

APPROVED

by Resolution No. 451 of the Government
of the Republic of Lithuania of 5 June 2024

THE STATUTE OF LIETUVOS INZINERIJOS KOLEGIJA HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The public institution Lietuvos Inžinerijos Kolegija Higher Education Institution (hereinafter – LIK) shall be a State Higher Education Institution of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. LIK shall be a public legal entity registered in the Republic of Lithuania, having a seal bearing the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Lithuania and its own name, and having a bank account. The legal form of LIK shall be that of a Public Institution.

3. The owner of LIK shall be the Republic of Lithuania. The proprietary and non-proprietary rights and obligations of the owner shall be exercised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, insofar as they are not within the exclusive competence of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

4. The official name of LIK in Lithuanian shall be Lietuvos Inžinerijos Kolegija Higher Education Institution, and the abbreviated name shall be LIK.

5. Public announcements, documents and other information of LIK intended for society shall be published on the official website of LIK and may additionally be published on social media platforms and/or by other media.

6. LIK shall be a recipient of support in accordance with the Law on Charity and Sponsorship of the Republic of Lithuania.

7. LIK may become a member of various associations and other organisations.

8. LIK shall have its flag, anthem, logo and other attributes. The procedure for the use of such attributes shall be approved by the Academic Council of LIK (hereinafter – the Academic Council).

CHAPTER II AUTONOMY, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

9. LIK shall have autonomy encompassing academic, administrative, economic, and financial management activities, based on the principles of self-governance and academic freedom.

10. In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, and other laws, the autonomy of LIK shall be balanced with accountability to society, the founder, and the participants of the legal entity.

11. In accordance with Section 8(2) of the Law on Science and Studies of the Law on Science and Studies, LIK shall have the following powers to:

11.1. appoint and employ academic and professional staff possessing the required qualifications, and to maintain lecture rooms, laboratories, a library, facilities for scientific and creative activities, as well as teaching and information resources necessary for the delivery of approved study programmes;

11.2. conclude cooperation, joint activity, study, research, and other agreements with higher education and research institutions, other institutions, and natural or legal persons in the Republic of Lithuania and abroad, and to become a member of associations, including international associations;

- 11.3. determine the procedures governing the use of state budget appropriations and other funds, and to set charges for work performed and services provided;
- 11.4. carry out applied research on the basis of contracts concluded with natural and legal persons of the Republic of Lithuania and foreign states, and to participate in international and foreign research programmes;
- 11.5. in accordance with procedures established by law and guided by the principles set out in Section 86(1) of the Law on Science and Studies, establish legal persons with limited civil liability and invest in them under conditions and procedures determined by the Council of LIK (hereinafter referred to as the Council), where such establishment or investment is related to the LIK's study or research activities and to experimental, social, or cultural development, and is necessary for the achievement of those objectives;
- 11.6. establish associations of science, arts, and study institutions, as well as other associations;
- 11.7. express opinions on matters relating to education, science, legislation, and other issues of importance to the State;
- 11.8. exercise other powers conferred by law.
- 12. The obligations of LIK shall be those set out in Section 8(3) of the Law on Science and Studies.

CHAPTER III

OBJECTIVES, FIELDS AND TYPES OF ACTIVITY

- 13. The objectives of LIK shall be to:
 - 13.1. provide studies leading to higher professional education and higher education qualifications that meet the needs of the Republic of Lithuania, society, and the economy, and that correspond to the level of science and the latest technologies;
 - 13.2. to provide individuals with opportunities for lifelong learning and continuous professional development, including the enhancement of competencies and requalification.
 - 13.3. develop applied research and experimental development relevant to the region, the State, and the international community;
 - 13.4. strengthen the role and impact of science, studies, knowledge, and innovation in societal development;
 - 13.5. to foster a society receptive to education, science, and culture and capable of operating in conditions of rapid technological change;
 - 13.6. to compete in the market for high-quality studies, applied research, expert activities, and related technologies and services, under conditions of sustainable development;
 - 13.7. strengthen the role and impact of science, studies, knowledge, and innovation in societal development, including through the provision of consultancy services to public authorities and economic entities;
 - 13.8. develop an organisational culture oriented towards cohesion among members of LIK community and socially responsible community engagement;
 - 13.9. educate society and promote technological and engineering culture, moral values, civic responsibility, and civic awareness.
- 14. The objectives of LIK shall be to:
 - 14.1. ensure equal access to studies for persons seeking higher professional education, regardless of gender, race, nationality, citizenship, language, origin, social status, belief, convictions or views, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin, or religion;
 - 14.2. ensure high-quality studies aimed at developing competent, critical, responsible individuals committed to continuous learning;
 - 14.3. develop and maintain a quality assurance system;
 - 14.4. carry out applied research and experimental development contributing to the assurance and enhancement of study quality and promoting regional and national development;
 - 14.5. in cooperation with social and economic partners, promote the development of

Lithuania through scientific, educational, and other cultural activities;

14.6. create an environment suitable for studies and the acquisition of applied research skills, including the development of a modern and contemporary teaching infrastructure;

14.7. develop advanced and innovative technologies in response to the needs of students and members of society;

14.8. ensure the efficient and rational use of material and financial resources;

14.9. ensure the scientific, methodological, professional, and educational capacity of academic and research staff;

14.10. ensure that the level of education provided and the quality of studies comply with the standards of the Republic of Lithuania and the European Union;

14.11. design and implement relevant, forward-looking, and distinctive study, training, and other programmes that meet labour market and societal needs;

14.12. develop a network of partnerships in Lithuania and abroad and create conditions for academic mobility of staff and students, innovation, and dissemination of experience;

14.13. participate in project-based activities aimed at developing competences, infrastructure, and the academic public space;

14.14. carry out educational, advisory, and consultancy activities;

14.15. implement the principles of lifelong learning, and, in cooperation with economic entities, organise professional development and retraining in accordance with individual needs and choices;

14.16. participate in national and international programmes for economic and social development;

14.17. in pursuing its objectives, adhere to the principles of democracy, comprehensive personal development, and integration into the Lithuanian and international academic community.

15. The principal field of activity of LIK shall be education and applied research.

16. The principal types of activity of LIK shall be the provision of college-level studies, applied research, and experimental development.

17. LIK shall have the right to engage in other activities provided for in the Classification of Economic Activities, where such activities correspond to the objectives and tasks of LIK and do not contravene the laws of the Republic of Lithuania, including but not limited to:

17.1. other accommodation activities (code 55.90);

17.2. publishing activities (code 58);

17.3. other information technology and computer service activities (code 62.09);

17.4. information service activities (code 63);

17.5. purchase and sale of own real estate (code 68.10)

17.6. letting and operation of own or leased real estate (code 68.20);

17.7. management consultancy activities (code 70.2);

17.8. architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis (code 71);

17.9. scientific research and applied activities (code 72);

17.10. market research and public opinion polling (code 73.20);

17.11. other professional, scientific, and technical activities not classified elsewhere (code 74.90);

17.12. rental of sports equipment (code 77.21.40);

17.13. technical and vocational secondary education (code 85.32);

17.14. post-secondary non-tertiary education (code 85.41);

17.15. sports and recreational education (code 85.51);

17.16. cultural education (code 85.52);

17.17. driving school activities (code 85.53);

17.18. other education not elsewhere classified (code 85.59);

17.19. educational support service activities (code 85.60);

17.20. creative, arts, and entertainment activities (code 90.0);

17.21. library and archive activities (code 91.01);

17.22. other amusement and recreation activities (code 93.29);

17.23. activities of business, employer, and professional membership organisations (code 94.1);

- 17.24. activities of trade unions (code 94.2);
- 17.25. activities of other membership organisations not classified elsewhere (code 94.99);
- 17.26. other personal service activities (code 96).

CHAPTER IV

FUNDAMENTAL PROVISIONS ON THE ORGANISATION OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH

18. LIK shall carry out applied research and experimental development, provide studies based on such activities and on professional practice, award higher professional education, deliver vocational training, provide short-cycle higher education programmes, and create conditions enabling individuals to engage in lifelong learning.

19. The social responsibility of LIK shall be linked to the sustainable development of the region through cooperation with local community groups, business entities, and public authorities, and through the development of individual and community capacity for independent and creative thinking and action.

20. In pursuing its objectives, LIK shall ensure the unity of study and research activities.

21. The unity of study and research shall be ensured through a close relationship with practice, including the participation of academic staff and students in applied research and experimental development projects commissioned by business, industry, and other organisations, as well as in regional development projects and consultancy activities.

22. LIK shall provide college-level study programmes leading to the award of the relevant qualification or to both a degree and a professional qualification within the corresponding group and cycle of study fields. LIK may also offer individual study modules (subjects), competence development programmes, and non-formal adult education programmes.

23. LIK may provide short-cycle higher education programmes.

24. Persons may study at LIK in state-funded or non-state-funded study places. Persons studying in non-state-funded study places shall pay a tuition fee approved by the Academic Council. The tuition fee, or part thereof, for a person studying in a non-state-funded study place may be paid by the student's employer, LIK, or other natural or legal persons.

25. The language of instruction at LIK shall be Lithuanian. In the cases provided for in Section 55 of the Law on Science and Studies, study programmes or parts thereof may be delivered in other languages.

26. LIK may implement joint college-level study programmes together with higher education institutions in the Republic of Lithuania or abroad. Upon completion of such programmes, a qualification degree(s), or a joint qualification degree(s) shall be awarded.

27. Persons may apply to LIK for the assessment and recognition of competences related to higher education acquired through formal education, non-formal education, or self-directed learning. The recognition of competences acquired through formal education for persons wishing to continue their studies at LIK as part of a study programme shall be carried out by LIK in accordance with the procedure established by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport (hereinafter referred to as the Minister).

28. Partial study results shall be recognised by LIK for persons who have completed, pursued, or are pursuing studies at higher education institutions in the Republic of Lithuania or foreign states under higher education study programmes and who wish to continue their studies at LIK. Such recognition shall include study results achieved under the same or other short-cycle, college-level, first-cycle, second-cycle, integrated, or professional study programmes. Partial study results shall be recognised in accordance with the procedure established by the Minister.

29. The academic year shall be divided into semesters and holiday/break periods. The beginning and end of the academic year and semesters, as well as holiday/break periods, shall be determined by the Academic Council. The organisation of studies shall be governed by the Study Regulations of LIK (hereinafter referred to as the Study Regulations), approved by the Academic Council.

30. College-level study programmes may be designed to lead to the award of professional Bachelor's degrees in two fields of study.

31. For the purpose of completing student practice provided for in a study programme, a practical training agreement shall be concluded between the enterprise, institution, or organisation where the student undertakes the practice, the student, and LIK.

32. Persons who have completed college-level study programmes shall be issued with a higher education diploma and a diploma supplement.

33. Persons who have completed short-cycle higher education programmes shall be issued with a document certifying the qualification obtained.

34. A person who has studied at LIK under part of a study programme shall be issued with a certificate of studies.

35. Persons who have completed professional studies or study modules intended for the acquisition of other qualifications shall be issued with a certificate of studies.

36. Persons who have completed competence development programmes or non-formal adult education programmes shall be issued with a document indicating the number of credits earned.

37. Upon authorisation by the Minister, LIK shall carry out the academic recognition of education and qualifications related to higher education acquired under educational programmes of foreign states or international organisations, in accordance with the procedure established by the Government.

38. The directions and thematic areas of applied research and experimental development shall be determined by the Academic Council, taking into account the research qualifications of LIK, available financial resources, and the needs of studies and commissioning entities.

39. The results of applied research and experimental development shall be made publicly available (via the internet and other means), insofar as this does not conflict with legal provisions governing the protection of intellectual property and commercial, state, or official secrets.

40. The dissemination of applied research and experimental development results shall be encouraged at LIK through the organisation of scientific and practical Conferences, forums, seminars, competitions, and other events.

41. LIK shall publish scientific, methodological, educational, informational, and other publications.

CHAPTER V QUALITY ASSURANCE OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH

42. LIK shall be responsible for the quality of studies, research, and other activities carried out at LIK. LIK shall publicly disclose indicators of the quality of its activities and, in cooperation with evaluation bodies, foster a culture of quality.

43. The annual activity report of LIK shall be prepared in accordance with Section 8(5) of the Law on Science and Studies and shall be approved by the Academic Council. The annual activity report approved by the Academic Council shall be published on LIK's website by the Director of LIK (hereinafter referred to as the Director). Annual income and expenditure estimates and reports on their execution shall also be published on LIK's website.

44. The quality of studies and research shall be ensured through the application of admission requirements, the internal quality assurance systems of LIK, external evaluation and accreditation of study programmes, and external evaluation and/or accreditation of higher education and research institutions, as well as through the development of internationalisation, inter-institutional cooperation, and the integration of studies and research.

45. The quality assurance of studies at LIK shall be based on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. The quality assurance of research shall be based on the principles of the European Research Area.

46. The activities of LIK shall be continuously improved through periodic self-assessment and by taking into account the results of external evaluations of LIK.

47. LIK shall publicly disclose on its website and, by other means not less than

once per year, accurate and impartial quantitative and qualitative information on research activities and self-assessment results, as well as information on study programmes, higher education qualifications awarded, the opinions of students, graduates, and other stakeholders on the quality of studies, the results of evaluations of LIK and its study programmes, graduate career indicators, and other data necessary to inform the public about studies.

48. External evaluation of studies shall include an analysis of all study programmes within a given field of study and the quality of their delivery, based on the self-assessment and monitoring data prepared by LIK and involving external experts. The results of external study evaluations shall be made public. Following an external evaluation, LIK shall implement the recommendations provided during the evaluation.

CHAPTER VI

STRUCTURE, GOVERNING BODIES AND THEIR COMPETENCE, PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL

49. The internal organisational units of LIK shall, according to their functions, be classified into academic and non-academic units. Academic units shall include those units whose principal activities are the provision of studies and/or the conduct of applied research and experimental development.

50. LIK shall have an administration necessary for the performance of the administrative functions of LIK and its units, as well as administrative and other staff required for the implementation of LIK's objectives in studies, applied research and experimental development, artistic activities, and economic activities. Heads shall be appointed by the Director. The administration shall consist of employees of LIK, excluding heads of academic units that form part of other academic units, who shall have the right, within the scope of their competence, to issue binding instructions to subordinate staff. In addition to administrative duties, employees of LIK may engage in teaching and/or research activities.

51. The objectives, tasks, rights, governance, assets, and responsibilities of academic units shall be determined in their regulations approved by the Academic Council. The number of administrative and other staff of LIK, as well as their positions and functions, shall be determined by the Director.

52. Non-academic units of LIK shall be established to provide services ensuring the operation of academic units and to perform other non-academic functions of LIK. In implementing the strategic activity plan of LIK, non-academic units shall be established and liquidated, and their regulations approved, by the Director.

53. The governing bodies of LIK shall be formed and their competences determined in accordance with Sections 26–30 of the Law on Science and Studies and this Statute.

54. The collegial governing bodies of LIK shall be the Council and the Academic Council. The sole executive governing body of LIK shall be the Director.

55. The Council shall be the strategic governing body of LIK, ensuring accountability to society, social responsibility, and a prompt and effective response to changes in the external environment.

56. The Council shall:

56.1. perform the functions laid down in Section 27(2) of the Law on Science and Studies;

56.2. upon submission by the Director and having assessed the proposals of the Academic Council, approve LIK's remuneration system;

56.3. upon submission by the Director, approve the annual sets of financial statements;

56.4. perform other functions provided for in this Statute and in other legal acts governing the activities of LIK.

57. The Council shall consist of 11 members appointed as follows:

57.1. one member shall be appointed and removed by the Student Representative Council of LIK (hereinafter – the Student Representative Council) in accordance with its own procedure, or, where such body does not exist, by the General Meeting (Conference) of

students;

57.2. five members belonging to LIK staff shall be elected and removed by members of the academic community of LIK (excluding students) in accordance with the procedure established by the Academic Council;

57.3. four members who are neither members of the LIK staff nor students shall be elected and removed in accordance with the procedure established by the Academic Council. These members shall be selected through an open public competition;

57.4. one member who is neither a member of LIK staff nor a student shall be appointed and removed by the Student Representative Council, or, where such body does not exist, by the General Meeting (Conference) of students.

58. Members of the Council shall be elected separately to each of the ten positions defined by the Academic Council, taking into account the diverse interests of LIK. The composition of the Council shall be publicly announced on LIK's website by the Chair of the Academic Council.

59. The term of office of the Council and the procedure for announcing the composition of a newly formed Council shall be governed by Section 27 of the Law on Science and Studies.

60. A person meeting the requirements set out in Section 27(4) of the Law on Science and Studies shall be a member of the Council. The same person shall serve as a member of the Council for no more than two consecutive terms.

61. Persons specified in Section 27(5) of the Law on Science and Studies shall not be eligible to serve as members of the Council.

62. Upon assuming office, a member of the Council shall, at the first meeting of the Council to which members of the Academic Council are invited, publicly read and sign a written undertaking, in the form approved by the Academic Council, to act in the interests of LIK and society and to perform honestly the functions specified in Section 27(2) of the Law on Science and Studies. The signed undertaking shall be accepted by the Chair of the Academic Council.

63. The Council shall elect and remove its Chair from among its members by a majority vote of all Council members. The Chair of the Council shall not be a member of LIK staff or a student. The Chair shall lead the Council and represent it.

64. The Council shall approve its rules of procedure. Meetings of the Council shall be quorate if not less than two thirds of its members are present. Decisions of the Council shall be published on LIK's website.

65. Members of the Council shall be obliged to:

65.1. comply with the undertaking given to LIK;

65.2. attend meetings of the Council;

65.3. declare any conflict of interest in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council, withdraw from deliberations where such withdrawal has been accepted, and refrain from participation in the preparation, consideration, or adoption of the relevant decision;

65.4. act in accordance with this Statute, the rules of procedure of the Council, and the decisions of the Council.

66. Decisions of the Council shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes of members present at the meeting, except for decisions concerning draft legal acts relating to amendments to the Statute of LIK, conditions of reorganisation, or a plan of liquidation. Such decisions shall require a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes of members present.

67. The Director may participate in meetings of the Council with the right to an advisory vote.

68. Where a member of the Council fails to perform properly the duties set out in Paragraph 65 of this Statute, the rules of procedure of the Council, or Section 27(7) of the Law on Science and Studies, or fails to sign the undertaking referred to in Paragraph 62 of this Statute, the Chair of the Council shall have the right to apply to the appointing body requesting the removal of that member.

69. Membership of the Council shall terminate:

69.1. upon expiry of the member's term of office;

69.2. where a member elected as a member of LIK staff

ceases to be employed by LIK;

69.3. where a student member takes academic leave, terminates, or completes studies;

69.4. upon resignation;

69.5. upon the death of the member;

69.6. upon removal from office in cases provided for in this Statute.

70. Where the powers of a member of the Council terminate before the end of the Council's term of office, another member shall be elected or appointed for the remaining term in the same manner as the outgoing member. The new member shall assume office after the Chair of the Academic Council publicly announces the election or appointment and the member signs the undertaking referred to in Paragraph 62 of this Statute.

71. Members of the Council shall receive remuneration for their service from the funds of LIK. The amount of remuneration shall be determined in the budget of expenses for the organisation of the Council's activities approved by the Council. Payments shall be made twice per calendar year.

72. The Academic Council shall be the governing body responsible for academic affairs of LIK.

73. The Academic Council shall:

73.1. perform the functions provided for in Section 28(2) of the Law on Science and Studies;

73.2. consider and submit proposals to the Director regarding candidates for the positions of heads of academic units;

73.3. consider and approve LIK's Code of Academic Ethics;

73.4. establish the Academic Ethics Committee in accordance with the Code of Academic Ethics and submit it to the Director for approval;

73.5. convene meetings of the academic community of LIK to consider important issues of LIK activity, where requested by more than half of all members of the Academic Council, giving not less than five working days' notice;

73.6. approve the amounts of fees directly related to the implementation of study programmes;

73.7. consider and approve the rules for admission of students to LIK (hereinafter – the Student Admission Rules);

73.8. consider draft legal acts relating to amendments to the Statute, reorganisation, liquidation, or changes to LIK property and territory, and submit its opinion to the Council;

73.9. upon submission by the Director, consider the draft strategic activity plan of LIK and submit its opinion to the Council;

73.10. upon submission by the Director, approve the Study Regulations;

73.11. supervise the functioning of the quality assurance system for studies and assess the results and quality of research, experimental, social, cultural, technological development, studies, and the overall activity of LIK;

73.12. approve the procedure for assessment of study results and determine the assessment period;

73.13. establish the procedure for free retaking of examinations or other final assessments;

73.14. determine the ranking of students who have achieved the best results in state non-funded study places by field of study;

73.15. establish additional requirements for special abilities and competencies for applicants seeking state-funded study places or study scholarships;

73.16. approve the regulations of academic units of LIK;

73.17. inform the academic community of LIK of its decisions via LIK's website within seven working days. Decisions of the Academic Council shall be binding on all members of the academic community;

73.18. prepare an annual report on its activities and publicly publish and present it to LIK community on LIK's website no later than 1 April each year.

73.19. convene meetings of the academic community of LIK to consider important issues of LIK activity, where requested by more than half of all members of the Academic

Council, giving not less than five working days' notice;

73.20. perform other functions provided for in this Statute and in other legal acts governing the activities of LIK.

74. The Academic Council shall be established for a term of five years.

75. Members of the Academic Council shall include members of the academic community of LIK, administrative staff who are members of the Academic Council by virtue of their office, as well as researchers, lecturers, and recognised artists from other research and higher education institutions.

76. The Academic Council shall consist of 21 members:

76.1. five members of the Academic Council shall be appointed by students (student representatives);

76.2. not fewer than five employees of LIK holding the position of Associate Professor shall be elected by members of the academic community of LIK;

76.3. two members shall be members of the Academic Council *ex officio*: the Director shall be an *ex officio* member of the Academic Council, and one additional *ex officio* member shall be appointed in accordance with the procedure established by the Director;

76.4. the remaining nine members of the Academic Council shall be other members of the academic community of LIK, as well as researchers, lecturers, and recognised artists from other research and higher education institutions, elected by members of the academic community of LIK;

76.5. student representatives to the Academic Council shall be appointed by the Student Representative Council or, where such body does not exist, by the General Meeting (Conference) of students.

77. The composition of the Academic Council and any changes thereto shall be approved by an order of the Director.

78. The Academic Council shall approve its rules of procedure. Meetings of the Academic Council shall be quorate if not less than one half of its members are present. The first meeting of the Academic Council shall be convened by the Director not later than one month after the election of the members of the Academic Council.

79. Decisions of the Academic Council shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes of members present at the meeting, except for decisions concerning draft legal acts relating to amendments to the Statute of LIK, conditions of reorganisation, or a plan of liquidation. Such decisions shall be adopted by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes of members present.

80. By a simple majority of the votes of all its members, the Academic Council shall elect from among its members a Chair and a Deputy Chair of the Academic Council. The Chair of the Academic Council shall lead the Academic Council and represent it. In the temporary absence of the Chair, these functions shall be performed by the Deputy Chair, and in the absence of both, by another member of the Academic Council authorised by the Academic Council. The Director shall not be eligible to serve as Chair or Deputy Chair of the Academic Council.

81. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Academic Council may be removed from office for improper performance of their duties by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes of all members of the Academic Council.

82. Membership of the Academic Council shall terminate:

82.1. upon expiry of the member's term of office;

82.2. upon termination of the member's employment contract with LIK, except where the member was appointed as an employee of another research or higher education institution and employment relations with that institution continue;

82.3. where a student member takes academic leave, terminates, or completes studies;

82.4. upon resignation from the Academic Council;

82.5. upon the death of the member;

82.6. upon removal from office where a member of the Academic Council improperly performs the duties of a member as laid down in this Statute or in the rules of procedure of the Academic Council.

83. Where the mandate of a member of the Academic Council elected by the academic community is suspended for a period exceeding three months due to temporary incapacity for work, parental leave, or other significant reasons, a candidate who was not elected in the most recent elections to the Academic Council and who received the highest number of votes, but not fewer than one half of the votes, shall be appointed to act as a temporary member. Where the mandate of a student representative on the Academic Council is suspended for a period exceeding three months due to temporary incapacity for work, parental leave, or other significant reasons, a temporary member of the Academic Council shall be appointed by the Student Representative Council or, where such body does not exist, by the General Meeting (Conference) of students.

84. The Director shall be the sole executive governing body of LIK, acting on behalf of and representing LIK.

85. The Director shall perform the following functions:

85.1. perform the functions provided for in Section 29(2) of the Law on Science and Studies;

85.2. appoint heads of non-academic units and administrative staff, in compliance with the principles for the selection and evaluation of LIK's administration and other employees established by the Council;

85.3. appoint heads of academic units, taking into account the proposals of the Academic Council;

85.4. approve job descriptions;

85.5. submit proposals to the Academic Council regarding the amounts of fees directly related to the implementation of study programmes;

85.6. encourage and reward employees and students;

85.7. impose disciplinary sanctions on students in accordance with the procedure for awarding incentives and imposing sanctions on students approved by order of the Director;

85.8. coordinate LIK's cooperation with institutions of the Republic of Lithuania and foreign states, as well as with social partners;

85.9. represent LIK at the Conference of Directors of Lithuanian Higher Education Institutions and in national, foreign, and international organisations;

85.10. initiate financial or operational audits of LIK;

85.11. submit proposals to the Academic Council and the Council regarding the boundaries of LIK's territory, buildings owned by the Republic, amendments to the Statute, and the reorganisation or liquidation (termination of activities) of LIK;

85.12. organise activities necessary for the implementation of LIK's strategic activity plan;

85.13. submit the Study Regulations to the Academic Council for approval;

85.14. following approval by the Council, publicly publish the annual activity report of LIK;

85.15. approve internal regulatory legal acts, the approval of which does not fall within the competence of the Academic Council or the Council;

85.16. having considered the opinion of the Student Representative Council, approve LIK's scholarship regulations;

85.17. ensure the implementation of the property and non-property rights of LIK as a participant in legal entities;

85.18. approve the prices of other services provided by LIK;

85.19. conclude transactions with natural and legal persons on behalf of LIK;

85.20. perform other functions provided for in legal acts.

86. The Director shall be elected by the Council in accordance with the procedure established by the Council.

87. The Council shall announce a public competition for the position of Director. The Director shall be deemed elected if not less than three fifths of all members of the Council vote in favour.

88. The Director shall be a person of impeccable reputation who, during the preceding ten years, has acquired not less than three years of pedagogical experience and not less than three years of managerial experience, holds a Doctoral degree in Science or Art or is

a recognised artist, has proficiency in the Lithuanian language, and has proficiency at not lower than B2 level in one foreign language (English, German, or French), with preference given to proficiency in English.

89. The Director shall have held a managerial position continuously for not less than one year. This requirement shall be deemed fulfilled if, during the preceding five years, the person continuously for one year managed (or served as deputy head of) a legal entity or its structural unit and had subordinate employees.

90. A candidate for the position of Director of LIK shall demonstrate an understanding of the mission of LIK, an ability to uphold and develop the values of LIK, motivation to ensure the quality of LIK's activities, and the knowledge, experience, and competencies necessary to perform the duties of the Director.

91. In assessing the suitability of a candidate for the position of Director, consideration shall be given to the candidate's experience in education and business, participation in public activities, and proficiency in foreign languages. These requirements shall be specified in the public competition notice for the position of Director.

92. An employment contract for the term of office shall be signed on behalf of LIK with the elected Director by the Chair of the Council or another person authorised by the Council.

93. The Director may, by order, delegate part of his or her functions to authorised persons, except for those functions which, under laws and other legal acts, must be performed personally by the head of the institution.

94. The term of office of the Director shall be governed by Section 29(7) of the Law on Science and Studies.

95. Where the person holding the position of Director is granted annual or special leave, or where the Director is temporarily incapacitated for work, the Council shall assign a person to act temporarily as Director.

96. LIK Directorate shall be an advisory body subordinate to the Director, analysing and addressing current academic, organisational, economic, and other matters. Members of the Directorate shall include the head of administration, heads of academic units, the President of the Student Representative Council, and other employees by virtue of their positions. The composition and rules of procedure of the Directorate shall be approved by order of the Director.

CHAPTER VII

RIGHTS, DUTIES AND LIABILITY OF MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND OTHER EMPLOYEES OF LIK

97. The academic community of LIK shall consist of LIK's students, lecturers, researchers, professors emeriti, and other employees who directly participate in scientific research and/or study activities.

98. The academic community of LIK shall be guaranteed academic freedom and other rights laid down in Section 60 of the Law on Science and Studies and shall comply with the Code of Academic Ethics, approved by the Academic Council in accordance with the recommendations of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures.

99. Students of LIK shall have the rights established in Section 62(1) of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Science and Studies and shall additionally have the following rights:

- 99.1. participate in international academic exchange programmes;
- 99.2. participate in scientific research, technical and creative activities;
- 99.3. undertake voluntary practice, additional practice or traineeships not forming part of the study programme;
- 99.4. receive incentive scholarships in accordance with the procedure established by the Academic Council;
- 99.5. receive scholarships funded by sponsors;
- 99.6. receive other forms of support provided in accordance with the procedure established by the Government.

100. Other rights and duties of students shall be governed by Section 62 of the Law on Science and Studies, the Study Regulations, the study agreement, and other legal acts regulating the study process.

101. Incentives and disciplinary penalties for students shall be imposed in accordance with the procedure established by the Director and coordinated with the Student Representative Council.

102. The interests of students of the higher education institution shall be represented at LIK by the Student Representative Council. The Student Representative Council shall consist of students elected by the General Meeting (Conference) of Students. Where the Student Representative Council resigns, the initiation of the formation of a new Student Representative Council shall be undertaken by the Director.

103. The procedure for convening the General Meeting (Conference) of Students and for adopting decisions shall be established by the Academic Council. The General Meeting (Conference) of the Student Representative Council shall be valid if more than half of all student representatives participate. Decisions of the Conference shall be deemed adopted if more than half of the participating student representatives vote in favour.

104. In its activities, the Student Representative Council shall be guided by the Law on Associations of the Republic of Lithuania, other legal acts, the Statute of LIK, and the Statutes of the Student Representative Council approved by the General Meeting (Conference) of Students. The activities of the Student Representative Council shall be based on the principles of legality, democracy, transparency, openness, integrity, collegiality and self-governance.

105. Student representatives shall be delegated to the governing and other bodies of LIK in accordance with the principles of universality, transparency and openness, and pursuant to the procedure established in the Statutes of the Student Representative Council and other documents regulating its activities Student representatives shall participate in the activities of the governing bodies of LIK with the right to vote.

106. The Student Representative Council, or, where it does not exist, the General Meeting (Conference) of Students, through its appointed representatives, shall represent the interests of students of LIK in the governing bodies, advisory bodies and dispute resolution bodies of LIK.

107. The Student Representative Council shall, no later than within seven calendar days from the date of publication of a decision, submit a written request to the governing body of LIK that adopted the decision, requesting reconsideration of the adopted decision.

108. Funds from the state budget may be allocated, in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts, for the activities of the Student Representative Council and other student organisations.

109. The Student Representative Council shall account for the use of funds allocated by LIK in accordance with the procedure established by the Director.

110. The personnel of LIK shall consist of lecturers, research staff, administrative staff and other employees. The number of administrative staff and other employees of LIK, as well as their positions and functions, shall be determined by the Director.

111. Employment contracts with employees of LIK shall be concluded and terminated in accordance with the Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Science and Studies, and legal acts implementing these laws, and employees shall be guaranteed the working conditions and social guarantees provided for therein.

112. Researchers or recognised artists at LIK shall hold the following academic positions: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant, Junior Assistant. Persons who are not researchers or recognised artists shall hold the following academic positions at LIK: Senior Lecturer and Lecturer. Persons referred to in Section 65(8) of the Law on Science and Studies shall hold the position of Lecturer Practitioner.

113. For exceptional merit in science or art, the Academic Council may confer the title of Professor Emeritus upon a Professor who has been actively engaged in scientific, artistic and/or pedagogical activities at LIK. Professors Emeriti shall have the right to

participate in the scientific, artistic and other activities of LIK under the same conditions as other lecturers employed by LIK. A monthly allowance to a Professor Emeritus shall be paid from the funds of LIK in an amount determined by the Council, depending on the financial performance of LIK.

114. Lecturers Practitioners shall deliver lectures, conduct practical classes, supervise students' practical work, introduce students to the application of research in practice, assist in applied research activities, transfer practical professional knowledge, and perform other duties established in the job description of the lecturer. Persons with at least three years of practical professional experience in the relevant field and demonstrable professional achievements shall be appointed to these positions in accordance with the procedure established by LIK. While performing their duties, such lecturers shall be required to engage in practical professional activities in the relevant field and to possess the teaching competencies established by LIK.

115. The qualification requirements for academic positions of lecturers, which shall not be lower than those established in the Law on Science and Studies, the procedure for organising competitions for these positions, and the procedure for attestation of lecturers shall be established by the Academic Council.

116. The qualification requirements for research staff positions, which shall not be lower than those established in the Law on Science and Studies, the procedure for organising competitions for these positions, and the procedure for attestation of research staff shall be established by the Academic Council. When establishing qualification requirements for research staff positions, the Academic Council shall take into account the requirements for mandatory competencies for all researcher career stages established by the Research Council of Lithuania.

117. Students of the first-cycle and, where applicable, second-cycle or integrated studies at LIK shall hold the position of Research Assistant. A Research Assistant shall assist researchers in order to acquire pedagogical, research and professional experience. Fixed-term employment contracts with Research Assistants shall be concluded for a period not exceeding the completion or termination of studies at LIK and in any case not exceeding five years. The requirements for appointment to the position of Research Assistant and the conditions of remuneration shall be established by the Academic Council.

118. Persons shall be appointed to lecturer and research staff positions through a public competition for employment of not less than 0.25 of a full-time equivalent, except for the persons referred to in Section 65(8), Section 68, and Sections 72(10) and 72(11) of the Law on Science and Studies.

119. A public competition for the positions referred to in Paragraph 120 of this Statute shall be announced no later than six months prior to the intended commencement of employment. A notice of the competition shall be published on the websites of LIK and the Research Council of Lithuania, and in national and, where appropriate, international media. Applicants for these positions shall submit a five-year activity plan.

120. A fixed-term employment contract for a period of five years shall be concluded with a person who wins the competition for a lecturer or research staff position, and an activity plan aligned with the strategic plans and priorities of LIK shall be approved for the same period in accordance with the procedure established by the Academic Council. No later than three months prior to the expiry of the fixed-term employment contract, an evaluation of the employee's performance during this period shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure established by the Academic Council. A fixed-term employment contract for a period of five years shall be concluded with a person who wins the competition for a lecturer or research staff position, and an activity plan aligned with the strategic plans and priorities of LIK shall be approved for the same period in accordance with the procedure established by the Academic Council. Periods of maternity, paternity or childcare leave and periods of temporary incapacity for work exceeding three months shall not be included in the five-year period. If the performance evaluation is negative, the employee shall be dismissed in accordance with the procedure established by law. If the performance evaluation is positive, employment relations shall continue under an open-ended employment contract for the same position.

121. Where a lecturer or research staff member employed under an open-ended employment contract wins a competition for another lecturer or research staff position at LIK, employment relations shall continue under an open-ended employment contract in the new position.

122. During the period of an open-ended employment contract, a lecturer or research staff member shall be subject to attestation every five years or may undergo extraordinary attestation in accordance with the procedure established by the Academic Council. These requirements shall not be lower than those applicable to public competitions for lecturer or research staff positions. Periods of maternity, paternity or childcare leave and periods of illness exceeding three months shall not be included in the attestation period. An employee who fails attestation shall be dismissed in accordance with the procedure established by law.

123. In order to ensure the quality of study and research activities, LIK may invite lecturers and research staff from other higher education and research institutions for a period not exceeding two years, provided they meet the requirements of the leading or recognised researcher career stage. Such employees shall be granted the status of Invited Lecturer or Researcher of LIK. The appointment procedure established in this Statute shall not apply to Invited Lecturers and Researchers.

124. By decision of the Director, persons meeting the qualification requirements may be appointed to lecturer and research staff positions without competition under a fixed-term employment contract. Except for persons participating in research projects, such appointments without competition shall be made for a period not exceeding one year, with the possibility of extension for one additional period not exceeding one year. Repeated appointment without competition to lecturer or research staff positions may take place no earlier than two years after the expiry of the fixed-term employment contract. Persons whose performance was evaluated negatively under Paragraph 120 of this Statute and persons who failed attestation may be appointed without competition only to lower positions.

125. In accordance with the procedure established by the Academic Council, lecturers of LIK may, once during a five-year period or every five years, be released from pedagogical duties for a period not exceeding one year in order to carry out scientific and/or artistic research or to improve scientific, artistic and/or pedagogical qualifications. During this period, the lecturer shall be paid his or her average salary.

126. The rights of the personnel of LIK shall be governed by Section 71(1) of the Law on Science and Studies.

127. The personnel of LIK shall be obliged to perform their duties honestly, diligently, properly and in a timely manner, to comply with lawful instructions of the administration and their immediate supervisor, to observe work standards, safeguard the property of LIK, arrive at work on time, comply with established working hours, devote working time exclusively to the performance of official duties, and fulfil other obligations laid down in Section 71(4) of the Law on Science and Studies, the Labour Code, internal work rules, employment contracts, local regulatory legal acts of LIK and other legal acts regulating employees' duties.

128. For failure to perform or improper performance of duties laid down in the Law on Science and Studies, this Statute and other legal acts, as well as for violations of academic ethics, members of the academic community of LIK and other employees shall be liable in accordance with the procedure established by law.

CHAPTER VIII

ADMISSION AND REMOVAL OF STUDENTS, COMPLETION, TERMINATION AND RESUMPTION OF STUDIES

129. Persons shall be admitted, by way of competition, to first-cycle professional bachelor study programmes provided by LIK if they have passed the number of state matriculation examinations prescribed by the Law on Science and Studies, hold at least a secondary education qualification, and meet the other requirements laid down in Section 59(1) of the Law on Science and Studies, taking into account their learning

outcomes, entrance examinations, or other criteria established in the Student Admission Rules approved by the Academic Council.

130. Persons shall be admitted to other study or training programmes not provided for in the Student Admission Rules in accordance with the procedure established by the Director. The procedure for transferring students to vacant state-funded study places shall be established by the Academic Council. A student shall be admitted to LIK by an order of the Director.

131. Persons specified in Section 59(3) of the Law on Science and Studies shall be admitted, by way of competition, to short-cycle study programmes, taking into account learning achievements and other criteria established by the Academic Council, and having regard to the requirements of professional standards and study field descriptions.

132. LIK shall carry out additional admission to vacant state-non-funded study places in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Student Admission Rules.

133. The list of competitive subjects by study field, identifying the principal subject, shall be established annually by the Academic Council and, following coordination with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, shall be published no later than three years before 1 September of the relevant year.

134. The principles for calculating the competitive admission score and other criteria established by the Academic Council shall be published annually by LIK no later than 1 December, at least six months prior to the commencement of admission. The minimum admission score approved by the Academic Council shall be published annually no later than 1 June.

135. An education agreement in the form approved by the Director shall be concluded with admitted students.

136. Studies at LIK shall be completed or terminated when:

136.1. the student completes the study programme;

136.2. the student submits a request to terminate studies;

136.3. studies become impossible due to objective reasons (illness, death, or other circumstances);

136.4. the student transfers to another institution;

136.5. the student is removed from LIK in the cases provided for in Paragraph 137 of this Statute;

136.6. the education agreement expires or is terminated on other grounds established by legal acts or

the education agreement.

137. A student shall be removed from LIK if the student:

137.1. fails to fulfil, or improperly fulfils, the requirements of the study programme, or fails to

achieve the learning outcomes established therein;

137.2. fails to fulfil, or improperly fulfils, the obligations laid down in the Study Regulations;

137.3. violates the requirements established in this Statute, the Code of Academic Ethics, the Study Regulations, or other legal acts governing studies;

137.4. fails to fulfil the financial obligations set out in the education agreement with LIK;

137.5. refuses to amend the education agreement following the loss of state funding;

137.6. submits false, misleading, or inaccurate data, information, or documents as a result of which the education agreement could not have been concluded, performed, or fulfilled.

138. A student shall be removed from LIK by an order of the Director.

139. Students studying in state-non-funded study places may be transferred to vacant state-funded study places in accordance with the procedure established by the Academic Council and in compliance with Section 78 of the Law on Science and Studies.

140. Following the termination of studies, studies may be resumed upon submission of an application to the Director during the course of a semester. A person shall not resume studies in a study programme that has been deregistered from the Register of Studies,

Training Programmes and Qualifications. Such a person may be admitted to another chosen study programme in accordance with the procedure established in the Study Regulations.

CHAPTER IX

HANDLING OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STUDENTS, THE ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER EMPLOYEES

141. Upon receipt of written applications, complaints or notifications from students concerning violations of their rights or legitimate interests established in the Law on Science and Studies or other legal acts, the Director or persons authorised by the Director shall examine such submissions and provide a written response within fifteen calendar days. A student who is dissatisfied with the response of the Director or an authorised person, or who has not received a response within 15 calendar days from the date of receipt of the application, complaint or notification by LIK, shall have the right, within seven calendar days from the date of receipt of the response or from the date on which the response should have been received, to apply to the Dispute Resolution Commission, which shall consider disputes related to science and study activities between students and LIK administration or other employees.

142. The Dispute Resolution Commission shall be formed for a term of two years by an order of the Director and shall consist of six members. An equal number of authorised representatives shall be delegated to the Dispute Resolution Commission by LIK administration and by the Student Representative Council (or, where none exists, by the General Meeting (Conference) of Students). The Dispute Resolution Commission shall elect and dismiss its Chairperson from among its members by a majority vote of all members.

143. The procedure for dispute resolution and implementation of decisions shall be established in the Regulations of the Dispute Resolution Commission, which shall be approved by the Director following coordination with the Student Representative Council (or, where none exists, with the General Meeting (Conference) of Students).

144. Disputes relating to violations of academic ethics shall be examined in accordance with the procedure established in the Code of Academic Ethics.

145. Disputes between LIK administration and employees concerning the implementation of rights and obligations established in labour laws, employment contracts and other legal acts shall be examined in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania and the legal acts implementing it.

CHAPTER X

SOURCES OF FUNDS AND THE USE OF ASSETS AND FUNDS

146. The funds of LIK shall consist of the funds specified in Section 74(1) of the Law on Science and Studies.

147. LIK shall use:

147.1. long-term tangible assets owned by the State and transferred to LIK under a state asset trust agreement;

147.2. assets owned by LIK by right of ownership;

147.3. other assets lawfully acquired.

148. LIK shall manage, use and dispose of assets owned by it by right of ownership in accordance with Section 88(1) of the Law on Science and Studies.

149. No later than 1 May of the following year, LIK shall publish on its website a report on the management, use and disposal of State-owned assets during the preceding financial year.

150. LIK shall manage, use and dispose of long-term tangible assets owned by the State and transferred to LIK under a state asset trust agreement in accordance with the principles laid down in Section 86(1) of the Law on Science and Studies, the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Management, Use and Disposal of State and Municipal Assets, and the terms of the state asset trust agreement.

151. LIK shall account, in accordance with the procedure laid down by law, for the use of funds received from the State budget and other institutions for the implementation of delegated functions.

152. LIK shall have the right to borrow funds, including by entering into loan agreements, financial lease agreements and other debt instruments, in compliance with Section 90(5) of the Law on Science and Studies and the legal acts related thereto.

CHAPTER XI ESTABLISHMENT AND TERMINATION OF BRANCHES AND REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES

153. For the purposes of carrying out its activities, LIK may establish branches and representative offices.

154. A branch or a representative office of LIK shall be a structural unit of LIK with its own registered office and performing all or part of the functions of LIK. A branch and a representative office shall operate in accordance with regulations approved by the Council. A branch and a representative office shall not be legal persons. LIK shall be liable for the obligations of its branch and representative office, and a branch and a representative office shall be liable for the obligations of LIK.

155. Branches and representative offices of LIK shall be established and their activities terminated by decision of the Council in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Civil Code of the Republic of Lithuania and the legal acts implementing it.

CHAPTER XII PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE STATUTE

156. Amendments to the Statute may be initiated by the Government, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Council, the Academic Council, and the Director.

157. The Council, in coordination with the Academic Council, makes decisions regarding the draft legislative act on amendments to the Statute to be submitted to the Government, prepared in accordance with the procedure established by law.

CHAPTER XIII FINAL PROVISIONS

158. LIK may be reorganised or liquidated in accordance with the procedure established by the Civil Code, the Law on Science and Studies, and the Law on Public Institutions of the Republic of Lithuania.

159. The Council, in coordination with the Academic Council, makes decisions regarding draft legislative acts to be submitted to the Government on the conditions of LIK's reorganisation or the liquidation plan.

160. The decision on the reorganisation of LIK is made by the Government upon the proposal of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, after considering the opinions of the Council and the Academic Council.

161. Matters not addressed in the Statute regarding the activities of LIK shall be resolved in accordance with laws and other legal acts, as well as by documents approved by the Council, the Academic Council, or the Director.