that attended the virtual interview are doing research on cognitive issues in the music/psychology interface.

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 2: adequate

JVLMA's international impact on the discipline is not yet very high. Most publications have few or no citations and most of those are in Latvian publications. At the same time, other outputs with narrower targets – for instance, publications and unpublished reports on musical education and choirs in secondary schools – seem to have a clear impact at a local level. In general, the Academy plays an important part in the national research landscape as the only higher education institution in musicology, but in order to have a definite impact in the development of musicology research in Latvia, a broader portfolio and an increase in staff would be required.

Economic impact

Score 2: adequate

The self-evaluation lists a series of areas in which the institution has had an indirect impact on economic targets, although the report is not very explicit in this regard. So, at present, the impact does not appear to be significant. Yet, the planned involvement with creative art industries, prepared through some international contacts, and the digitisation of archived heritage material may have a definite potential for impact in the future.

Social impact

Score 3: good

The research is effectively intertwined with societal interests. Some of the research projects have direct connections with education and the recovery of Latvian music traditions. According to the SAR, the Academy collaborates closely also with professional musicians. Music, played or listened to, is a major cultural factor for social integration, a sense of belonging and well-being, and musical education in school is essential in a modern society, not least today when translated into creative industries. The Academy has also reached out broadly to the musical life in Latvia, funded by the Teterev foundation, the State Culture Capital Foundation, the national symphony orchestra and the Ministry of Culture.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 3: good

The Academy is equipped with a basic infrastructure to suit its present needs in research and education. However, with further development in new directions, like neuroscience and digitisation, an upgrading will be necessary. The research in the institution, with few exceptions, is markedly Latvian-focused. This might be a choice and even beneficial to the institution, if it is accompanied by efforts to network internationally which, according to the SAR, are underway in view of broadening the research portfolio. With a small staff (ca. five research FTEs) and still an output that will need to grow in the future, there is a need for a staff increase. The specialties will need more than one researcher to develop further in order to define a sustainable collective agenda with an innovative potential and to promote interdisciplinary collaboration among the main research interests of the Academy, and with other institutions as well. The awareness of the need of such developments is present in the SAR.

Development potential

Score 3: good

The SAR is mainly an outline of a strategy, which in itself testifies to a strong future-oriented energy in an institution with only a recent upgrade to a full research institution. The Academy declares a strong interest in attracting international visitors and Latvian scholars that work abroad. Plans to network internationally are in place. Some are already bearing fruit, such as the international mobility promoted by the Academy being a Euraxess contact point. The SAR indicates financial resources are secure, but it identifies problems with human resources, as well as with an overload of bureaucratic demands on the research personnel. The research interests are relevant, locally and internationally. What will be needed is improved international connections, which JVMLA plans to obtain through future joint European funding.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

The institution has one doctoral programme. The SAR indicates that students receive a high degree of individual attention that allows them to tailor their programme to their needs and capabilities; this was corroborated during the doctoral students' virtual meeting. Because of the size of the Academy and the limited number of researchers within each specialty, the doctoral programme might benefit from a closer collaboration with other institutions doing research in performing arts and cultural studies.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

JVMLA conducts research in systematic and historical musicology, ethnomusicology, and artistic studies. The academy carries out international and interdisciplinary projects in musicology, neuropsychology and psychology, music education, anthropology of music and computer science. With a recent status of a research institution the research conducted by the Academy is clearly on track to partly align with RIS3, in particular with regard to the priority on ICT.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

JVMLA broadly conforms to the national objectives of scientific and technology development. Particular added value is brought by the efforts to modernise and integrate research and education sectors, especially through the devotion to develop practice-based research strands.

Recommendations

- The potential for the Academy to increase social and economic impact is high. A clear strategy to engage the creative arts industry would certainly be beneficial to all parties.
- The relatively new research focus on the brain/music interface is an interesting, potentially fruitful, development. It is recommended that international connections are expanded to include also research units in Musicology. It is important, though, not to become monothematic and, hence, not to abandon other aspects of the Academy's research, for instance, the compilation of traditional Latvian songs whose continuity is of substantial import, which could benefit from an intensified collaboration with ILFA and the National Library.
- Given the unique status of the Academy as the only musicology research institute in Latvia, it would be useful for it to play a role in actively defining a broader national cultural policy for the development of musicology in Latvia.
- Given the size of the Academy, it is recommendable to intensify the collaboration with the other academies and research units which are based on or integrate practice-based research for the mutual benefits of all such units. This move may enhance the Academy's national position as the only higher education institution in musicology.
- The Academy is advised to intensify the planning and development of the doctoral programme, both internally and in relation to research partners and external partners.

H_11 University of Latvia, Cluster of Humanities and Arts

2.21 Institute data and description

University of Latvia, Cluster of Humanities and Arts	
Primary field of science	Humanities and the arts
Corresponding fields of science	History and archaeology Languages and literature Philosophy, ethics and religion
Related fields of science	Computer and information sciences Educational sciences Sociology Media and communications
No. FTE academic personnel 2018	52,70
No. FTE academic research personnel 2018	117,36
Total number of FTE academic and research personnel 2018	170,06
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	156
Articles in peer reviewed scientific edited journals and conference proceedings <u>not included</u> in WoS or SCOPUS in period 2013-2018	637
Monographs in period 2013-2018	138
Patents Latvian in period 2013-2018	0
Patents (Europe and international) in period 2013-2018	0
Total no. of self-reported outputs in period 2013-2018	913
No. of WoS or Scopus outputs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,92
No. of all outputs in period 2018 per researcher in 2018	5,47
No of PhDs completed in period 2013-2018	76
No. of PhDs in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018	0,45
Total funding in period 2013 -2018 (Euros)	10.974.022
Total funding in period 2013-2018 per researcher in 2018 (Euros)	64.530

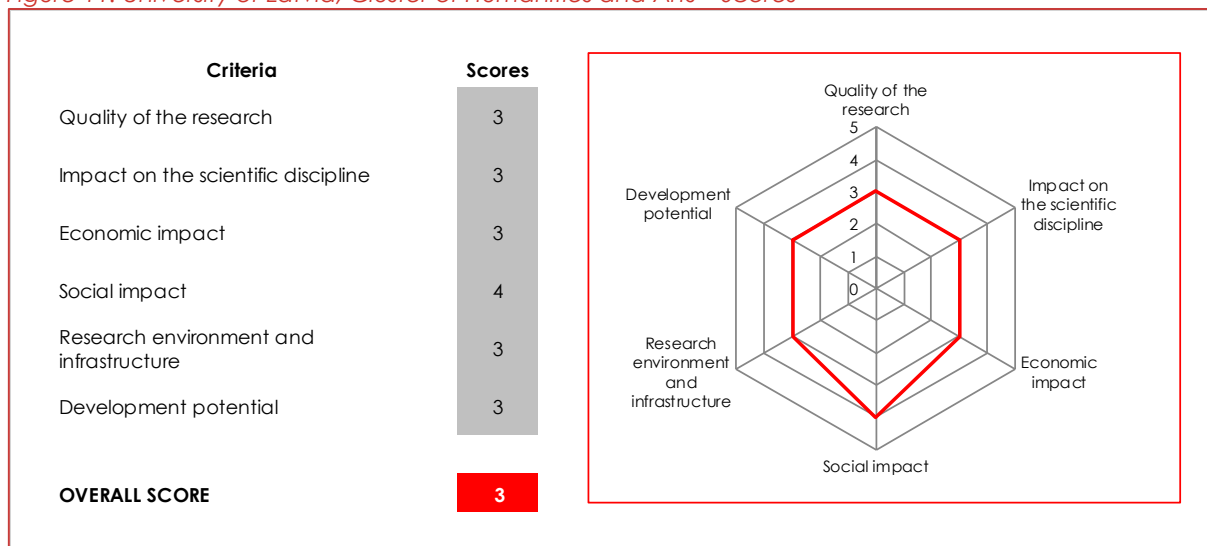
The Humanities cluster of the University of Latvia is composed of three faculties: Humanities, Theology, and History and Philosophy. Since 2014, three previously independent institutes are part of the cluster: the Latvian Language Institute, the Institute of Latvian History, and the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology. The cluster was established as a unit after the 2013 Research Assessment, in order to avoid the duplication of research lines and research efforts in separate centres. Although the number of academic staff has been reduced (from 92.82 in 2013 to 54.51 in 2018), the total number of academic and research personnel has remained relatively stable (around the 2018 total FTE of 194). It is the largest institution in Humanities evaluated in the present assessment. The research foci of the cluster cover a variety of areas –

history, archaeology, linguistics, translation studies, literature, philosophy, religious studies and theology.

2.22 Expert Panel evaluation

The figure below presents the scores assigned by the Expert Panel in Humanities to the institution.

Figure 11: University of Latvia, Cluster of Humanities and Arts – Scores



Overall score

Score 3: good level of research

The six units in the Humanities Cluster participate in major state research programmes and it is in the process of establishing stronger strategic partnerships internationally. The involvement of foreign researchers in the activities of the units has been steadily improving, although in some of the units there is undoubtedly a need to improve further. In any group of different research units, it is to be expected that some areas will be stronger than others, but the differences in quality among the different units in the cluster is substantial. A very small number of research areas within some of the units enjoy a well-deserved international reputation – most notably archaeology, oral history, linguistics and translation studies – whereas others are excellent at national level. There is, nevertheless, evidence of promising new developments in research projects and research lines. The research is heavily dependent on the State Research Programme support, with only limited success in obtaining European funding. The efforts to publish in high-quality English-language publications, especially in those areas which are as yet only aspiring to make an international impact, should be improved.

Quality of research

Score 3: good

The quality of the research produced by the UL Humanities Cluster is uneven. Some of the work, in particular in the field of archaeology, is truly high calibre. The research excellence in archaeology is underlined by the involvement of the researchers in international ventures, such as the COST project on underwater stone-age heritage, and by their large number of international contacts. They are also developing further international funding applications on the basis of the COST experience. Also, the research on translation, lexicography and Latvian

grammar have produced high-quality outputs. Other submitted items are competent but weaker. Not all the research items submitted could be evaluated by the panel, since several of them are in Latvian. Although a small number of researchers have been publishing in top international journals and with international publishing houses, the vast majority of the publications occur in venues that may be nationally recognised but have little international resonance, so the general impression is that the unit is weak both on international publications and on participation in international conferences. However, some research developments are promising. The strong contingent of oral historians working on both emigrant and immigrant communities in Latvia was impressive. This has good potential for international networking in the future. Similarly, the developing research foci on state-church relations during the Cold War and on Latvian Jewish literature open up auspicious international vistas. The research cluster should be encouraged to promote further initiatives in this direction. The strong international partnerships with a range of universities and research institutes in Tartu, Oslo, Mainz, Prague and Vienna are an excellent base from which to develop stronger internationally excellent research networks. It is difficult to ascertain, though, whether the leaders of the cluster have a definite strategy of building on the strengths and incentivising the weaker units to reach a better level of research quality. The areas of strength and the weaknesses, despite their being evident, were not clearly identified in the self-evaluation, nor in the institutional interview.

Impact on the scientific discipline

Score 3: good

One of the faculty members (among those that submitted publications) clearly has a strong international presence, both in terms of citations and in terms of international prestige. A few other researchers also have a good number of international citations of the material they have published in English. The rest of the staff, and their production, has weak scientific impact internationally, although they seem to be having impact at the national level. Although the research outputs are good, a greater homogeneity in terms of international presence across the cluster should be achieved. Several of them have no citations at all, either international or national. So, as regards scientific impact too, the cluster is extremely uneven, and the scientific weight of a few top-notch researchers is diffused among a large group whose international status within the discipline is sometimes not visible.

Economic impact

Score 3: good

There is evidence that the archaeological sciences have forged some collaboration with strong external partners, for instance, with Rail Baltica, advising them on construction projects, or with the Latvian Biomedical Research Centre, a long-term collaboration which is ongoing and expected to continue in the future, and which has provided research funding for three projects, one of them alongside ESF funding. The linguistics area of research has indirect economic impact: through research on terminology, standard language and standardization of names which is used by some public institutions, the Latvian Language Institute is of importance for the national economy.

Social impact

Score 4: very good

The social impact of some of the research appears to be substantial, at least at the national level. Some of the members of the faculty work on social issues of great importance (e.g. terrorism, humanism, migrations). Science communication about those issues and public

engagement is reflected by the participation of members of the cluster in a variety of TV and radio programmes, and some presence in social media, as well as by a large number of public lectures and events hosted regularly by different units in the cluster. There has been collaboration with various ministries over many issues. The institute of Philosophy and Sociology has provided expert advice to the Ministries of Justice, Defense, Education and Science, Ministry of Culture. The lectures and events that the research unit organizes for the Latvian Ministry of Defence are impressive. Several staff are also engaged on co-writing policy documents for the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in which over 60% of staff are graduates of the University of Latvia, making for very strong personal connections and networks between the university and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The recent multidisciplinary project research "Latvian, diaspora and intercultural studies" is of undeniable social value.

Research environment and infrastructure

Score 3: good

Practically all the faculty members (with the exception of some of the philosophers who write on Aristotle, Herder and Heidegger) have an almost unique focus on Latvian issues (Latvian history, Latvian literature, Latvian grammar). Even though, in some cases, their work generates interest, the overall impression is of a narrow focus. It is clear that national identity is very important at the institutional and state level; but one wonders if it is hindering the prospects of scholars who would wish to cast the net wider. A strategy for a closer and more systematic collaboration within the cluster could forge a more sustainable research development across the participating units. Developments which relate the research focus to comparative and transnational vistas should be encouraged. The research environment seems to have suffered in the past from the different humanities departments being distributed across several locations in Riga. A move into a new Academic Centre, the House of Letters, scheduled in 2023, is therefore a welcome development, as it will allow all the assessment units to be housed in one place. The library of the university also seems to be a clear asset.

Development potential

Score 3: good

The assessed units so far are strong national players, but international excellence is restricted to a few scholars. Progress in this regard may require hard decisions about which areas to develop, putting more resources behind fewer areas that have the potential to become internationally visible as excellent centres of research. The SAR and the subsequent virtual visit did not allow this panel to detect policies currently being implemented with a view to ensure that individual excellence is fostered and turned into international excellence radiating well beyond the borders of Latvia. The SAR refers to strategies aiming at creating closer collaborating between staff across the units of the cluster. The potential will depend in great measure on the efforts to attract national or international new talent. The unit has personal resources but will have to intensify strategic planning to develop their potential.

Potential to offer doctoral studies

The number of theses defended per year declined from 26 in 2013 to 4 in 2018. Inadequate funding for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers is mentioned in the SAR as a major problem and may be partly responsible for this decline, although it would seem that the problem of inadequate funding for pre-doctoral students affects all institutions equally. The cluster has five different doctoral programmes at present, but it has too few permanent staff members of international standing and the focus of their research interests is too narrow. The cluster would

need at least three or four new members, with international standing (or with clear future prospects of acquiring it) to build on their strengths in order for any doctoral programme to be truly successful. The cluster under-utilizes expertise from other excellent institutions such as the National Library and ILFA. The development of doctoral schools should be encouraged further, and links should be retained between the doctoral schools. The planned inter-university programmes are a step in the right direction.

Alignment with Smart Specialisation Strategy

UL Humanities cluster aligns strongly to the RIS3 through its contribution to a reflexive, inclusive and rational society and in fostering creativity. The cluster conducts research within a very broad range of socially relevant topics, e.g., humanism, migration and diaspora studies, terrorism, etc. that have a wide-ranging and not easily attributable horizontal impact on RIS3 priorities. UL Humanities cluster has also cooperated with various national ministries, in particular with the Ministry of Education and Science in developing the education curriculum for schools.

Conformity with state scientific and technology development

UL Humanities cluster operates in close conformity with the national scientific and technology development objectives. Various research groups in the Humanities cluster actively participate in State Research Programmes that are designed to address the national RDI policy objectives. The unit is a major contributor to the development of human capital through its wide-ranging study programmes.

Recommendations

- The cluster should explore the possibility of drawing formal agreements for the teaching of doctoral courses and for PhD co-supervision together with research staff from ILFA and the National Library.
- Given the low numbers of PhD students, the unit should consider concentrating PhD training in fewer graduate schools with a more transdisciplinary outlook.
- The move to the House of Letters should provide a good occasion to prepare a coherent strategy with definite priorities for the development of the cluster as a whole. The strategy should include clear plans to build on the strong areas of research, and to bring some of the weaker, but promising, areas up to a level of research excellence.
- The unit houses a handful of scholars, especially in archaeology but also in linguistics, of high international reputation. Efforts should be made to retain them and to attract new talent that can further strengthen those internationally competitive areas of research.
- New research foci (on state-church relations during the Cold War, on Latvian Jewish literature, on oral history relating to emigrants and immigrants in Latvia) also offer clear possibilities of achieving international recognition.
- More efforts should be made to internationalise publications and partners, and to widen foci of research. There is a strong emphasis on national topics in the research undertaken by this cluster. In order to flourish and to achieve a position of international prestige, the unit should consider moving further towards developing topics that are of national relevance in a comparative and transnational perspective, and to develop relevant international contacts with scholars dealing with similar national themes in other locations.

3 Summary of findings across the set of institutional evaluations

3.1 Quality of the information provided by the SARs

Eligible outputs

The guidelines for the composition of the SAR prioritize traditional research outputs in journals, collective volumes and monographs. Important as those categories are, it is strategically important to note that across the eleven research units being assessed, several of them publish important research in non-textual formats, the format itself intrinsic to and inseparable from the research and dissemination processes. In particular RISEBA, Riga Technical University, the MPLab at Liepaja University, The Latvian Academy of Culture, The Latvian Academy of Music and The Latvian Academy of Art, as well as researchers within some of the other institutions. These outputs are research investigations within architecture, the arts, design and technology and appropriately disseminated in non-textual form. Such publications have proved essential both for the research development, and to the impact of the institutions through their attempts to forge external partnerships with businesses, institutions and communities. In the next assessment a more differentiated view of the validity of diverse forms of research outputs will be needed to assess the full potential of several units.

Staff lists

The Panel found it difficult to obtain a precise picture of the categories and functions of academic staff in relation to their research obligations and their institutional affiliation (faculties, institutes, departments, centres). This lack of clarity with regard to institutional structure made a fair judgment of the institutions more difficult than necessary with regard to the range of human resources available for research purposes in the individual institutions. Moreover, without knowing precisely how a given number of FTEs is actually distributed among the staff—thinly distributed or concentrated on a few researchers—the Panel faced problems in assessing the strategies for internal collaboration among research-active staff members. To this difficulty was added the ambiguous position of many doctoral students, apparently working as both research staff members and post-graduates. With no clear career paths outlined by the institutional structure, the Panel finds it highly likely that this lack of transparency may hamper the units' attempts to attract permanent international staff and Latvian returnees. The Panel recommends that the structure of academic positions, doctoral studies and institutional structure be reconsidered.

Submitted publications

Across the eleven institutions a number of the submitted publications, also among those selected to be scrutinized by the Panel, are in Latvian. With no Latvian speakers appointed to the Panel we had to do an extra effort during the virtual visits to ensure a fair evaluation of all institutions. Further, the definition of a monograph did not seem to be consistent across the institutions, which in some case made the total number of published monographs questionable. The Latvian Academy of Culture did not offer the Panel specified readings and included one item published in 2012.

3.2 The general quality of research

The Panel assessed eleven units, giving an average overall score of 3.27. Although the units being assessed in 2020 are not identical to those included in the 2013 evaluation, there is no doubt that a rise from 2.46 to 3.27 indicates a significant improvement. One unit was given the overall score of 5, four were given a 4, three were given a 3, one was given a 2 and one, RISEBA, was given a 1 (not assessed by panel H in 2013). Most of the institutions assessed in 2013 have raised their score, some have remained on the same level, and none have lowered their score.

Before giving 5 as an overall or a particular score, the Panel discussed in detail the possible criteria that would justify the highest score. We agreed that the notion of 'global leader' could only be evoked if it was interpreted as an 'institution with significant global research outreach and engaged in collaboration as an equal partner with major global research institutions within their field,' or—in case of developmental potential—as an 'institution with the potential to place itself in that position.' Based on this interpretation we found that two institutions satisfy this criterion: ILFA as an overall score, Daugavpils as a score for its potential.

The eleven individual reports provide the Ministry with detailed evaluations of the institutions and their respective research profiles as well as evaluations of their strategies and future plans, to which are added specific recommendations for each institution. Hence, in this summary we adopt a bird's eye view on the Humanities research landscape in Latvia. Through a few transversal topics our overall evaluation concludes with a list of recommendations to support the continued progress of Latvian Humanities.

3.3 Key strengths

Progress in internationalization

The main strength to be observed across the board is an intensified internationalization, which is documented by the units' collaboration and participation in research projects and publications. The increase in research quality, the impact on the disciplines and various forms of internationalization are interdependent. All the institutions with an overall score of 5 or 4 illustrate this point by showing considerable progress in internationalization: The National Library, Latvian Academy of Culture, Daugavpils, The Academy of Arts and ILFA. The Panel was impressed by the efforts to develop the study of Latvian culture into a topic of international interest within fields like historical, linguistic and cultural studies of border regions, musicology, art, library studies and urban development. This outward-looking focus is adopted not only by the top-scoring institutions but also by the institutions with an overall score of 3. The institutions with the lowest ranking, Ventspils and RISEBA, also showed a clear awareness of the importance of international outreach, and in particular the applied translation studies in Ventspils has a potential to develop international contacts, which will be relevant not only for the unit itself but also for Latvian businesses and public institutions. Through increased domestic collaboration general rise in quality of the Humanities has the potential to turn the best institutions into role models of best practice for the other institutions. Across the units many individual researchers are members of editorial boards in international journals and book series, and the capacity to be part of internationally funded projects in Europe, the United States and China is broadly represented, mostly by the top-ranked institutions.

Social and material infrastructure

The 2013 assessment report recommended reducing fragmentation in smaller sub-units within faculties and universities and forging stronger interaction between disciplines. The institutions which proved to be most successful during the assessment period 2013-2018 followed this recommendation and laid out strategies for reorganizing of the social infrastructure across disciplines, age groups and the different categories of academic staff, in some cases also

including systematic internal peer review processes and access to sabbaticals on a regular basis. Such collaborations between different types of expertise have improved the units' ability to engage in domestic and international collaborations and also to make them more attractive for external—often regional—partnerships with businesses and public institutions. Against this background the Panel judges that several top-ranked units are ready for launching bids to host internationally funded major projects as collective institutional endeavours, perhaps in a collaboration with other Latvian research institutions. The University of Latvia has made a commendable effort since 2013 to create a stronger working environment involving units of different status (faculty, department, institute, centre). The Panel recommends that it continues to strengthen this process in order to generate new research directions. The radical reorganization of research processes within the Latvian Academy of Culture has allowed it to move forward in an impressive way, without sacrificing ongoing engagement in its traditional research specialisms. The general impression from the video presentations and virtual visits is that the material infrastructure has improved since 2013, not least in Riga with the new national library building and the development of the Tobacco Company creative quarter.

Local and national partnerships

All units outside Riga have a strong regional self-awareness that helps them reach out to external partners in the local environment, which also includes trainee-like opportunities for students. There has been a growing engagement with municipalities, local businesses, including emerging creative industries, as well as with local cultural institutions like schools, museums, orchestras and local cultural groups. During the virtual visits, our conversations with representatives from local and national partners clearly demonstrated how the presence of local research institutions stimulates local social, cultural and economical life and helps to attract and keep well-educated young people in the regions. Also the Riga-based research institutions are active in this respect, and a large number of researchers across the board serves on ministerial committees and as municipal and governmental advisors.

3.4 Main weaknesses

Latvian focus

The 2013 evaluation report underlined one main weakness: the predominant focus on Latvian culture and the propensity to publish in the Latvian language in local publications, which often lack a double-blind peer review. It is of course a national obligation for Latvian Humanities to study and publish in Latvian on Latvian history, language, literature, art, music and folklore, and also to maintain and develop archives, library holdings and museums that collect and preserve material necessary for the study of the Latvian heritage. However, there is still a need in some institutions to reconsider the direction and perspective of their research on Latvian topics. The top-ranked units have clearly shifted the focus from a predominantly national agenda to a prioritization of research questions addressing the position of Latvian culture in a larger European and international context and the effects of transnational interaction within Latvian culture. Such perspectives have also offered fruitful opportunities to reconsider research on Latvian history and cultural traditions. Compared with the previous assessment period progress has been made in this direction across the units, for example with the introduction of new cultural theories and a widening of the perspective of border region studies, translation studies, media-studies and youth culture, regional multilingual and multicultural history and ongoing interdisciplinary projects, for example on the Moravian Brethrens and on musicology and neuro-science. However, the units with an overall score below 4 still need to establish a more internationally oriented research strategy for the study of Latvian culture. The stricter editorial practice and the growing international recognition of some local journals have created a better balance between research publications in Latvian and other languages. The National

Library has begun to assist disseminating smaller journals and creating national repositories for locally published journals to support their online activities. Further development in this area should be undertaken in the coming years. Through its international collaborations the library may encounter useful models to be adapted to the Latvian context.

Fragmentation and duplication

The 2013 report pointed to the problem of fragmentation of research environments in units that proved to be too small to maintain a sufficient critical mass with a regular influx of new researchers, in some instances this was aggravated by an unnecessary reduplication of research activities. This criticism concluded with a recommendation of mergers, not for reasons of rationalization, but with the aim of promoting an increased scholarly collaboration across units and within units around comprehensive projects. The Panel endorses this recommendation to ensure the continuous recruitment of younger researchers with new approaches and international perspectives, which will be necessary to maintain a vibrant Latvian research environment. The progress of the top-ranked units builds on internal reorganization and inter-institutional collaboration and indicates that recommendations offered in 2013 have fostered productive strategies. For other institutions there is still some way to go. In some cases their size may prevent them from allocating the necessary human and financial resources; in other cases there are limits to disciplinary integration if a given unit is the only one responsible for a particular area, such as theology or library research and, to large extent, musicology. To support positive development across the board with the aim of finding the optimal type of collaboration in each institution, as exemplified by the various strategies laid out by the most successful institutions, we will recommend below some measures to be taken on a national level.

Career paths and institutional structures

Reforms of doctoral studies, of institutional structures and of academic positions are issues on a national level, beyond the authority of the individual institutions. The 2013 report also pointed to these three problems in the Latvian research system. From conversations with representatives from the Ministry the Panel understands that a reform of doctoral studies has been designed and is close to being implemented. We also welcome the fact that during the assessment period the three Academies (LAA, JVLAM, ILFA) became aligned with other research institutions which clarifies their research opportunities and obligations. In 2013, the report recommended a redesign of the dual structure of faculties and institutes. The Panel shares the reservations expressed by the previous panel in relation to this organizational and financial model, in particular with regard to the different working conditions of the affiliated researchers, which gives them different conditions for promotions and career planning. The Panel welcomes the initiatives to reform the structure. As noted above, the Panel had difficulties translating the number of FTEs listed in the current SARs into a clear picture of the actual research conditions and research volume of the individual units. This lack of clarity may also prove to be difficult for doctoral students and younger researchers attempting to design a career path, a situation that may prevent the most talented young Latvian researchers to pursue a research career and for institutions to attract international staff and Latvian returnees. This problem was made clear during the virtual visits in interviews with doctoral students and younger researchers, who also expressed concerns over the general 6-year limit of research positions. The Panel appreciates the reform of doctoral studies, which has been presented to us in conversations with the units and with representatives from the Ministry. However, from the point of view of research conditions and career motivation the three problems of doctoral programs, institutional structure and academic job categories must be perceived as three closely related issues calling for a joint solution.

3.5 Conclusions

The overall conclusions are positive. Since 2013 most of institutions have made progress with regard to the three highlighted key areas: progress in internationalization, social and material infrastructure and local and national partnerships. This situation creates a foundation for further advancement of Latvian Humanities, which could also lift the institutions that came out of the assessment with a ranking of 3 or lower to a higher level. Some of our recommendations below address this issue. The most important task at the level of the individual institutions is the reorientation of the agenda for the study of Latvian-focused topics across the disciplines and the formulation and implementation of strategies for interdisciplinary collaborations within and across the units. However, all the institutions have a clear awareness of this issue and many have developed strategies and practices that have already yielded positive results. On the national level, the three interconnected problems of doctoral studies reform, institutional structure and job structures should be solved together from a career and recruitment perspective in order to ensure the development of a vibrant national research environment.

3.6 Recommendations

The Panel acknowledges that the Latvian research institutions and the Ministry since 2013 have worked consistently to follow-up on the recommendations offered by the 2013 report in order to find solutions that work within the Latvian context. Our recommendations are an invitation to continue this concerted effort, in particular to establish incentives on a national level. As is made evident in our recommendations to the individual units, many will be ready to make productive use of national initiatives for their local development. We find it crucial to underline the need to look at the Humanities research landscape as a whole to ensure the distribution of knowledge production in Latvia in a balance between Riga-based institutions and the regional units. Our recommendations are intended to support this view.

Faculties, institutes and centres

Like our colleagues in 2013, this Panel also emphasizes the importance of shaping a unified structure across the board with clear job descriptions, an even distribution of research opportunities and transparent career paths for doctoral students and early-career researchers. Faculties with teaching and research obligations, including doctoral supervision, and sabbatical systems could be the back bone of a more transparent system. Other types of research units, like the National Library (not assessed in 2013), should be embedded in the general structure. The Panel endorses the recommendation in the 2013 report to consider the establishment of Research Institutes or Centres for Advanced Studies to ensure access to longer research periods. With an administrative core staff and an academic leadership on a time-limited contract an institution could open for fellowships of 1-2 years for a mixed cohort of national and international researchers on a research grant financed by an independent budget. A ministerial task force with participation from the Latvian research institutions could be given the remit to explore international examples before a Latvian model is defined and implemented. There are many models around the world for the organization, financing and goals of such research units—across SSH and STEM, within each of those disciplinary areas or with a shifting disciplinary emphasis, for example every 3 to 5 years. It will be important to ensure that researchers from all areas will have an equal opportunity to obtain a fellowship. This would offer individual researchers, or small teams, from all Latvian research units the opportunity to work in a national and international environment and return to their home institutions with new ideas and contacts, which may be difficult to obtain within the individual institutions, the small ones in particular.

Structure of academic positions

In order to make career paths transparent from doctoral education to institutional affiliation based on tenure track/tenured positions, the Panel recommends that the ongoing development of a new programme for doctoral studies should be embedded in a reform of institutional structures and a general reform of job structures of academic positions with research obligations. Without knowing the details of the doctoral studies reform, the Panel recommends the consideration of a system of dual supervision, with one main supervisor from the host institution and one from another, maybe international, institution – again, models of co-supervision and/or *co-tutelle* from other countries might be examined to determine best practice for the Latvian context. We also endorse the recommendation put forward in the 2013 report to consider a national postdoc programme to bridge the gap between the doctoral studies and tenure track/tenured positions and strongly recommend that the existing short-term program (funded by ERDF) is continued as a permanent program.

Publications

The Panel welcomes the improved internationalization of publications and also of the strengthening of editorial rigour in many of the local publications. To consolidate this positive development the Panel agrees with the recommendation of the 2013 panel to establish a national and/or regional pool of translators and other facilitators to support the ongoing development of research publications. We also recommend that the National Library widen its support for local journals with shared central server-space for their websites, maybe as joint websites, create templates for their online platforms, assist in maintaining them and further evolve repositories for research results, for example including 3D repositories for non-textual research outputs.

International grants and funding

The Panel has observed a growing interest and preparedness since 2013 to join larger international projects, and with a new doctoral programme based on improved grants, the Panel recommends a support system for further strengthening the ongoing internationalization:

Grants

We recommend the establishment of a national advisory unit to support the composition of *international project applications* and major *individual grant applications* (ERC, Marie Curie post docs, exchanges etc.), including assistance with budgeting, language, project formulation and integration of the applicants' international partners, to help not only with participation in such projects but also with launching Latvian research institutions as host institutions.

This advisory unit should also keep track of international grant opportunities and organize meetings across the country well ahead of application deadline to inform researchers at local sessions on application projects and the assistance available. A well maintained website with a notification facility to the individual institutions' local international office or contact person regarding deadlines, new kinds of service, new grants etc. will constitute an important instrument.

Exchange

The Panel also recommend the establishment of a centralized budget to support exchange of researchers, doctoral students, visiting professors, doctoral co-supervisor and international research stays. Given the size of Latvia, some of these exchanges and visits could include several institutions.

Appendix A Feedback on Panel assessment

Feedback received from Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, Translation Studies Faculty

We are grateful for the experts' constructive comments regarding the assessment, which highlighted our development potential; however, we would also like to learn more about some aspects of the assessment and receive additional explanations.

Overall score: Score 2: adequate level of research

The average assessment was 2.5; however, the overall assessment is 2. Besides, such significant criteria as "Impact of the scientific discipline", "Economic potential", and "Development potential" were accorded 3 points. What was the reason for receiving 2 points as the overall assessment?

Assessment criterion "Quality of research"

Having been described as a "satisfactory national player" seems not to be supported by the accurate description in the report. We believe that the quality of our research meets higher level- "The institution is a strong national player with some international recognition. The importance of research by the institution is unquestionable in the experts' assessment. Internationally recognized publishers or journals could publish work of this level".

As seen in the overview of the information (<https://www.venta.lv/en/zinatne/research-in-humanities>), our researchers have attracted doctoral students and published scientific articles and monographs in all the most significant volumes of papers extensively on a national scale; successful co-operations have been established with such internationally recognized publishers as *Cambridge Scholars Publishing*, *Peter Lang*, *Frank & Timme* and others. Articles have also been indexed in *Scopus*, *Web of Science*, *EBSCO*, *ERIH PLUS*, etc. Besides, 49% publications are in Latvian and other 51%: in English, German, Russian and French.

We would like to highlight the specialization of the Faculty of Translation Studies – translation and interpretation. In that way, we are different from institutions that specialize in general synchronous and diachronic linguistics and have been scientifically important for researchers of other smaller European languages.

We have also been actively participating in organizing national and international conferences, our researchers are represented in international editorial boards. It has already been a tradition that our scientific conferences such as the International Linguistics Conference for Postgraduates „VIA SCIENTIARUM", International scientific conference "Bridging Languages and Cultures" (BLC), Linguistic Conference "Languages in Contacts and Contrasts" have published volumes of scientific papers with national and international editorial boards. In addition, experts from translation studies nationally and internationally have expressed a strong commitment to continue scientific cooperation with us.

Assessment criterion "Social impact"

We agree with the experts noticing that we have contributed with our research significantly to society by ensuring regular updates on the applicability of the research results. We also actively communicate with the general population by addressing their needs regarding dissemination of results. In addition, we have engaged in the direct communication with society – career

days, open-door days, the Young Translators' School where pupils and secondary school students actively co-operate with researchers, Researchers' Night Event, visits to schools, presenting published materials in media (newspapers, television, social media sites), engaging in joint activities commissioned by the municipality and national agencies.

We do agree that there is always more room for communication with the general public. So far, the social impact of the Faculty has been positive across all age and professional groups in Latvia. Intensive communication is an integral aspect in the cooperation with students as well because we regularly involve students of all levels of studies in such events as the Translation Project Week, Germanists' Days, International Translators' Day, Francophonía. Besides, inter-faculty cooperation is productive between the Faculty of Information Technologies and Translation Studies.

If any extra information is needed, we are willing to provide it.

Assessment criterion "Research environment and infrastructure"

Because research needs human resources, we believe that an indicator "Total active academic and research personnel" shows actual stable growth and personnel development.

We would like to stress that the notion "academic research staff grew rather unevenly, from 4.61 in 2013 to 6.75 in 2018, with a spike of 9.55 in 2017" is not entirely correct as the unit of assessment was the Faculty of Translation Studies and thus there is no "pure researchers (e.g. research assistants, researchers and leading researchers)" employed. In our case, the elected academic staff (assistants, lecturers, assistant professors, associate professors and professors) all were involved both in teaching and research activities and each of them has a part in the work-load devoted to the teaching, as well as research. In the line – "research personnel" we tried to indicate the proportion of our academic staff that were involved in the research projects, but these figures in no way reflect the entire personnel time devoted to research. We rather suggest looking at the figures of academic and research staff together as it more correctly reflects the academic personnel resources, and it clearly indicates the growth of the personnel from 2015 to 2018. We do not, however, agree that fluctuations in the number of the personnel on a yearly basis is a problem – there are several reasons for fluctuating numbers: internships, sickness leaves, exchanges. It is important that the university attracts new researchers as our permanent staff members. Our doctoral students become researchers and members of the teaching staff.

We also would like to comment that the lack of research directions mentioned in the assessment may be partly related to the unfortunate fact that previous VUAS strategic plan was coming to an end (running to 2020) and the University was in the interim period for the development of a new one.

Due to the vast advancements in the technological solutions to make research in humanitarian sciences, the central research competences and specialties in TSF is and will be closely related to those, relating to IT skills and excellence. We already managed to develop some linguistic-related applications and electronic dictionaries within the assessment period, and we plan to continue to persuade this goal in the future as well, e.g., research in neural machine translations and post-editing related to it, mobile applications for language acquisition, e-assistance to produce good quality scientific language etc.

Feedback received from University of Latvia, Cluster of Humanities and Arts

On behalf of the University of Latvia, we would like to express our appreciation to the international group of experts for the evaluation of the performance of the Cluster of Humanities and Arts of the University of Latvia. We highly value the discussion with the expert group during their online visit to the University of Latvia on 12 November, 2020, which urged us to analyse our experience and inspired future development in the fields of humanities and arts.

However, referring to the evaluation methodology, we would like to convey our concern with respect to certain statements in the final report by the Expert Panel and the respective assessment in scores.

Quality of research

The University of Latvia (UL) is the leading scholarly institution in humanities in Latvia, and this is confirmed, for example, by the information available in the SCOPUS database (information from SciVal): within period of time from 2013 to 2018, UL has almost half of the total number of publications in Latvia in Arts and Humanities (192 out of 399), and 52% of our publications in last 6 years are in top Q1 and Q2 journals by CiteScore. Out of 117 doctoral degrees in Arts and Humanities in Latvia (excluding Arts) within the period of time from 2013 till 2018 89 (or 76%) were awarded at the UL.

And UL maintains high research quality standards in terms of originality and importance following the global trends and actively developing international cooperation, which has been highlighted in the self-assessment report and is evidenced by the established networks and international publications

According the experts' evaluation, research in certain branches of the UL humanities cluster (i.e. archaeology, translation studies, lexicography, Latvian grammar) are of high quality, also the contribution of oral historians has been recognized as "strong" and "impressive", while others (which are not named) are recognized as "competent but weaker". In order to understand the rationale for the overall quality assessment, we would like to receive more detailed information why the achievements in the other fields are underrated. It is difficult to agree with the claim that the humanities cluster has too few international publications and that little is done to participate in international conferences without clear evidence. We benchmark these indicators with universities in Latvia, the region and internationally. Of course, we are working to increase the total number of publications and further develop international cooperation, incl. international publications. However, we would like to emphasize that in the last six years 25,1% (information from SciVal) of the publications in the SCOPUS database are with international co-authors, with a clear tendency for international cooperation to increase in recent years. University of Latvia also has the largest number of conference papers in the last eight years from all Baltic universities and more than half of all conference papers at universities in Latvia (54 out of 94).

A diversity of publications, including the ones quoted in the Web of Science, ERIH PLUS, SCOPUS databases (those published in Latvia as well as abroad) are substantial indicators of high-quality and continuous international research communication practices.

Moreover, while the UL scholars in humanities address global theoretical questions and publish in international journals, they also have a significant local dimension. As the mission of humanities is to contribute not only to global knowledge but also to our country (motto of the University of Latvia is *Scientiae et Patriae*), our publications are not only in international

languages but also in Latvian since certain issues are of primary national relevance and this should receive fair treatment. Besides, the development of academic Latvian is absolutely necessary for full-blooded functioning of Latvian as the sole official language in Latvia. The 170 scholarly monographs (2013-2018) in Latvian are indisputable contribution to the national culture and identity.

We would like to point out that the methodology of the international assessment states that publications must not be disqualified by the place or language of publication.

Impact on the scientific discipline

In assessing the impact of the research on the scientific discipline, it was not taken into account that the implemented projects were in the conformity with the objectives of the State scientific development policy and many projects carried out by the UL Humanities cluster were international (ERDF and ESF projects, projects under Horizon 2020 and COST actions etc.). The projects were evaluated by international experts, and in most cases carried out in close cooperation with colleagues from other countries.

We would like to point out that the number of publications and presentations in international conferences to be provided for a more detailed analysis was limited to only 15. The methodology for preparing the self-assessment report did not provide clear guidelines for including more frequently cited publications with the prominent impact on the development of the field. If such a requirement were included in the guidelines, we have no doubt that our information provided would result in a higher score for this position by the Expert Panel.

Economic impact

Considering the significant share of the humanitarian dimension and creative industries in Latvia's GDP, we cannot agree with the low assessment of the impact on the economy. The assessment of the economic impact does not take into account, e.g., that in 2013-2015 the UL humanities cluster supported 62 European Social Fund (ESF) target scholarship projects for the implementation of doctoral study programmes, resulting in the development of young and competitive scholars. They are employed mainly in academia, but many of these young scholars work outside the academic environment both in the public and the private sector, thereby also contributing to economic growth in different sectors of the economy.

The indirect impact of humanities on the national economy through the commercialisation of research results (e.g. publishing of books, art objects (souvenirs) of local artisans, etc.), cooperation with the construction sector (archaeological monitoring in construction sites) and cooperation with governmental and municipal institutions (e.g. development of tourism infrastructure) should be also taken into account. In order to develop cooperation between academia and industry, the UL offers a special program to promote such cooperation – *UL Effective Cooperation Project Program*.

Research environment and infrastructure

It is hard to accept the assessment for this section. We should take into account that long-term strategic and financial resource planning, including the human resources development strategy, is taking place in line with the 2015-2020 strategy. Irrespective of very poor governmental financing for research, the UL study and research units have managed to create advanced research infrastructure. The main research institutes are located in completely renewed historical building at the centre of Riga together with the UL main library. There are a variety of support services, including access to research infrastructures, digital information

resource databases (including Open Access), technical equipment (e.g. 3D scanners, drones, software). Availability of technical personnel has been guaranteed. Through Open access publications and information, websites have access to research results. The implementation of the EU Structural Fund project "Development of Science Infrastructure" has resulted in adequate infrastructure for humanities in all faculties and research institutions.

Development potential

It is hard to understand the rationale behind score 3 in this position. In fact, in all other points of the assessment, the experts highlight the opportunities for growth, so the potential for development would be well above the results achieved. For example, the infrastructure assessment points to a possible improvement by moving to the new House of Letters in 2023. This new building will contribute to the cooperation among all fields in humanities and social sciences. As the study and research process will take place in the same premises, more and more students will be involved in the research process thus ensuring a young generation of researchers. The new approach to doctoral studies is also a guarantee for high development potential for humanities at the University of Latvia. University of Latvia have 76% share of doctoral degree awards in Humanities.

We highly appreciate the Recommendations provided by the Expert Panel, and the University of Latvia will include them in the new Strategy for Research (2021-2027), which is currently in the process of elaboration. However, taking into account the above mentioned, we would like to be provided with a more detailed and grounded analysis concerning all the criteria which could serve as a basis for the new research strategy for humanities in our university.

As concerns the evaluation, we would like to remind some facts which have not been taken into account. First, Latvia has the lowest percentage of GDP for research and higher education. During the previous evaluation, in 2013, the governmental policy was indicated as the main obstacle to the development of research in Latvia. However, despite insufficient financing, there is a significant increase of scholarly outputs, including most highly scored publications in all the fields of humanities at the University of Latvia. Second, we managed to keep the balance between the global and local approach: besides the scholarly publications in the international arena, our researchers are very active in contributing to the national culture and identity of our country. Third, there were considerable achievements during the years 2019-2020 in all the aspects evaluated, and we regret having no opportunity to include them into the self-assessment report or at least present them to the Expert Panel during the online discussion.

We would like to think that the highly respected Expert Panel might not be able to evaluate the full extent of the research performed by the University of Latvia due to the global pandemic, which did not allow them to evaluate in person the scope of the conducted research, the infrastructure and the development potential.

Therefore, we truly hope that the abovementioned facts and statements may evoke the intention to reconsider the evaluation of the Humanities Panel at the University of Latvia.

Prof. Ina Druviete

Vice-Rector for Humanities and Social Sciences

