



COLLEGE OF LAW LTD.

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DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAMME OF THE COLLEGE OF LAW FOR 2018–2023

APPROVED

at the Board meeting of the College of Law of 20 December 2017

In the period of 2018–2023, the development of the study programme will be based on the key policy documents and regulatory framework of our state.

THE MAIN PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The development of the College and the programme in the coming years will be affected by the further decrease in the number of students in Latvia due to the poor demographic situation in the country, the outflow of the population abroad, the increase of competition in higher education and especially in the college education system.

Problems with attracting qualified academic staff will remain, taking into account the insufficient number of persons holding a doctoral degree in social sciences.

It will be increasingly difficult for the material and technical facilities to compete with the rapid increase in public funding and the attraction of European Union funds in the state funded higher education sector, as well as taking into account the increase in costs, including accreditation expenses.

The rapid development of the labour market after overcoming the economic crisis will require increasing flexibility of study programmes, the need to adapt them quickly and effectively to the changing demands of employers.

The general belief in the overproduction of lawyers in Latvia makes the College of Law, in cooperation with the Latvian College Association, objectively explain this situation, demonstrating that colleges educate and train not lawyers, but assistant lawyers, the demand for them is still not satisfied in the labour market of Latvia.

Development Goals and Priorities

During the period of 2018–2023, the main goal of the development of study programmes is:

- to focus on legal sciences as the primary study field of the College as a whole by ensuring sustainable development and offering high quality of studies in the context of increasing competition in higher education and to use the capacity and potential of this field for the development of other study fields and programmes:

- to achieve purposeful and planned improvement of the study quality by ensuring a complex approach to the improvement of the study process, to ensure that the study process, which is relatively short in the programme, is maximally saturated and effective;

- to ensure that the theoretical knowledge to be acquired in the study programme is as effectively as possible related to the practice, using all possible forms and methods of the study process to meet the requirements of the labour market to the maximum;

- to devote attention to the growing role of information technology in jurisprudence and to promote students' knowledge and skills in acquiring and using these technologies;

- to regularly update the specialization directions of the study programme and elective courses according to the labour market development tendencies and necessity;

- to increase the mobility of academic staff members and students in cooperation with Latvian and foreign higher education institutions, as well as other partner organisations;

- to develop the study process as part of lifelong learning, taking into account previously acquired knowledge and experience of students, as well as forecasting future development tendencies in the labour market;

- to promote the change in public awareness of overproduction of lawyers in Latvia, by explaining the status of assistant lawyer and the essence of the first-level professional legal education and the need for these specialists in the labour market.

Improvement of the Study Process Organisation

The main directions of the study process improvement:

- to provide an annual in-depth evaluation of the study programme by attracting external experts, incl. in some cases also from abroad and employers, as well as representatives of professional non-governmental organisations, incl. from the Latvian Lawyers' Association;

- to intensify the use of the experience of other higher education institutions for the organisation of the study process, incl. abroad, both by visiting and learning onsite about the experience of these institutions, and by inviting relevant specialists to the College of Law;
- to increase the involvement of guest lecturers in the study process;
- to expand and deepen the work with the students so that at the beginning of their studies they acquire modern methods of learning, how to effectively combine work in classroom with independent work at home, libraries and internship places;
- to improve the experience of supplementing theoretical knowledge with the acquisition of practice by regularly organising role-play activities, study visits to law enforcement and other institutions, as well as student involvement in legal consultations.

Attraction and Qualification Development of the Academic Staff

- To develop cooperation with doctoral studies departments of higher education institutions in order to attract new, prospective doctoral students to work at the College;
- To promote the most qualified lecturers of the College of Law to pursue Doctoral studies by covering tuition fee and providing other incentives in order to improve their qualification;
- To promote and support the participation of academic staff members in scientific conferences and seminars in Latvia and abroad, as well as regularly organise such events at the College of Law;
- To promote the involvement of guest lecturers to the study process by inviting recognized professionals in their field of activity, as well as specialists and staff members from other countries and international organisations to deliver individual lectures or lecture cycles;
- To engage all academic staff members, according to the approved plan, in the professional development and to ensure that each academic staff member is involved in the execution of the research programme of the College of Law and at least once every 3 years publishes or otherwise makes his/her research results public.

Attracting Students and Organising Advertising Campaigns

- To expand work with secondary school teachers and pupils, by explaining the importance of college education and career development, to promote regional cooperation by involving secondary school pupils with an aim of giving an idea of the chosen profession;
- To support and develop the College of Law and the New School of Lawyers operating at its affiliations and to promote its potential and role among young people in choosing their future career and profession;

- Taking into account the diverse and often intrusive offers of advertisers, to conduct the research of the advertising market, finding out the most effective forms and types of advertising of the college, to develop an appropriate ad implementation policy;

- To stimulate students who are making good progress with materials and other incentives, incl. exemption from tuition fee.

Strengthening the Methodological Basis of the Study Process

- To promote and support the participation of academic staff members in scientific conferences and seminars in Latvia and abroad, as well as regularly organise such events at the College of Law;

- To stimulate the academic staff members of the College to develop textbooks and methodological aids, to publish these materials, to prepare audio and video recordings of lectures as an aid to studies;

- To regularly publish the scientific articles of the College of Law, including the results of both the academic staff members and the students. On the basis of the College, to continue the practice of organising international conferences on the themes arising from the study programmes;

- To expand the economic and legal resources of the Library of the College of Law to 245,000 units by developing the libraries of the affiliations of the College of Law. To expand the diversity of foreign literature and databases required for the study process, especially in European and international law, constitutional law and legal theory.

Development of Material and Technical Facilities

- To attract additional funds, state funding and the EU funds for the improvement of the material and technical facilities;

- To improve the infrastructure by expanding the premises used for the needs of the College of Law, creating new reading rooms and premises for methodological work;

- To regularly purchase new equipment (projectors, overhead projectors, interactive whiteboards, etc.) according to the approved plan.