**APPROVED**

**At the RSU Student Union's**

**Council meeting**

**on September 11, 2024**

**Prot. No. 2-STP-11/9/2024**

# RSU Student Union’s Strategy 2024-2026

HE - Higher education;

HEI - Higher education institution;

ISA - International Students Association;

*BOM - Baltic Organisational Meeting;*

DV - Dormitory;

*ELSA - European Law Students' Association;*

*EMSA - European Law Students' Association;*

FC - Faculty Councelors;

FinD - Finance Department;

ID - Infrastructure Department;

*ISC - International Student Conference;*

ITD - IT Department;

KD - Communications Department;

LSA - Student Union of Latvia;

*NOM - Nordic Orgnisational Meeting;*

PIC - Centre for Educational Growth

RSU - Riga Stradiņš University;

RSU SU - Riga Stradiņš University Student Union;

PR - Public Relations;

SAF - Social Support Fund;

SD - Study Department;

SYL - Study Year Leader;

SCEF - Study Course Evaluation Forms;

SPIG - Student Research and Innovation Grants;

SPEF - Study Program Evaluation Forms;

SS - Student Services;

SSD - International Relations Department;

SZP - Student Scientific Groups;

ZD - Research Department.

### Guidelines and Goals

The Student Union is an integral part of RSU and one of its driving forces for development. It is a prestigious and growing organization with stable values, recognized and respected by students, staff, and external partners alike. The RSU Student Union provides the opportunity to improve itself and surrounding processes, represent student interests, create a friendly environment, and be part of it.

### RSU Student Union Vision

There will come a day when all processes implemented and results achieved by RSU will align with the interests of RSU students.

### RSU Student Union Mission

To represent the academic, cultural, and material rights and interests of RSU students at the university and in other institutions. To create an environment where students can successfully realize themselves both in the study process and in public life.

## Mission Implementation Directions

### Organizing projects.

* 1. Providing quality leisure and personal growth opportunities for students.
	2. Promoting unity among RSU students and fostering local university patriotism.
	3. Promoting an active and healthy lifestyle.
	4. Supporting the realization of student ideas.
	5. Encouraging environmentally friendly habits.
	6. Enhancing student competence regarding university processes.

### Representation of interests.

* 1. Facilitating changes in the study process according to student interests.
	2. Ensuring student representation at all decision-making levels (faculty councils, RSU council, scholarship committees, etc.).
	3. Providing quality extracurricular activities.
	4. Ensuring an environment suitable for the study process, including digital tools.
	5. Expanding opportunities and providing support for student research activities.

### Ensuring the sustainability of the RSU Student Union.

* 1. Efficient transfer of historical information and ensuring continuity.
	2. Purposeful recruitment, integration, and future collaboration of new members.
	3. Involving former RSU Student Union members in RSU Student Union development projects.
	4. Legal execution of financial flows and regulatory documents.

#### Communication.

* 1. A unified and user-friendly RSU information and document circulation system is in place.
	2. Effective dissemination of information to all students.
	3. Building and maintaining a friendly, reliable, and collaborative external image for the RSU Student Union.
	4. Qualitative representation of student opinions.

## RSU SU Development Goals 2024-2026

### 1. An improved and functional interest representation model for RSU students.

**1.1. RSU SU is a democratically elected organization.
Indicators:**1.1.1. At least 1% of RSU students stand as candidates in the RSU SU Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) elections.
1.1.2. 25% of all RSU students participate in the Council elections.
1.1.3. Representatives from all RSU faculties are elected to the Council.
1.1.4. The maximum approved number of foreign students is elected to the Council.
1.1.5. Each represented RSU faculty has at least 3 Council member substitutes, including foreign students.

**1.2. Full information transfer between all student representatives is ensured.
Indicators:**1.2.1. At least twice a year, separate meetings with the Council members of each RSU faculty are organized to ensure information exchange on current topics and Council member duties.
1.2.2. At least twice a year, separate meetings with each FC are organized to ensure information exchange on current topics and FC duties.
1.2.3. At least once a quarter, information exchange is organized between the RSU SU Social Direction leader and the DV seniors regarding current issues and problem situations in the DV.
1.2.4. Once a month, student senators report their updates to the RSU SU Board meetings.
1.2.5. After meetings concerning foreign students, a summary is sent in English to the ISA representatives and the president.
1.2.6. Meetings between the RSU SU Board and ISA counterparts are organized at least once per semester.

**1.3. Full information exchange with all RSU students is ensured.
Indicators:**1.3.1. On matriculation day, students of each faculty are informed about key study process updates and opportunities.
1.3.2. Informative emails are sent to all students about changes in the study process and general regulatory documents.
1.3.3. Once per semester, a focus group discussion is organized with students to identify current issues.

**1.4. Current information from RSU students is communicated to RSU management, general, and academic staff representatives.
Indicators:**1.4.1. At least once a year, a meeting is organized between the Board, student senators, the rector, and vice-rectors to discuss updates and future collaboration.
1.4.2. RSU SU representatives attend at least 85% of meetings organized by the SD, Deans’ Council, Rectorate, and RSU Council during the academic year.
1.4.3. At least twice a year, meetings are organized with representatives from SSD, PIC, ID, KD, RSU Sports Club, ZD, FinD, SD, SS, and faculty deans.
1.4.4. The RSU SU Board chairperson organizes at least one meeting a year with RSU Council representatives to address current issues facing RSU and RSU SU.

**1.5. RSU students are represented in RSU activities that affect them.
Indicators:**1.5.1. Student representatives with voting rights are elected to all RSU decision-making institutions, in accordance with Latvian law.
1.5.2. RSU students are guaranteed an observer seat on the RSU Council.
1.5.3. Vacant student representative positions are filled within three consecutive Council meetings.
1.5.4. 90% of current Council members secure their successors for the next Council elections.
1.5.5. All DV have active seniors with whom volunteer work agreements are concluded.
1.5.6. DV seniors submit reports to the RSU SU Board quarterly.

**1.6. Student representatives have the opportunity to engage in research and scientific work.
Indicators:**1.6.1. Financial and material support is provided for the presentation of research papers and publication of articles.
1.6.2. Equal research opportunities are provided to all students.

**1.7. Cooperation between local and foreign students is improved.
Indicators:**1.7.1. Regular and effective communication is encouraged between RSU SU and ISA to identify and resolve issues affecting foreign students.
1.7.2. At least 20% of participants, activists, or organizers at foreign student events are Latvian students.
1.7.3. At least 10% of participants, activists, or organizers at RSU SU events are foreign students.
1.7.4. Current information and relevant documents are made available in English for foreign students.
1.7.5. Representatives of each RSU SU Board department organize at least one event, working group, or project involving RSU foreign students.

### 2. RSU students' interests are represented at the national and international levels.

**2.1. RSU SU representatives are involved in solving higher education issues at the national level, and higher education trends are monitored.**
**Indicators:**2.1.1. Updates related to the implementation of the Institutional Funding Model in higher education are monitored, and RSU students are informed if necessary.
2.1.2. Updates related to the implementation of Institutional Accreditation are monitored, and RSU students are informed if necessary.
2.1.3. Updates related to the introduction of compulsory national military service are monitored, and RSU students are informed if necessary.
2.1.4. The 20-hour work limit for first-cycle students who are non-EU citizens is abolished.

**2.2. Communication with RSU SU sub-organizations and partner organizations is established and maintained.
Indicators:**2.2.1. At least once a year, meetings are organized with partner organizations and sub-organizations to identify goals, tasks, and their implementation, providing support and assistance if necessary.
2.2.2. At least once a year, partner organizations and sub-organizations are invited to attend Council meetings and share current information.
2.2.3. Expanded information about partner organizations and sub-organizations is available on the RSU SU website.
2.2.4. At least four times a year, students have the opportunity to participate in events organized by EMSA.
2.2.5. At least twice a year, students have the opportunity to participate in events organized by ELSA.
2.2.6. At least 10% of students in relevant programs are members of ELSA.
2.2.7. At least 10% of students in relevant programs are members of EMSA.

**2.3. RSU students' interests are represented within the LSA, contributing to the setting and achievement of LSA goals.
Indicators:**2.3.1. 95% of all LSA activities (working groups, Council meetings, Congress, student union leader meetings, etc.) are attended.
2.3.2. RSU SU members are informed about LSA decisions, and current information about LSA activities is shared with RSU students at least once per semester.
2.3.3. The update and availability of the LSA "Student Housing Guide" are monitored.
2.3.4. The implementation of the LSA survey "Discrimination in Higher Education Institutions" is monitored annually, and improvements at RSU are made if necessary.
2.3.5. The implementation of BOM and NOM resolutions within Latvian higher education is monitored.
2.3.6. The scope and amount of the national social scholarship "Studētgods" are expanded to at least €200 per month.
2.3.7. RSU SU initiates the creation of new national-level support mechanisms relevant to RSU students.

**2.4. Cooperation and information sharing with other HEI student unions are promoted.
Indicators:**2.4.1. Once a year, an experience exchange between RSU SU and foreign HEI student unions is organized.
2.4.2. At least once a year, a joint event is organized with a foreign HEI student union.
2.4.3. Long-term cooperation is established with at least one foreign HEI student union each year.
2.4.4. Annually, information is gathered about other HEI DV, their rental prices, and quality to compare their offerings with RSU DV, potentially suggesting improvements to the ID.
2.4.5. At least four times a year, experience exchange and team-building events are organized between RSU SU and other HEI student unions.
2.4.6. Communication and cooperation with other HEI student unions are promoted.

**2.5. Unified national exams are introduced, aligning with professional standards and considering RSU students' interests.
Indicators:**2.5.1. In cooperation with LSA, work is carried out on the creation of unified national exams in programs relevant to RSU students.
2.5.2. In cooperation with LSA, feedback is collected on the National Unified Lawyer Professional Qualification Exam, and based on that feedback, changes to this exam and the study program are recommended.

### 3. RSU students are involved in improving and enhancing their study environment and surroundings.

**3.1. The use and expansion of existing RSU SU spaces for RSU student needs are ensured.
Indicators:**3.1.1. RSU SU expands its facilities.
3.1.2. In the event of the sale of the Palasta iela 3 property, equivalent spaces are provided for student needs.
3.1.3. The RSU SU Student House is available to all RSU students at any time of day, according to the reservation calendar.

**3.2. An accessible and sustainable study environment is provided for RSU students.
Indicators:**3.2.1. All study and environmental accessibility guidelines, including digital environments, are followed and available to everyone.
3.2.2. In cooperation with the IT Department, a Student Portal accessible to students is maintained, providing information about the study environment and study process.
3.2.3. RSU SU initiates improvements in the RSU e-environment as necessary.
3.2.4. RSU provides development courses aimed at educating academic staff on the basic principles and guidelines of an accessible study environment.
3.2.5. Equipment from the RSU Medical Education Technology Center is available to all students upon request.
3.2.6. Study areas in the C-building of RSU at Dzirciema iela 16 are available at any time of day.
3.2.7. Study areas at RSU on Kuldīgas iela 9A are available at any time of day.
3.2.8. RSU SU participates in the development and implementation of RSU’s environmental protection policy.
3.2.9. At least once a year, events aimed at protecting the environment are organized.
3.2.10. Recycling bins and information materials about sorting are made available in all RSU buildings.
3.2.11. RSU students are granted access to the RSU repository, digital databases, and learning systems.

3.2.12. Ensure that RSU students have access to the RSU repository, digital databases, and learning systems.

**3.3. RSU students are ensured access to their studies.
Indicators:**3.3.1. An RSU support policy for students with functional limitations is accessible and adhered to by all.
3.3.2. The work of the Erasmus+ office is monitored to ensure that students have full opportunities to participate in Erasmus+ mobility.
3.3.3. The promotion of Erasmus+ mobility program applications is enhanced to fill all available spots.

**3.4. RSU SU is involved in improving RSU infrastructure.
Indicators:**3.4.1. In cooperation with the DV department head and IT Department, implement an electronic registration system in all DV where one does not yet exist.
3.4.2. Initiate new renovation projects in the DV when necessary.
3.4.3. In cooperation with the ID, ensure the expansion of study and relaxation areas in study bases and improve existing areas when necessary.
3.4.4. Organize at least one annual cleanup event at the RSU sports and recreation base "Taurene" to maintain the sports facility.

**3.5. Student surveys on study process and environmental issues are conducted.
Indicators:**3.5.1. In cooperation with the SSD, feedback on mobility program experiences is gathered to introduce study process improvements and promote the program among students.
3.5.2. After Erasmus+ mobility program student selections, feedback on the selection and application process is gathered for future improvements.
3.5.3. At least 80% of RSU students complete the Study Course Evaluation Surveys (SCEF) and SPEF.
3.5.4. Feedback on completed SCEF is provided 100% of the time if at least 20% of students complete it.
3.5.5. SCEF completion is promoted at the end of each semester through campaigns and via FC and SYL, including among foreign students.
3.5.6. Based on student feedback, improvements to the SCEF format are made, including the addition of an answer-saving feature.
3.5.7. SPEF completion is promoted after final examinations, and the importance of completing it is communicated to final-year students before exams.
3.5.8. Based on SPEF and SCEF results, points are included in RSU’s action plan for improving study quality during the creation of each action plan.
3.5.9. Students do not receive negative feedback from academic staff for expressing their opinions in SCEF.
3.5.10. Students are not penalized for not completing SCEF.
3.5.11. The SCEF promotion campaign involves RSU academic staff and the KD.
3.5.12. Once a year, DV tenants are surveyed on their well-being and the necessary improvements in the DV.
3.5.13. RSU student feedback on changes in the e-study environment and MyRSU platform is collected, with suggested improvements made if necessary.
3.5.14. Feedback is gathered on the availability and quality of RSU catering services, with improvements made if necessary.
3.5.15. Student opinions on new ID projects are gathered, ensuring that study and relaxation areas meet student needs.
3.5.16. RSU student dropout survey data is monitored, and the implementation process of the national centralized dropout survey is followed.

**3.6. Student representatives are involved in updating and developing study programs.
Indicators:**3.6.1. Student representatives are involved in study program quality councils.
3.6.2. Open meetings on study program updates and development are held, with student representatives invited.

**3.7. Study courses within study programs are sequential and adhere to course continuity principles.
Indicators:**3.7.1. Study programs are mapped at least once every two years.
3.7.2. FCand other student representatives are involved in the development of study program plans (ProMap).
3.7.3. Study program plans are made available to FCat least three working days before approval.

### 4. RSU students engage in extracurricular activities, fostering a sense of belonging to their university.

**4.1. Extracurricular activities for foreign students are provided.
Indicators:**4.1.1. At least twice a year, in cooperation with SSD, an event is organized for Erasmus+ and foreign students.
4.1.2. At least three times a year, joint events are organized for local and foreign students.
4.1.3. Quality student representation is encouraged within the framework of European university initiative alliances.

**4.2. Extracurricular activities in science and research are provided.
Indicators:**4.2.1. Any RSU student has the opportunity to apply for SZP.
4.2.2. 80% of all SZP comply with the criteria and requirements outlined in the SZP regulations.
4.2.3. Students have the opportunity to receive financial support from RSU SU for scientific projects within their respective SZP.
4.2.4. Students have the opportunity to participate and publish their articles in the popular science journal *Semper Anticus*, which is published at least twice a year.
4.2.5. The popular science journal *Semper Anticus* is transformed into an international popular science journal.
4.2.6. In collaboration with the RSU Business Incubator *B-space*, RSU SU provides information on applying for incubator-organized events, including pre-incubation and incubation programs.
4.2.7. Students are informed about opportunities to apply for Vertically Integrated Projects.
4.2.8. Any student has the opportunity to participate in the International Student Conference (ISC) and RSU Science Week, ensuring that no study courses are held during these events.

**4.3. Extracurricular activities in the field of culture and sports are provided.
Indicators:**4.3.1. RSU SU supports the learning of new sports in collaboration with the RSU Sports Club.
4.3.2. At least four sports/wellness-promoting events are organized annually.
4.3.3. At least five cultural events are organized annually.
4.3.4. Existing RSU sports halls and facilities are renovated and expanded.

**4.4. Extracurricular activities in the social dimension are provided.
Indicators:**4.4.1. In the RSU SU mentor program, 80% of feedback providers rate the program’s effectiveness with at least 4 out of 5.
4.4.2. In the RSU SU mentor program, a training seminar is organized for new mentors in the summer, and all materials are available in digital format until the end of the program.
4.4.3. A new project related to mental health is implemented either in face-to-face format or on social media.
4.4.4. At least once a year, a bilingual event on resolving psycho-emotional health problems is organized, and/or information on psycho-emotional health is provided in one of the existing RSU SU events.

### 5. RSU SU ensures the growth, development, and sustainability of the organization, its activists, and employees.

**5.1. The competence and collaboration of RSU SU members and activists are promoted.
Indicators:**5.1.1. Each Board department has at least 8 activists, including Council members.
5.1.2. Each Board department involves its activists in activities at least once per quarter.
5.1.3. Each Council member participates in the activities of at least one Board department and does so in at least two of that department's engagement opportunities.
5.1.4. Collaborations that preserve the values of the organization and promote sustainability are ensured.
5.1.5. Representatives of each Board department organize at least one workgroup or informational event related to their department's activities during the year.
5.1.6. At least once a year, an Activist Appreciation Evening is organized.
5.1.7. At least twice a year, a team-building event for activists is organized.
5.1.8. At least twice a year, an exchange of experiences and team-building event between the Board and Council is organized.
5.1.9. At least once a quarter, team-building events aimed at mutual collaboration are organized within the Board.
5.1.10. The activist database is updated monthly.

**5.2. The competence of SZP leaders is enhanced.
Indicators:**5.2.1. Training seminars for newly elected SZP leaders are organized at least twice a year to ensure information exchange on current matters and leadership duties.
5.2.2. At least once during the academic year, an evaluation of SZP leadership duties and SZP activities is conducted.

**5.3. The competence of student representatives is enhanced.
Indicators:**5.3.1. At least 50% of Council members actively participate in RSU SP-organized events.
5.3.2. At least once per academic year, a mini-seminar is organized for FC and SYL, aimed at improving student representatives' competence in academic matters.
5.3.3. At least twice a year, events are organized to enhance the competence of RSU SU representatives within the LSA Council.

**5.4. Project relevance and improvement are ensured.
Indicators:**5.4.1. Project managers and organizational teams are recruited at least 2 months before each event.
5.4.2. Feedback is collected and utilized for creating project reports.
5.4.3. A project organizer's guide is created and integrated into project implementation.

### 6. Mechanisms for building the organization's image and communication exist within RSU SU.

**6.1. RSU SU visibility is promoted by actively involving students in creating social media content.
Indicators:**6.1.1. A TikTok team is created, with regular meetings held.
6.1.2. The PR organizer of each RSU SU event creates at least 2 videos about the event.
6.1.3. At least 20% of all RSU SU members are involved in creating social media content for RSU SU.

**6.2. Events are included in the first semester of basic study programs to introduce students to the study process and RSU SU opportunities.
Indicators:**6.2.1. The content of the informative events is developed using the "Introduction to Studies" material base.
6.2.2. RSU SU content is included in the "Introduction to Studies" material base and updated at the beginning of each academic year.
6.2.3. The "Introduction to Studies" material base is available to students of all study programs until the program's completion.

**6.3. The RSU SU visual identity is maintained, promoted, and protected.
Indicators:**6.3.1. An RSU SU online store is created and maintained.
6.3.2. The visual identity is updated in physical and digital environments.
6.3.3. The RSU SU visual identity is protected by creating guidelines that are introduced to buyers when receiving promotional materials.

**6.4. The organization's structure is promoted, and new interest is attracted and informed.
Indicators:**6.4.1. At least once per semester, the "How to Get Involved?" section on the RSU SU website is promoted.
6.4.2. A new video on RSU SU engagement opportunities is created.
6.4.3. At the beginning of each academic year, an informative email is sent to all students about RSU SU leisure and growth opportunities, including open positions.
6.4.4. At least 70 new applicants sign up for the buddy program.
6.4.5. A campaign to promote Board departments is conducted once a year.

**6.5. Information on current topics related to the study process and environment is regularly provided to RSU students.
Indicators:**6.5.1. The information in DV guide is updated annually.
6.5.2. In collaboration with the SS, improvements to the Student Guide are made annually, including the design process.

### 7. RSU students have access to material, financial, and emotional support.

**7.1. RSU students are provided with material support opportunities.
Indicators:**7.1.1. During the study process, RSU students have access to technical equipment and necessary digital tools.
7.1.2. RSU students are provided the opportunity to reserve technical equipment for extracurricular activities through the RSU SU website.

**7.2. RSU students are provided with financial support opportunities.
Indicators:**7.2.1. RSU SU provides SAF for RSU students four times per calendar year.
7.2.2. RSU SU participates in State Scholarship Grant meetings, recommending improvements to the scholarship awarding regulations when necessary.
7.2.3. ZAF is implemented at least six times per calendar year.
7.2.4. SPIG are implemented twice per academic year.

**7.3. RSU students are provided with psycho-emotional support opportunities.
Indicators:**7.3.1. Free psychologist services at the university are maintained.
7.3.2. In collaboration with the RSU Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy Clinic and Career Center, individual psychotherapy consultations are continued, partially free and partially with student co-payment.
7.3.3. Other support mechanisms are provided either free or with a co-payment from the student.

### 8. An effective system for resource utilization and accounting exists within RSU SU.

**8.1. All available RSU SU spaces are utilized.
Indicators:**

8.1.1. All available RSU SU storage spaces are fully utilized.

8.1.2. All RSU students are provided access to the RSU SU Office at Dzirciema iela 16, C-213, during working hours.

**8.2. Regular inspection and accounting of RSU SU movable property are ensured.
Indicators:**

8.2.1. A unified system for tracking technical equipment is developed.

8.2.2. In cases of irreparable damage or inefficiency of movable property, it is disposed of.

8.2.3. When necessary, new movable property is purchased after conducting market research based on RSU SU financial regulations.

8.2.4. Inventory of all recorded technical equipment is conducted twice per calendar year.

**8.3. The creation and execution of the RSU SU budget ensure transparency and accountability.
Indicators:**

8.3.1. The RSU SU budget is developed with the aim of promoting development.

8.3.2. Full involvement of the FinD in RSU SU budget development is ensured.

8.3.3. Funds allocated to the ISA are fully administered by the ISA board.

**8.4. An optimal expense reimbursement structure is used within RSU SU.
Indicators:**

8.4.1. Submission and administration of receipts and other reimbursement documents are conducted electronically.

8.4.2. A joint payment system is developed, replacing previously used systems.

Reimbursement documents submitted by ISA are initially processed through the ISA board office for review.

| **Value proposition** |
| --- |
| **Students** | **Partners** |
| Making contacts | Information sharing and distribution |
| Growth opportunities | Organizational stability |
| A sense of belonging | Expression of students' opinion |
| Organizational stability |  |
| Representation of opinion |  |
| **Resources** |
| **Students** | **Partners** |
| Human resources | Human resources |
| Knowledge | Time resources |
| Mutual relationship | Mutual relationship |
| Financial resources | Financial resources |
| Premises | Premises |
| Information channels | Information channels |
| **Channels** |
| **Students** | **Partners** |
| Organization meetings | Social media |
| Social media | Website |
| Website | Projects |
| Student representatives | Mass media |
| Informative emails | Print media |
| Projects |  |
| Print media |  |
| **Activities** |
| **Students** | **Partners** |
| Events | Events |
| Campaigns | Campaigns |
| Transfer of information | Transfer of information |
| Provision of representation | Provision of representation |
| Support mechanisms | Popularization |
| Work groups |  |
| **Relations** |
| **Students** | **Partners** |
| Mutual communication | Problem solving |
| Growth opportunities | Trust |
| Participation in events | Participation in events |
| Influence on decision-making | Information circulation |
| Information circulation |   |