



**TRANSFORM4EUROPE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

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

April 9–11, 2025

Vytautas Magnus University

Kaunas, Lithuania

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### DAY 1 (9<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL)

9.00–9.30 Registration and welcoming coffee (S. Daukanto str. 28, Lobby)

9.30–10.00 Opening session (S. Daukanto str. 28, Senate Hall)

Key-note speakers:

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

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

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

11.30–12.00 Coffee break

#### Professional growth sessions (I) (K. Donelaičio str. 52)

1 session **Digital learning technologies** (Room 305)

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

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

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

**Dr. Andreja Klančar** (University of Primorska)

2 session **Innovative teaching methods** (Room 303)

"Tools for creating Identity Safe Classrooms in Higher Education"

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

"Engaging Lectures: Transforming Traditional Teaching into Active Learning"

**Prof. Dr. Diana Soares** (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)

12.00–13.30

3 session **Resilience skills** (Room 503)

"Resilience and Mindfulness: Integrative Approaches for Modern Challenges"

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

4 session **Lifelong learning competences** (Room 502)

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

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

5 session **Development of quality culture** (Room 302)

"Shifting Focus: Building Quality Culture in Higher Education"

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

13.30–15.00 Lunch

### Professional growth sessions (II) (K. Donelaičio str. 52)

	1 session <b>Digital learning technologies</b> (Room 305) "How to achieve didactic flow? How to immerse in learning? Some ideas to activate students" <b>Prof. Dr. Mariola Sulkowska-Janowska</b> (University of Silesia in Katowice)
	2 session <b>Innovative teaching methods</b> (Room 303) "The Big Picture: Active Learning in Large Classrooms" <b>Dr. Maitê Gil</b> (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)
15.00–16.30	3 session <b>Resilience skills</b> (Room 503) "Thriving at the Work–Family Crossroads: practical tools for everyday challenges" <b>PhD candidate Tadas Vadvilavičius, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aurelija Stelmokienė</b> (Vytautas Magnus University)
	4 session <b>Lifelong learning competences</b> (Room 502) "ResearchComp in practice – challenges, ideas, actions" <b>Dr. Małgorzata Chrupała-Pniak, Katarzyna Wiecek-Jakubek</b> (University of Silesia in Katowice)
	5 session <b>Development of quality culture</b> (Room 302) "University Microcredentials: A New Form of Tailored Education and Quality Assurance" <b>Prof. Dr. Teresa Torregrosa</b> (University of Alicante) "Students' voice and choice. New formats of individualized education" <b>Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Trynda, Prof. Dr. Magdalena Bąk</b> (University of Silesia in Katowice)
18.00–20.00	Gala dinner and the T4EU awards ceremony (Žalgiris Arena amphitheater, Karaliaus Mindaugo Ave. 50)

### DAY 2 (10<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL)

9.00–9.30 Registration and welcoming coffee (K. Donelaičio str. 52 Lobby)

### Professional growth sessions (III) (K. Donelaičio str. 52)

	1 session <b>Digital learning technologies</b> (Room 305) "AI-driven Innovations in ICT-based Education" <b>PhD candidate Vigilija Žiūraitė</b> (Vytautas Magnus University)
	2 session <b>Innovative teaching methods</b> (Room 303) "Next-Gen Language teaching: Harnessing AI for Better Results" <b>Vaida Misevičiūtė</b> (Vytautas Magnus University)
9.30–11.00	3 session <b>Resilience skills</b> (Room 503) "Psychological resilience training" <b>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aušra Lisinskienė</b> (Vytautas Magnus University)
	4 session <b>Lifelong learning competences</b> (Room 502) "Making Technology an ally to enable lifelong learning" <b>Prof. Dr. Rosana Satorre</b> (The University of Alicante)
	5 session <b>Development of quality culture</b> (Room 302) "From Transformation to Excellence: Recognition of best Practices and Quality Assurance" <b>T4EU award winners</b>
11.00–11.30	Coffee break

### Professional growth sessions (IV) (K. Donelaičio str. 52)

11.30–13.00	1 session <b>Digital learning technologies</b> (Room 305) "Digital tools for creating learning materials" <b>Dr. Jacek Francikowski</b> (University of Silesia in Katowice)
	2 session <b>Innovative teaching methods</b> (Room 303) "Creativity, communication, and cooperation as a base for effective teamwork" <b>Dr. Magdalena Christ</b> (University of Silesia in Katowice)
	3 session <b>Resilience skills</b> (Room 503) "Transformative Resilience: Cultivating Equity and Inclusion" <b>Prof. Dr. Natalija Mažeikienė</b> (Vytautas Magnus University)
	4 session <b>Lifelong learning competences</b> (Room 502) "Caught in Conflict: How to Understand, Address, and Transform Workplace Challenges" <b>Danguolė Kraskauskienė</b> (Vytautas Magnus University)
	5 session <b>Development of quality culture</b> (Room 302) "Key indicators for student satisfaction and academic success" <b>Frenk Mavrič</b> (University of Primorska)
13.00–14.30	Lunch

### Expertise Building Session (K. Donelaičio str. 52)

14.30–16.00	1 session <b>Digital learning technologies</b> (Room 305) "Artificial Intelligence Tools for Innovative Teaching" <b>Augustinas Balaišis</b> (Vytautas Magnus University)
	2 session <b>Innovative teaching methods</b> (Room 303) "Active Learning in Action" <b>Dr. Rita Tavares de Sousa</b> (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)
	3 session <b>Resilience skills</b> (Room 503) "Communication for better relationship and job performance in organization" <b>Prof. Dr. Loreta Bukšnytė-Marmienė</b> (Vytautas Magnus University)
	4 session <b>Lifelong learning competences</b> (Room 502) "From Ideas to Impact: Creative Exercises for Public Speaking" <b>Jolita Ančlauskaitė, PhD candidate Vigilija Žiūraitė</b> (Vytautas Magnus University)
	5 session <b>Development of quality culture</b> (Room 302) "Service-Learning in Action: Engaging Students, Academics, and the Community for Positive Social Change" <b>Prof. Dr. Luísa Mota Ribeiro</b> (Universidade Católica Portuguesa)
16.30–18.00	Excursion to Science Island and visit to planetarium (Karaliaus Mindaugo Ave. 50)

### DAY 3 (11<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL) (OPTIONAL)

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

**Conference venue:** Vytautas Magnus University, Daukanto street 28 and K. Donelaičio street. 52, Kaunas, Lithuania



If you have any questions, please contact the event coordinators via [Transform4Europe@vdu.lt](mailto:Transform4Europe@vdu.lt)