

## Candidate for the position of Director of the Life Sciences Centre of Vilnius University

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### Programme of activities

If I am elected to the position of Director of the LSC, I pledge to act in accordance with the principles of openness, collegiality, mutual respect and trust, to respect academic freedom, and to create a non-discriminatory, attractive and motivating study and working environment that inspires our staff and students to improve their studies and research results every day.

As a candidate for the position of Director of the LSC, I have three main objectives: Ensure the smooth running of the EMBL Partnership Institute, as our international reputation and our ability to attract the best researchers in the future depend on the success of this project; Prepare for the 2023 benchmarking exercise to ensure that we receive no worse grades than in 2018, as this is what determines our financial capacity for the next five years; Increase the financial autonomy of the units by creating a budget funding arrangement, as I believe this model can better guarantee sustainability.

These objectives, as well as the other items in the Programme of Activities set out below, can only be achieved by working together, starting with the members of our community in the Rectorate, Council and Senate of the VU, our Board of International Advisors, our distinguished lecturers and researchers, and ending with the youngest members of our community, our students.

The LSC regulations state that "the Director is responsible for the leadership of the Centre and for the implementation of the Centre's operational plan, in accordance with the University's Strategic Plan". Therefore, in addition to the main objectives, I am presenting a broader programme of activities, which has been prepared in accordance with the University's Strategic Plan and through the discussions on the LSC's operational plan:

1. A graduate capable of solving societal problems:
  - a. We will increase the opportunities for individualisation of studies;
  - b. Expanding the project-based learning model in Masters programmes;
  - c. Establish a Master's Degree programme in Bioinformatics.
  - d. We will increase communication with our alumni to better understand the impact of their studies on their future careers and to engage them in our community.
2. Science at a high international level:
  - a. We will establish a science department to explore project funding opportunities and present funding conditions to our community, and to provide full assistance in writing projects.
  - b. We will initiate discussions within the GMC community on career planning for academic staff, and look for ways to enhance the attractiveness of these careers so that we can attract and retain the best teachers and researchers.
3. Growing influence on society and government:

- a. We will initiate discussions within the LSC community to develop a unified strategy for communication with public authorities.
- 4. 21st century pedagogy:
  - a. We will encourage LSC staff to engage in teacher training and competency development activities.
  - b. We will contribute to STEAM activities in the Life Sciences Laboratory at the Vilnius STEAM Education Centre.
- 5. Interdisciplinary and international science and studies
  - a. We will regularly invite foreign scientists, as well as non-life scientists, for scientific discussions and informal interactions
  - b. We will start organising international schools for PhD students and postdoctoral trainees
- 6. Motivated staff and engaged students
  - a. We will organise regular events for informal interaction within the LSC community
  - b. We will regularly organise open discussions on issues of interest to the LSC community.
  - c. We will strive to attract and retain good non-academic staff.
- 7. Infrastructure to meet future needs
  - a. We will establish a list of infrastructure that is essential for the LSC's future and develop procedures for ensuring the functioning of this infrastructure.
  - b. We will look for ways to ensure that big data can be collected, stored and used.
- 8. Financial growth through revenue diversification
  - a. Seek new sources of income (from financial investment activities, to private patronage or crowdfunding opportunities)