

## ViA Action plan Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R)

## September 2024

Objective no. 1: Professional development							
Proposed ACTIONS	GAP Principle(s)	Timing	Responsible Unit	Indicator(s) / Target(s)			
<ul> <li>1. Implementing transversal skill development program</li> <li>ViA will implement transversal skill development program to foster professional development. This will include organizing comprehensive selection of professional development courses, as well as series of masterclasses and seminars. These offerings will cover a wide range of topics, including interdisciplinary collaboration, project proposal writing, academic and research ethics, data protection, dissemination of scientific research results, pedagogical techniques, emerging technologies, advanced methodologies, research techniques, data analysis, scientific writing, digitalization, project management, sessions on where to find information about research funding opportunities and how to utilize them and other critical competencies essential for research excellence and professional advancement.</li> <li>This action is associated with following VIA Development Strategy 2023-2028 tasks:</li> <li>U.2.1.2. Enhancing the Support System for Researchers to Achieve High-Level Scientific Outcomes</li> </ul>	1. Research freedom 2. Ethical principles 3. Professional responsibility 4. Professional attitude 7. Good practice in research 8. Dissemination, exploitation of results 9. Public engagement 23. Research environment 38. Continuing Professional Development 39. Access to research training and continuous development	Starting Q1 2025 (ongoing)	<ul> <li>HR management group</li> <li>Vice-Rectors</li> <li>Directors of Scientific institutes</li> <li>Communication group</li> <li>ViA Ethics Commission</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Annual professional development needs assessments done in the first quarter of the year.</li> <li>Professional development offering list developed and distributed by second quarter of the year.</li> <li>At least 80% of ViA's academic and research staff participate in at least one professional development course, seminar and/or workshop in two-year period (until Q1 2027)</li> <li>At least two courses, workshops and/ or seminars are organized for ViA academic and scientific staff annually.</li> </ul>			

U2.1.3: Enhancing Information Exchange     Among Researchers for Project Proposal				
Preparation				
• U3.1.1. Provision of professional development				
opportunities, including the development of				
fundraising skills (training, seminars,				
discussions, experience exchange, etc.) in the				
areas of entrepreneurship and innovation for				
ViA staff.				
U3.3.1: Developing and Implementing a Plan     Solventific Improve to \$100 A Staff				
to Enhance the Scientific Impact of ViA Staff				
(including training, mentor involvement, skills development, support measures, compilation				
of best practices, and science				
commercialization activities)				
U4.3.2: Improving Science Communication				
Between Various Stakeholders, Including				
Within ViA (internal communication initiatives				
for researchers)				
U4.3.4: Improving Project Communication at				
ViA				
U4.1.7 Strengthening the Research Ethics				
Competencies of Academic Staff,				
U4.1.8. Advancing the Digital Skills of Staff.	20.0			
2. Enhancing Access to Professional	38. Continuing Professional	Starting Q1	• IT group	Creating storage place for
Development Resources  ViA will leverage existing resources and platforms	Development	2025 (ongoing)	HR management group	professional development
such as Moodle and MS Teams to centralize and	39. Access to		Vice-Rector for Academic      Academic      Academic	resources by Q2 2025  Constantly supplement
facilitate access to a wide range of professional	research training		and Scientific Work	storage place of
development materials. This initiative will include	and continuous		<ul> <li>Study and Lifelong Learning Group</li> </ul>	professional development
storing and providing access to lectures, seminars,	development		Learning Group	resources with lectures,
courses, e-books, and other learning resources.				seminars, courses, e-books,
This activity will also entail a thorough analysis of				and other learning resources
existing free courses available both online and on-				(ongoing)
site, including those provided through the				Conducting a
Accelerate Future HEI project and various				comprehensive analysis of
platforms such as Coursera and others.				existing free online and on-

By doing so, academic and research staff can engage in training at their convenience, seamlessly integrating professional development into their busy schedules. The goal is to promote a culture of lifelong learning within the ViA community, supporting the ongoing academic, scientific and professional growth of its members through easy access to up-to-date information and tools.  3. Enhancing and Promoting International Mobility Opportunities for Academic Staff ViA is committed to expanding and enriching international mobility opportunities for its academic and research staff. This will be achieved by supporting and facilitating their participation in conferences, seminars, research mobilities, and professional development programs aimed at enhancing their skills and knowledge.  To boost research mobility, ViA will forge and strengthen partnerships with leading international institutions. These collaborations will enable researcher exchange programs, thereby fostering professional growth and development.  Additionally, ViA plans to organize a Staff Weeks specifically for researchers, utilizing Erasmus+scholarships to both invite researchers to ViA and encourage others to host similar events.  This action aligns with the ViA Development Strategy 2023-2028:			1		
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international mobility opportunities for its academic and research staff. This will be achieved by supporting and facilitating their participation in conferences, seminars, research mobilities, and professional development programs aimed at enhancing their skills and knowledge.  To boost research mobility, ViA will forge and strengthen partnerships with leading international institutions. These collaborations will enable researcher exchange programs, thereby fostering professional growth and development.  Additionally, ViA plans to organize a Staff Weeks specifically for researchers, utilizing Erasmus+ scholarships to both invite researchers to ViA and encourage others to host similar events.  This action aligns with the ViA Development	Mobility Opportunities for Academic Staff	•	(ongoing)	<ul> <li>Vice-Rectors</li> </ul>	research staff participation rate
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	encourage others to host similar events.				
Strategy 2023-2028:	This action aligns with the ViA Development				
	Strategy 2023-2028:				
U4.2.1. Expanding existing international	U4.2.1. Expanding existing international				
partnerships and establishing new ones to	partnerships and establishing new ones to				
advance and sustain the ViA	advance and sustain the ViA				
internationalization strategy and enhance	internationalization strategy and enhance				
ViA's global impact.	ViA's global impact.	<u> </u>			
U4.2.3. Increasing ViA's participation in	U4.2.3. Increasing ViA's participation in				
international and national research	• • •	<u> </u>			
organizations and associations to enhance its	organizations and associations to enhance its	<u> </u>			

<ul> <li>influence on science and innovation policy both in Latvia and internationally.</li> <li>U4.2.8. Boosting ViA's international visibility through collaboration with Latvian institutions and foreign embassies.</li> <li>U2.4.1. Promotion of international researcher mobility at ViA, development of short-term and long-term (at least one month) mobility/residency programs for foreign visiting researchers and postdoctoral fellows – establishment and implementation of a talent attraction program (including the</li> </ul>		
visiting researchers and postdoctoral fellows  – establishment and implementation of a		
<ul> <li>U2.4.2. Developing partnerships with scientific institutions abroad to promote long- term (at least one month) mobility for ViA researchers.</li> </ul>		

Objective no. 2: Academic and research environment							
Proposed ACTIONS	GAP Principle(s)	Timing	Responsible Unit	Indicator(s) / Target(s)			
<ol> <li>Regular assessment of research environment and infrastructure and suggestions for improvement.</li> <li>ViA will strengthen the research environment and infrastructure in alignment with the ViA Development Strategy 2023-2028. Key actions will include enhancing management policies for research-related human resources, streamlining project management, upgrading administrative support systems, developing modern, wellequipped workspaces and laboratories tailored to the needs of academic and research staff, etc. Furthermore, regular annual assessments will be conducted to identify emerging issues, ensuring that these are promptly communicated to upper management. This approach will foster continuous improvements to the work environment, infrastructure, and overall staff satisfaction.</li> <li>This action aligns with the ViA Development Strategy 2023-2028:         <ul> <li>U2.1.3. Enhancing information exchange between researchers for preparing project proposals.</li> <li>U2.3.1. Enhancing the management policy for human resources involved in research, including defining the responsibilities and roles of institute directors and senior research staff in establishing scientific groups, maintaining positions created within projects, and employing bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students, as well as recruiting elected personnel.</li> <li>U2.5.1. Maintenance and systematic upgrading of scientific laboratory equipment,</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	3. Professional responsibility 6. Accountability 23. Research environment 24. Working conditions 27. Gender balance 35. Participation in decision-making bodies	Starting Q1 2025 (ongoing)	<ul> <li>HR management group</li> <li>Vice-rectors</li> <li>Directors of scientific institutes</li> <li>Heads of Laboratories</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Research environment and infrastructure improvements will be implemented in alignment with the ViA Development Strategy 2023 –2028.</li> <li>At least one assessment (survey/ interviews with staff) of research environment and infrastructure will be carried out annually.</li> <li>Suggestions for improvements in ViA research environment and infrastructure will be developed and communicated to ViA management annually.</li> </ul>			

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establishment of new laboratories based on existing infrastructure, and expansion of laboratory space.  • U2.5.3. Creation of a laboratory for demonstrating sustainable construction solutions on the basis of the Tērbatas 10a building, with the involvement of private and public funding.  • U4.4.2. Development of a sustainable infrastructure development plan for science, research, and innovation promotion (including the creation of an Innovation Quarter at 4 Cēsu Street)  • U4.4.5. Effective Project Management — Enhancing Project Monitoring Systems and Better Integrating Project Outcomes to Strengthen ViA's Core Operations  • U4.4.6. Enhancing the administrative support system for project management and increasing the capacity of specialists — project managers — to reduce the administrative burden on academic staff.				
2. Creating a welcome package for new ViA staff members  ViA plans to improve the on-bording process of new ViA staff members. The onboarding of new staff, including researchers, at ViA will be designed to facilitate a seamless and effective integration into the organization. This process aims to help new hires quickly understand their roles, the institutional environment, and ongoing projects. To achieve this, ViA will develop a comprehensive Employee Admission and Integration Plan, which also will involve education new staff members about national and institutional regulations	24. Working conditions 25. Stability and permanence of employment 5. Contractual and legal obligations 31. Intellectual Property Rights	Starting Q2 2025 (ongoing)	HR management group Rector Vice-rectors Heads of structural units/groups	<ul> <li>Developing Employee admission and integration plan at ViA by Q4 2026</li> <li>At least one orientation event for new employees will be held annually.</li> </ul>

governing training and working conditions, including Intellectual Property Management regulations, etc. Activities such as orientation events for new employees and the distribution of documentation packages will be conducted. The Rector, Vice Rectors, and unit/group leaders will be actively involved in this initiative to ensure a supportive and well-coordinated onboarding experience.  This action is associated with ViA Development Strategy 2023-2028: U4.1.3. Determining and implementing general staff development and recruitment priorities, involving unit/group leaders.  3. Developing and implementing Incentivization program  This action focuses on creating a robust staff incentive program that incorporates both nonmonetary and monetary rewards to recognize and motivate employees effectively. It includes a thorough review and enhancement of the remuneration system for all personnel groups to ensure it is competitive and equitable.  Additionally, the program will feature the implementation of mutual evaluation processes to foster a culture of feedback and continuous improvement.  This action is associated with ViA Development Strategy 2023-2028:  • U4.1.4. Creation and implementation of a staff incentive program that includes both non-monetary and monetary rewards, including a review and enhancement of the remuneration system for all personnel groups, and the introduction of mutual evaluation	25. Stability and permanence of employment 26. Funding and salaries	Strating Q1 2025 (Ongoing)	<ul> <li>HR management group</li> <li>Rector</li> <li>Vice-Rectors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Revising ViA remuneration policy in line with the university's budget capacity by Q4 2026.</li> <li>Reviewing the staff motivation/bonus system by Q4 2026.</li> <li>Evulating the effectiveness of existing tools, and introducing new tools, all aligned with ViA's budget capabilities by Q4 2026.</li> </ul>
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## 4. Implementing activities outlined in ViA OTM-R Policy

ViA's OTM-R policy, approved in May 2024, is set to be implemented through September 2026. During this period, ViA will undertake a series of activities to ensure that recruitment processes are open, merit-based, and transparent, in alignment with the OTM-R policy. Activities such as development of OTM-R policy quality control system, updating and translating ViA internal documents relating to recruitment process, etc. will be carried out within this action. This action is a key component of the ViA Development Strategy 2023-2028, which includes the task (U4.1.2) of obtaining and maintaining the 'HR Excellence in Research Award' quality certification.

12. Recruitment
13. Recruitment
(Code)
14. Selection
(Code)
16. Judging merit
(Code)
18. Recognition of
mobility
experience (Code)
19. Recognition of
qualifications
(Code)
20. Seniority
(Code)
21. Postdoctoral
appointments
(Code)
27. Gender
balance
29. Value of

mobility

appeals

34. Complains/

- HR Management group
- Vice-Rector for Academic and Scientific Work
- Selection Committees
- By the September 2026, ViA OTM-R policy will be fully implemented in ViA.
- OTM-R policy quality control system will be developed by Q4 2026.
- ViA Internal regulations and planning documents, that are relevant in recruitment process, will be adjusted in accordance with ViA OTM-R policy, translated in English and published in ViA website by the Q4 2026.
- All recruitment related forms (evaluation form, advertisement form, etc.) will be developed and published (also in English) by Q2 2026.
- 100% of job postings will follow updated practices starting September 2026 (ongoing).

Objective no. 3: Academic career development

Proposed ACTIONS	GAP Principle(s)	Timing	Responsible Unit	Indicator(s) / Target(s)
1. Developing and publishing a clear academic career development framework In line with upcoming changes in national legislation concerning academic career progression (new Academic Career Framework), and within the scope of the autonomy granted, ViA will develop and publish a comprehensive framework for academic career development. This framework will provide	18. Recognition of mobility experience (Code) 22. Recognition of the profession 28. Career development 33. Teaching	Starting Q1 2025 (ongoing)	Vice-Rectors	Academic career development framework will be developed and published by end of Q4 2026.

Starting Q4

2024 (ongoing)

clear and structured information on the criteria for						
career progression at all academic levels. This						
framework will outline specific criteria for						
promotions, ensuring transparency and supporting						
professional growth.						
This action is associated with ViA Development						
Strategy 2023-2028:						
U2.3.1. Enhancing the management policy for						
human resources involved in research,						
including defining the responsibilities and roles						
of institute directors and senior research staff						
in establishing scientific groups, maintaining						
positions created within projects, and						
employing bachelor's, master's, and doctoral						
students, as well as recruiting elected						
personnel.						
U4.1.1. Updating the personnel management						
policy at ViA, defining career development						
opportunities for all staff groups, including						
academic staff, based on the academic career						
model.						
U4.1.3. Determining and implementing general						
staff development and recruitment priorities,						
involving unit/group leaders.						
2. Forming tenure committees for R3 and R4	28. Career	Starting Q4 2025	•	HR management group	•	Tenure committees will be
academic and research staff.		(ongoing)	•	Vice-Rector for Academic		formed and operational by
Upcoming changes in national regulations regarding	30. Access to career			and Scientific Work		Q2 2026.
academic career progression highlight the	advice				•	100% R3/R4 candidates qill
importance of tenure committee support for leading	36. Relation with supervisors					have access to tenure
and highly qualified academic and research staff. Due	supervisors					committees by Q4 2026.
to that ViA plans to form tenure committees for R3						•
and R4 staff. National and international experts will						
take part in these committees. In the formation of						
these committees, international networks will also						
be leveraged.						
This action is associated with ViA Development						
Strategy 2023-2028:						

U2.4.6. Development of an international scientific advisory panel (council).					
3. Providing regular career guidance workshops. To support the professional development of ViA staff, the institution will provide regular career guidance workshops. These sessions will cover essential topics such as CV development, interview preparation, and career planning. By offering these resources, ViA aims to equip staff with the tools and insights needed to advance their careers effectively.	28. Career development 30. Access to career advice	Starting Q4 2025 (ongoing)	•	Vice-Rector for Academic and Scientific Work	Minimum of 2 career guidance workshops will be organized per semester. 80% of participants report increased clarity in career progression after attending guidance workshops.
<ul> <li>4. Implementing a Career Progression Appraisal System</li> <li>ViA plans to establish a comprehensive appraisal system to regularly evaluate the career development and satisfaction of academic and research staff. This system will feature structured regular assessments, allowing employees to provide insights on their career progression, challenges, and overall support needed, through career development discussions. The feedback collected will be used to identify areas for improvement, offer personalized professional development opportunities, personalized development plans and ensure that staff advancement aligns with both individual career goals and institutional objectives. This continuous evaluation process aims to foster a supportive and growth-oriented work environment.</li> <li>This action is associated with ViA Development</li> <li>Strategy 2023-2028:</li> <li>U.2.1.2. Enhancing the Support System for Researchers to Achieve High-Level Scientific Outcomes.</li> <li>U2.3.1. Enhancing the management policy for human resources involved in research, including defining the responsibilities and roles of institute directors and senior research staff in establishing scientific groups, maintaining</li> </ul>	appraisal systems 19. Recognition of qualifications (Code) 28. Career development 18. Recognition of mobility experience (Code) 29. Value of mobility 33. Teaching	Starting Q4 2025 (ongoing)	•	HR management group Vice-Rector for Academic and Scientific Work Heads of Structural Units	<ul> <li>Appraisal System will be developed by Q4 2025.</li> <li>ViA will conduct at least one appraisal of ViA academic and research staff by Q4 2026.</li> </ul>

	positions created within projects, and employing					
	bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students, as					
	well as recruiting elected personnel.					
5	. Initiating the operation of the ViA Doctoral	28. Career	Starting Q3 2024	•	HR management group	Number of agreements signed for
	School	development	(Ongoing)	•	Vice-Rector for Academic and	joint activities within the
Т	ins initiative entails the launch of the VIA Doctoral	30. Access to career				framework of the Doctoral School.
S	chool to strengthen doctoral education through	advice		•	Scientific Institute Directors	
S	rategic partnerships with scientific institutions in					
L	atvia and abroad (utilizing also EUDRES network). Its					
р	rimary objective is to create a solid foundation for					
d	octoral studies, enhancing research and training					
o	pportunities. The Doctoral School aims to foster the					
ir	itegration of early-career researchers, doctoral					
S	cudents (R1), into the global scientific community.					
Т	his action is associated with ViA Development					
S	trategy 2023-2028:					
•	U2.2.2. Development of collaboration for					
	enhancing doctoral education at ViA with					
	scientific institutions in Latvia and abroad within					
	the framework of doctoral schools, including an					
	analysis of the potential for initiating new					
	doctoral programs at ViA					

Objective no. 4: Academic leadership and mentoring							
Proposed ACTIONS	GAP Principle(s)	Timing		Responsible Unit		Indicator(s) / Target(s)	
Mentoring Training Program for R3 and R4 staff.  ViA will establish a Leadership and Mentoring Training Program for R3 and R4 staff, covering topics like mentoring, strategic planning, team management, and communication. The program will include recruitment and assessment training to prepare Selection Committees for fair, merit-based			•	HR management group Faculty Boards Vice-Rector for Academic and Scientific Work	•	75% of R3/R4 staff participate in the program within the first year of Leadership and Mentoring Training Program. 75% of participants report improved leadership and mentoring skills. At least 2 leadership and mentoring workshops conducted per semester.	

provide hands-on leadership experience. Also external and international experts and mentors (including industry representatives) will be involved as instructors, enhancing the program's effectiveness. Regular assessments and feedback will help refine the training and offer advanced workshops to further develop leadership and mentoring skills for R3 and R4 staff.  This action is associated with ViA Development Strategy 2023-2028:  • U3.3.1. Developing and Implementing a Plan to Enhance the Scientific Impact of ViA Staff (including training, mentor involvement, skills development, support measures, compilation of best practices, and science commercialization activities)  • U4.1.6. Development of strategic management and human resources management skills at the leadership and unit manager levels			<ul> <li>100% of selection committees trained by 2026. 90% of participal report improved understanding on OTM</li> <li>At least 1 advanced workshop offered by C (based on the Leadersh Mentoring Training Proparticipant feedback); participants report valuability and knowledge enhancement.</li> </ul>	1-R. 4 2026 hip and ogram 75% of
2. Establishing and implementing a structured Mentoring Program for R1 and R2 academic and research staff ViA will develop and implement a structured mentoring program in which ViA R3 and R4 staff, along with external and international experts and mentors—including industry representatives—will provide support to R1 and R2 academic and research staff members. International networks such as E³UDRES² will be leveraged to identify and recruit mentors.	Starting from Q4 2025 (ongoing)	<ul> <li>HR management group</li> <li>Vice-Rector for Academic and Scientific Work</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>An analysis of existing mentoring schemes an programs will be conduted and integrated into the mentoring program by 2025.</li> <li>Mentoring guidelines with developed and publish Q3 2025.</li> <li>Mentoring program with established by Q4 2025 and mentor within 3 more joining.</li> </ul>	d ucted Q3 vill be ed by Il be 5.

meetings and feedback sessions. Mentors will offer					
insights on research practices and academic growth,					
creating a supportive environment for mentees. It is					
planned that mentors will play a significant role in					
the effective flow of research information.					
This action is associated with ViA Development					
Strategy 2023-2028:					
U2.4.6. Development of an international					
scientific advisory panel (council).					
• U3.3.1. Developing and Implementing a Plan to					
Enhance the Scientific Impact of ViA Staff					
(including training, mentor involvement, skills					
development, support measures, compilation of					
best practices, and science commercialization					
activities)					
3. Creating a mentors' network	36. Relation with	Starting Q1 2026	•	HR management group	A minimum of two mentor
Develop a dedicated mentors' network to facilitate	supervisors	(ongoing)	•	Vice-Rector for Academic and	network meetings will be held
the exchange of experiences and provide mutual	37. Supervision and			Scientific Work	each year.
support among mentors. Also, external members will	managerial duties				
be included in this network (Alumni, E³UDRES²					
project). This network will create opportunities for					
mentors to connect, share best practices, and discuss	i				
challenges they face in their mentoring roles. By					
fostering a collaborative environment, the network					
aims to enhance the effectiveness of mentoring					
practices, offer guidance, and support, and build a					
strong community of mentors committed to					
professional growth and development.					

## An additional actions that should be considered across all the activities mentioned above

Proposed ACTIONS	GAP Principle(s)	Timing	Responsible Unit	Indicator(s) / Target(s)
for activities connected to HR development aspects		Starting Q1 2025 (ongoing)	<ul> <li>HR management group</li> <li>Vice-Rector for Academic and Scientific Work</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Feedback system will be established by Q4 2025.</li> <li>At least one Feedback survey on different themes connected with HR</li> </ul>

on activities connected to HR development aspects, including their professional development experiences, overall job satisfaction and well-being, effectiveness of mentoring and leadership training programs, mentoring program etc.  This will include regular online surveys and open discussions. The collected feedback will be used to assess the effectiveness of HR activities, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and make actionable recommendations.  This action is a key component of the ViA  Development Strategy 2023-2028, which includes the task (U4.1.2) of obtaining and maintaining the 'HR  Excellence in Research Award' quality certification.						development activities at ViA will be conducted annually.
2. Dissemination of the European Charter for Researchers, Code of Conduct for Recruitment, and HRS4R  To enhance the overall knowledge and understanding of the European Charter for Researchers, the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, and the HRS4R among ViA's academic and research staff, ViA will implement a comprehensive dissemination activities. These activities will encompass regular informative events, distribution of essential information on the ViA homepage, and utilization of various communication channels. The goal is to ensure that staff are well-informed and actively engaged in the activities outlined in this action plan.  This action is a key component of the ViA Development Strategy 2023-2028, which includes the task (U4.1.2) of obtaining and maintaining the 'HR Excellence in Research Award' quality certification.	outlined in Charter and Code,	Starting Q4 2024 (ongoing)	•	HR management group Vice-Rector for Academic and Scientific Work Communication group	•	At least two informative events will be held per year to enhance knowledge about Charter & Code principles and HRS4R.  Posting and regular updating of information on the VIA website will be carried out (ongoing).