



**Vilnius
University**

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY at a glance

S.Savickaite, International Relations Office, Vilnius University
Erasmus + CBJP project TOOLKIT
Kick-Off Meeting, 7-11 April 2019 Bologna

Partner: Vilnius University, Lithuania

Vilnius
University

Lithuania

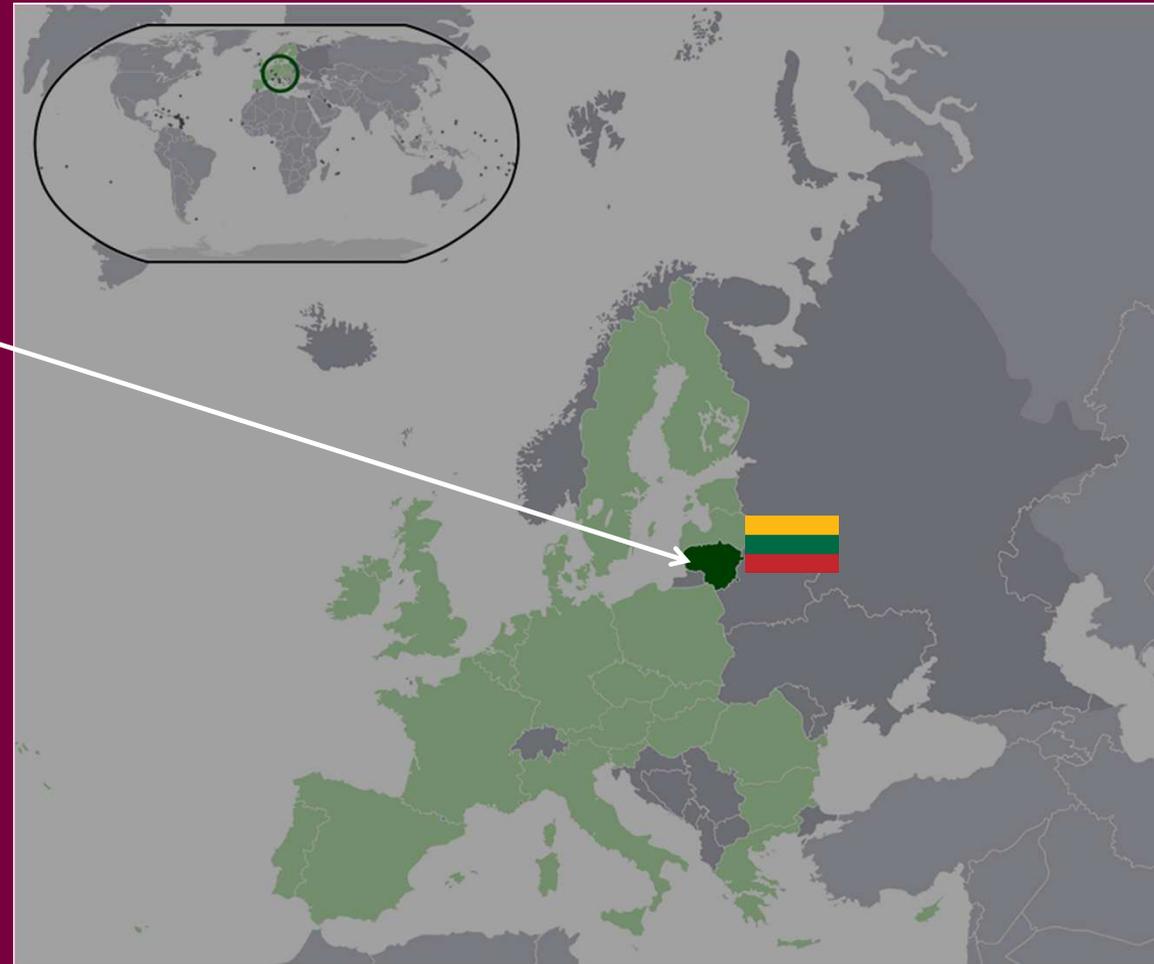
Location: **Northern Europe**

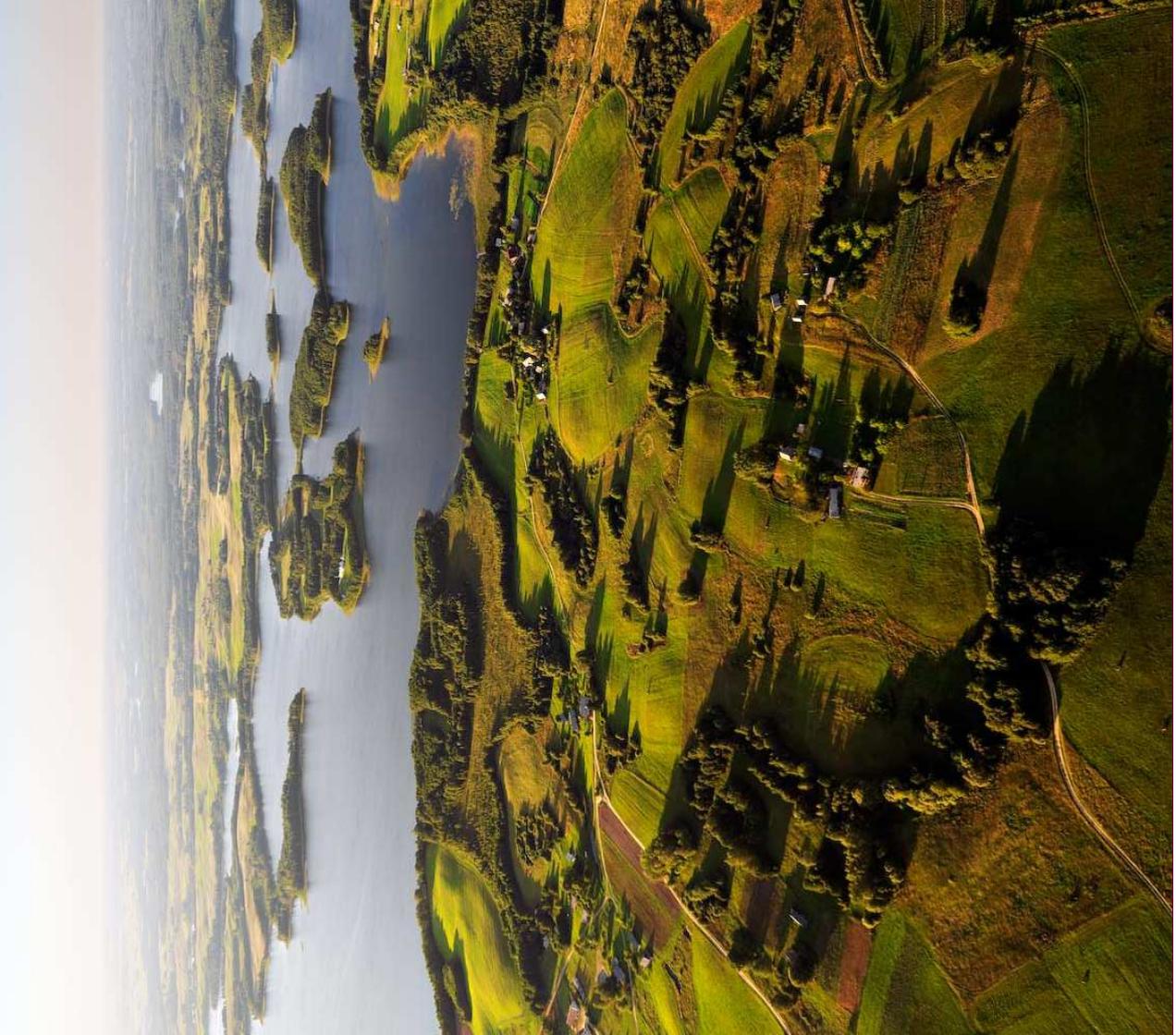
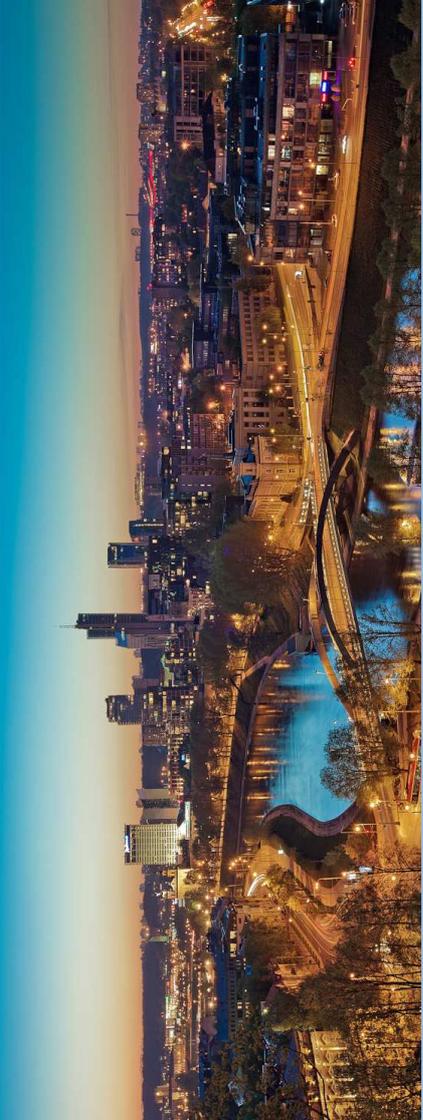
Population: **2,8 mln**

Capital: **Vilnius**

Language: **Lithuanian**

Member of EU since 2004







Higher Education in Lithuania

Vilnius
University

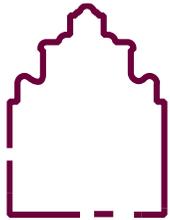
44 Universities & Colleges
(state and private)

93% Lithuanians have secondary or higher education
(EU average 70%).

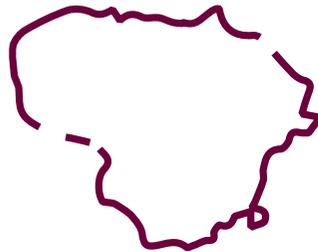
65% All school graduates continue their education in universities and colleges.

92% Lithuanians speak at least one foreign language, 52% - at least two.

Vilnius University- key facts



Founded in **1579**
Comprehensive University



1 in Lithuania
(National rankings)



Among the top **500** in the
world (QS rankings)



Tertiary education: BsC, MsC,
PhD, **21 208** students,
~ **1800** international



189 degree programs in local language
65 degree programs in English
>900 courses for international students



Research staff - **656**
~ **1 500** scientific articles per year

INFRASTRUCTURE:

- 5 campuses
- 2 central libraries
- Botanical Garden
- Health and Sport Center
- Publishing House
- Student dormitories

ACADEMIC UNITS:

- Faculties and institutes-
14

PERSONNEL:

- Academic staff - 2890
- Administrative staff -
>1000



Development of International Relations at VU

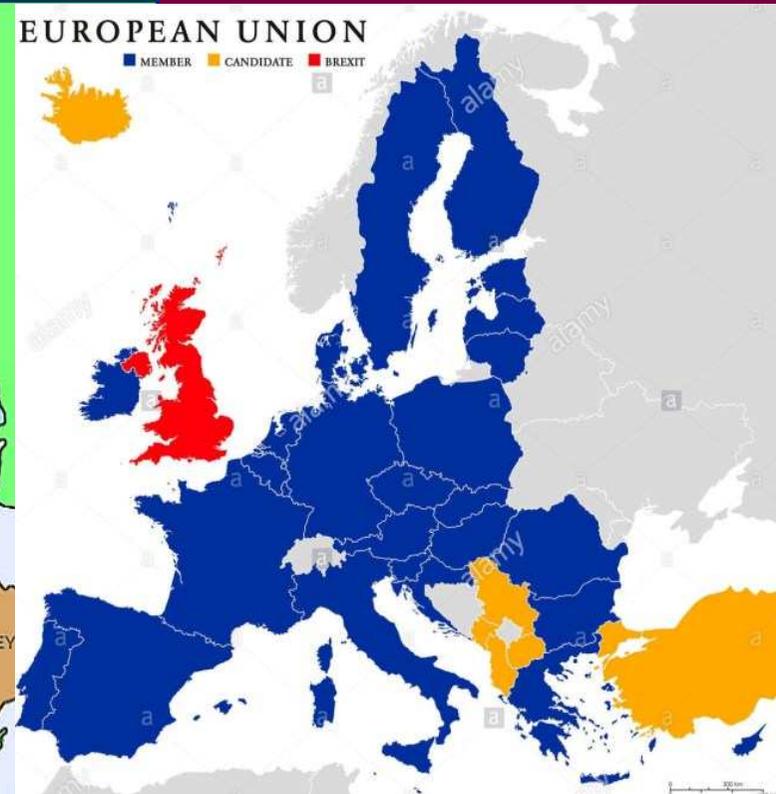
Before 1990



Between 1990-2004



After 2004



Development of International Relations at VU

University

Before 1990

Top-down approach

-Partnerships agreements strictly selected by authorities - in most cases not effective

-No student mobility for degree studies or exchange periods

Few teacher mobility only with the permission from the authorities in Moscow

-Curricula and textbooks restricted and controlled by authorities in Moscow

Between 1990-2004

Pro-active approach

- Beneficiaries – VU joins EU programs (TEMPUS, Socrates/Erasmus, Phare)

- Financial resources and technical assistance to start institutional reforms, capacity building

- Dependent on national priorities

- Compartmentalized impact but deep only in separate subject areas

- Low student and staff mobility numbers – limited impact on institution as a whole

After 2004

Global approach

- Equal partners to other EU or non-EU universities

- Possibility to set and follow institutional priorities

- Need for the faculties to form their own approaches in international activities

- Huge impact on institutional structures and services because of the growth of student and staff mobility

- Interest of partners in who we are and what we can do (sharing)



International Relations

Partnerships:

- Membership in international networks and associations
- Institutional Cooperation (bilateral, Erasmus + agreements)
- Participation in EU/international educational, research and cultural programs and projects



VU - International Relations, 2019

Membership

Networks	Associations
UTRECHT, UNICA, COIMBRA	EUA, IAU, EAIE, BUP
MAUI, ISEP, BCI, AEN, REARI-RJ, ARQUS	Professional associations (Faculty level)

International agreements

Bilateral agreements	Erasmus + agreements
193 agreements	1300 agreements

International programs & projects

Education	Research
Erasmus + , Erasmus Mundus, Creative Europe, NordPlus, Europe for Citizens, DAAD	Horizon, NATO, COST, CERN
National programs: Language course, degree studies	National programs





International Relations/Partnerships: Organizational Structure



Pro-Rector for Partnerships

International Relations Office

Head of the Office

10 staff members

Mobility coordination, administration

International Networks/ Associations-coordination

Erasmus + program – coordination, administration

Bilateral cooperation-coordination

International educational projects – support and consultations

OTHER ACADEMIC/ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS involved

Vilnius
University



CA

Student Service and Carrier Office

Quality Assurance Office

Research and Innovation Directorate

Financial Department

Development Department



Faculties

International coordinators in the
faculties



Accommodation Office

IT Service Center



Student Representation

ESN network (Mentor system)

Cultural Center

Health and Sport Center



VU strategic plan 2018-2020

Vrije
Universiteit

Strategy is closely linked to the **mission and vision** (e.g. vision: To rank among the leading universities in Europe.)

Strategic plan highlights the following priorities:

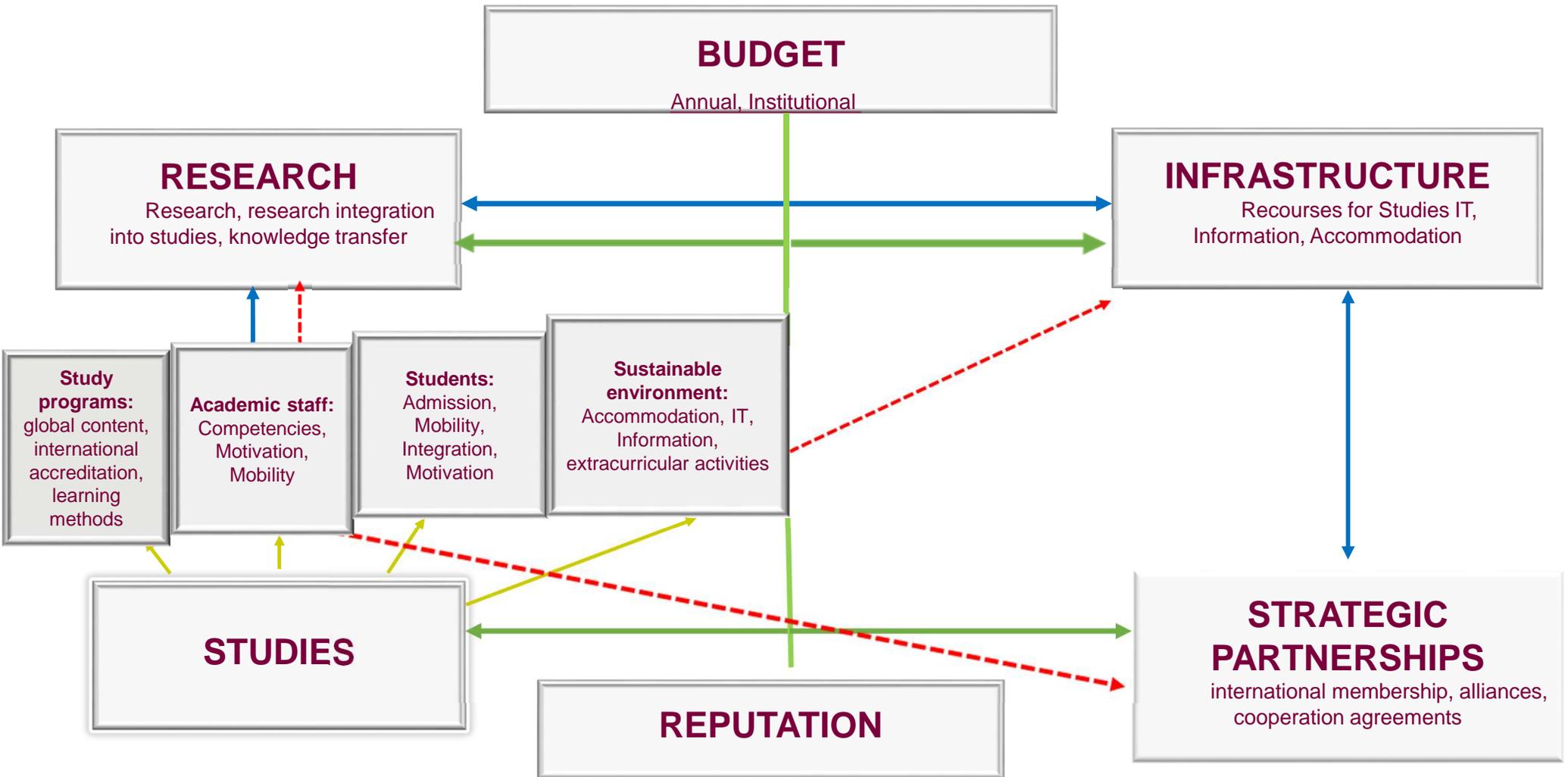
European university (Research at an international level; International Master's and Doctoral studies; Attracting academic talent)

University enhancing Lithuania (Studies preparing for the global working environment)

University Motivating its Community (Implementing a strategy of openness to equality and diversity of employees' and students)

Internationalization is a horizontal activity for all of them and is considered as the main policy and tool, which strongly contributes to the achievement of the strategic goals and priorities.

INTERNATIONALISATION - VU



TOOLKIT project

- Toolkit project gives us a opportunity:
- to get to know each other, our institutions and countries better.
 - to share our experience, ideas and problems,
 - to learn from each other.





**Vilnius
University**

**Vilnius
University**

Thank your for your attention.

WP2 Project ToolKit

Modernization of Asian International Relations Strategies

National University of Laos (NOUL)

And

Vilnius University (VU)

DEFINITION - INTERNATIONALISATION

- **Internationalization** at the national, sector, and institutional levels is defined as **the process** of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of postsecondary education. (Jane Knight, 2004)
- **Internationalization** of HE is the **intentional process** of integrating an **international, intercultural or global dimension into purpose, functions and delivery of post secondary education**, in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff, and to make a **meaningful contribution to society**.(2015)

Internationalisation is not a goal in itself but a medium, a means which help HEI to implement strategic goals and priorities.

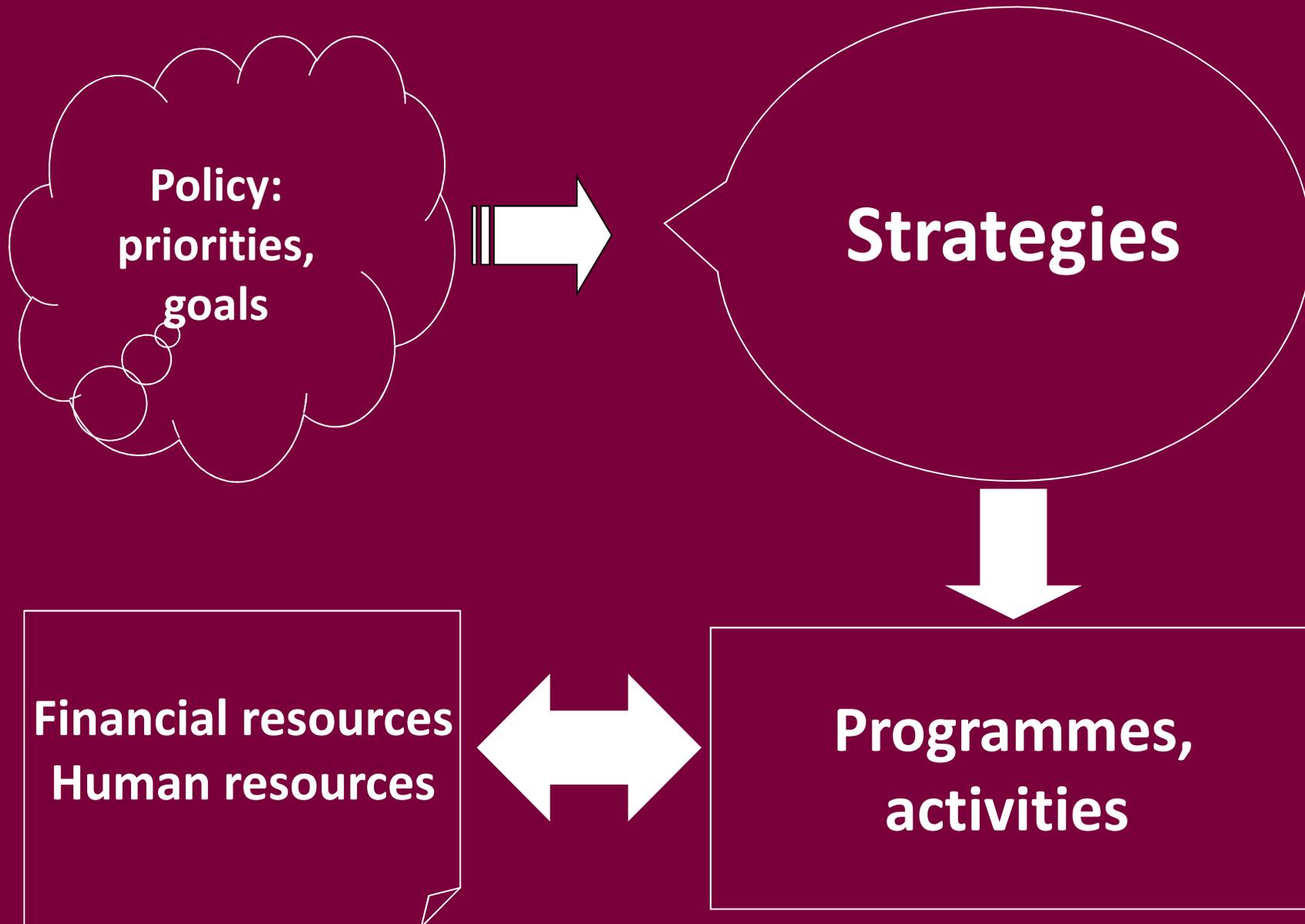
Why do we need internationalization?

Many national reasons, such as: political, economic, social and cultural, but also academic.

Thus no “**one approach fits all**”, regional and national differences are varied and constantly evolving as well as institutions themselves.

Academic reasons (Knight, 2018): international branding and profile, quality enhancement/international standards, student and staff development, income generation, strategic alliances and knowledge production.

Process of Internationalisation



INTERNATIONALISATION - as a two way street

INTERNATIONALISATION

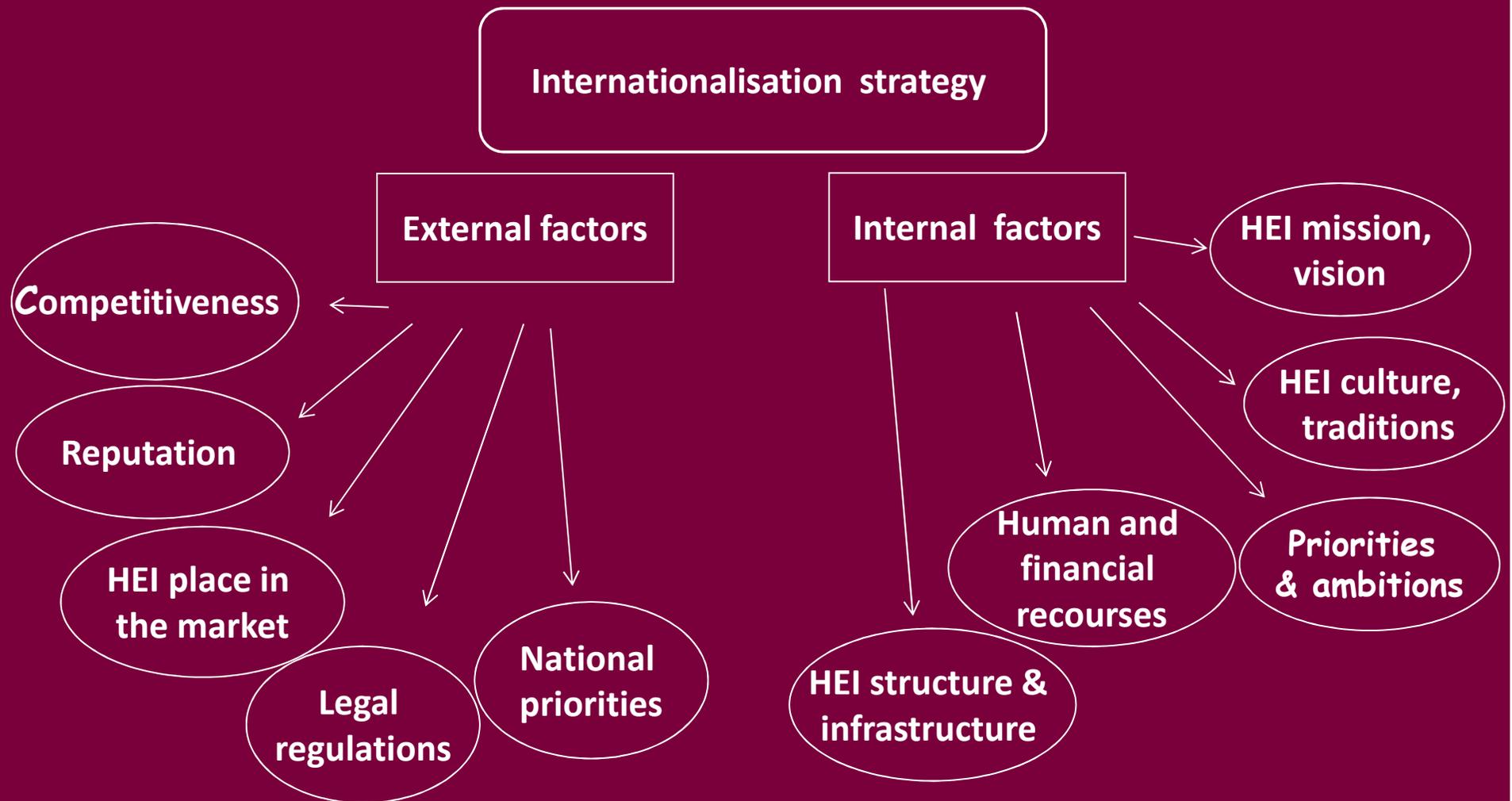
Student /staff
mobility/ cross-
boarder delivery

The most visible part of
internationalization

Internationalisation
at home (studies,
research, service)

Consists of incorporating intercultural and international dimensions into the curriculum, teaching, research and extracurricular activities and hence helps students develop international and intercultural skills **without leaving their country.**

Factors that influence the internationalisation strategy



Five broad themes of internationalization

A. Internationalization policy/strategy

B. Benefits, drivers and values of internationalization

C. Risks and challenges of internationalization

D. Geographic priorities for internationalization

E. Internationalization activities and funding

Source: Internationalization of higher education, European Parliament study 2015

Five broad themes of internationalization

A. Internationalization policy/strategy

- very important to have internationalization strategy and assign responsibilities for this area to the specific persons,
- also very important to relate it to overall strategy of the university, vision and mission.

Five broad themes of internationalization

B. Benefits, drivers and values of internationalization

- Increased international awareness with global issues by students;
- Improved quality of teaching and learning;
- Strengthened institutional research and knowledge capacity;
- Enhanced internationalization of the curriculum;
- Enhanced prestige for the institution;
- Increased international networking by faculty and researchers;
- Increased/diversified revenue generation;
- Opportunity to compare institutional performance within the context of international good practice

Five broad themes of internationalization

C. Risks and challenges of internationalization

- Opportunities accessible only to students with financial resources;
- Difficulty regulating locally the quality of foreign programmes offered;
- Over-emphasis on internationalization at the expense of other priorities of importance for staff and students;
- Pursuit of international partnerships/policies only for reasons of prestige;
- Brain drain;
- Too much focus on recruitment of fee- paying international students;

Five broad themes of internationalization

E. Internationalization activities and funding

- where do you focus?
 - outgoing mobility;
 - incoming student priority;
 - international research collaboration/innovation;
 - strategic partnerships;
 - strengthening international/intercultural curriculum
 - etc.
- Funding issues are very important.

Development of International relations



Joint programmes

International faculty

International curriculum

Partnership agreements and networks

Staff mobility

Student mobility

How VU goes about it?



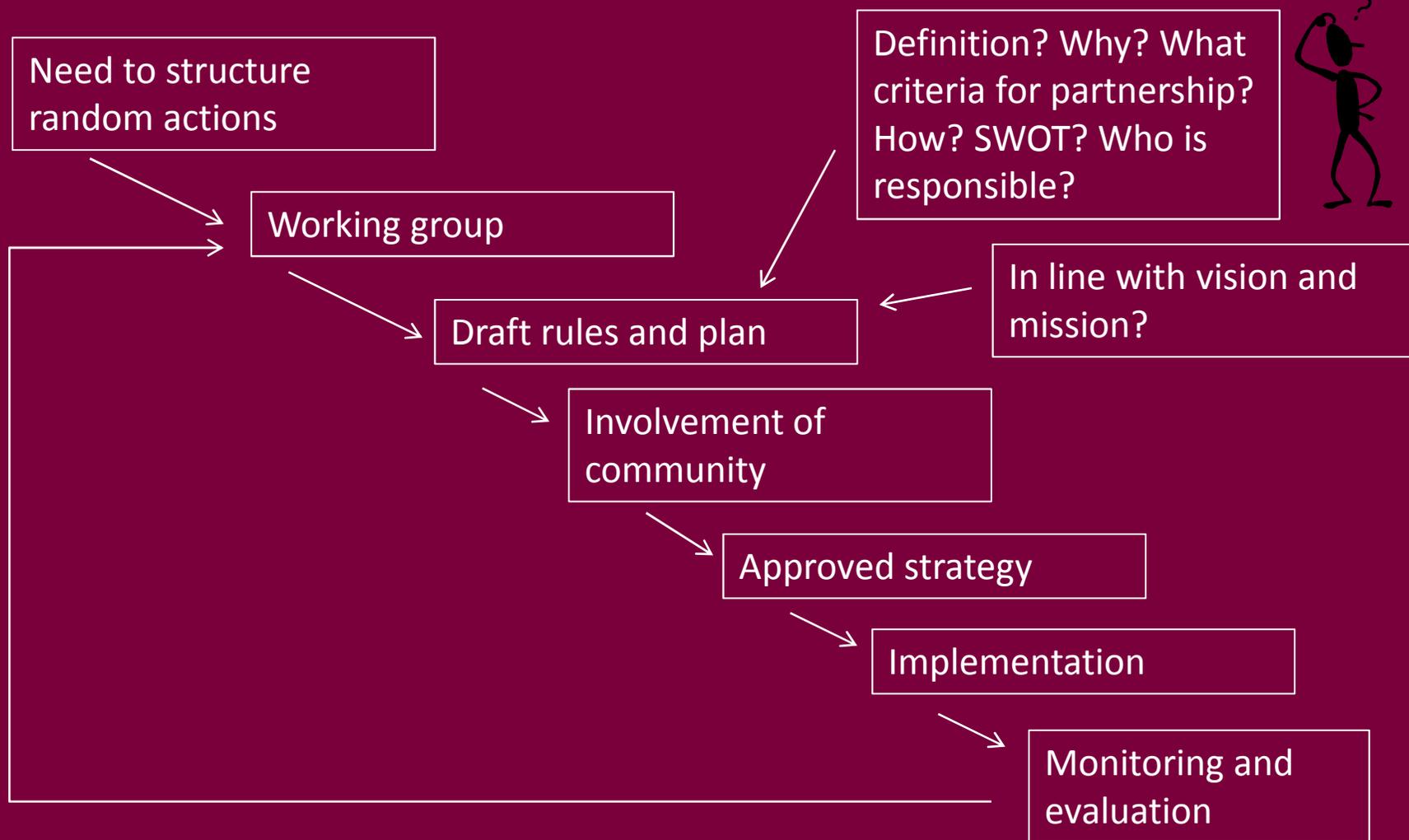
- Horizontal internationalization approach taken - Complex (multidimensional) and collaboration requiring internationalization strategy
- Entire university community is involved in forming international relations (IRO, studies, research, infrastructure, students, faculties, etc.)

How VU goes about it?



- Three working groups:
 - Studies and study process internationalization
 - Mobility, curriculum, faculty, programmes, etc.
 - Internationalization of infrastructure and services
 - Language (signs, databases, etc.)
 - Human resource services (employment, staff competence development, etc.)
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Partnerships and networks...

Example: Partnership development at VU



WP 2 tasks

Takes place (2019 July – 2020 January)

2.1 Designing training material based on WP1 survey

2.2 Training the trainers from Asian ToolKit partners on international relations strategies at Vilnius University

2.3 Writing/updating the university international relations strategic plan in each Asian ToolKit partners

2.4 National workshop at the Ministry of Education (one in Laos, Sri Lanka, Myanmar)

2.2 Topics covered by training

- Introduction to different approaches to internationalization strategy (priorities, indicators, activities)
- SWOT analysis of international relations and internationalization at a home university
- Gaps in existing international strategies and approaches of Asian partners
- Aligning approaches to institutional vision and mission
- Combining institutional and faculty level goals within the strategy
- Involving university community (staff and students) in strategy development
- Creating an action plan: available recourses, activities, and indicators

2.3 International relations strategic plan

- Developed/updated international relations strategies need to be:
 - Approved by university governing bodies
 - Shared with Ministry of Education
 - Made public and available for other universities to use as a good example.

2.4 Communication to authorities

- Ministries of Education of ToolKit Asian partners will be asked to:
 - Support the project dissemination of WP outcomes
 - Host the National workshop organized by ToolKit Asian partners to involve additional Universities in the process of updating/writing new internationalization strategies.

Management setting

- Vilnius University will lead the development of training material and will organize and host the training event in Vilnius.
- Vilnius University and National University of Laos will help the organization of workshops held at the ministries of education in three Asian countries.
- All Asian partners will be responsible for writing/updating the university international relations strategic plan with the support from Vilnius University.
- Both lead partners will be responsible for communication about WP developments.

Expected results

- International relations office staff are trained at Vilnius University on international relations strategies
- Partner Universities write/update their international relations strategies
- Other universities in Asian countries are involved and benefit from ToolKit project through National workshops hosted by Ministries of Education

Be ready! Some tips...

- The first key to success for an international relations strategy is having one!
- SWOT analysis is crucial
- In today's ever-changing, globalized environment, a solid three-year international development plan is a good start.

Be ready! Some tips...

- Involve university community in the strategic planning process.
- Establish a draft plan and ask for input from staff, students, alumni, corporate partners, ministries and international partners.
- Use the analysis of your university's existing academic and research collaborations to see in which countries the university already has connections.
- You'll get a real-world perspective that will allow you to fine-tune the scope and prioritize actions.

Be ready! Some tips...

- Make a short list of the international office core projects and activities that can be highlighted as you establish new partnerships worldwide.
- Comparing strategic initiatives with a potential partner is always an effective way to start exploring avenues for cooperation.

Any questions?

