

SCIENTIFIC POLICY OF THE BALTIC INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

1. General principles

- 1.1. The **vision** of the Baltic International Academy (BIA) for scientific research and creative activity is to be a sustainably developing institution within the European Union's Baltic region, oriented toward scientific research, creative activity and artistic innovation, to be an internationally recognised scientific institution actively involved in both national and international research communities.
- 1.2. The **mission** of BIA's scientific research and creative activity is to conduct applied research and internationally recognised scientific work, as well as to develop science, creative activity and artistic innovation, thereby contributing to and influencing the national economy and society.
- 1.3. In its scientific research and creative activity, the BIA focuses on developing its capacity to promote research cooperation with Latvian and foreign higher education establishments, research and scientific institutions, centres, representatives of industry and employers, as well as state institutions, promoting sustainable economic and social development.
- 1.4. The aim of the scientific policy (Policy) of the BIA is to ensure knowledge transfer and promotion of innovations, ensuring communication with the public and international dissemination of research results, taking into account Latvian and European scientific regulations and initiatives, including: the Law on Higher Education Institutions; Law on Scientific Activity; National Development Plan (NDP 2027); Guidelines for Science, Technology Development, and Innovation 2021-2027 (GSTDI 2027); Commission Report to the European Parliament and the Council on the Mediterranean Partnership for Research and Innovation 2023/0285/NLE (RRI); the European Charter for Researchers.
- 1.5. The objective of the policy is to create a favourable and supportive environment for researchers, promote research in accordance with responsible research practice, coordinate the research work of researchers and raise awareness among BIA staff on the directions of open science, as well as on the possibilities of joining the services of the European Open Science Cloud, thereby ensuring the development of science and the wide dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of society.
- 1.6. The policy is mandatory for the structural divisions of the BIA, the main objective of which is related to the development of research, as well as providing support to researchers in the relevant research process.

2. Research policy

- 2.1. Directions of scientific activity of the BIA are defined in the Regulation on the scientific activity of the BIA.
- 2.2. The results of the research area's work are ensured by the BIA academic staff and research groups, which also include students. The work of the research groups is organised by the research leader of the relevant area.
- 2.3. Researchers of the BIA are encouraged to publish the results of their research:

- **Publications in peer-reviewed journals.**

Preference: journals indexed in *Web of Science (WOS)*, *SCOPUS* or *ERIH+*, in accordance with the requirements of Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 320 of 09.07.2019 "On the procedure for granting rights of experts of the Latvian Council of Science and the establishment of expert commissions".

Special priority: articles published in journals indexed in SCOPUS/WOS that are ranked in the first two quartiles (Q1/Q2), BIA scientific journals "*Baltic Journal of Legal and Social Sciences*" (indexed in *ERIH+*) and "*Administrative and Criminal Justice*" (indexed in *Index Copernicus*).

- **In reports at scientific conferences.**

Priority: international scientific conferences that provide publication in journals indexed in SCOPUS/WOS, as well as international scientific conferences organised by the BIA – "Society Transformations in Social and Human Sciences", "Time of Challenges and Opportunities: Challenges, Solutions, Perspectives", as well as other thematic scientific conferences.

Priority: scientific publications issued by publishers such as Springer, Elsevier, Emerald, and others; monographs included in publications indexed in SCOPUS or Web of Science (WOS).

- **In scientific monographs (or their chapters), in collections of scientific papers.**

Priority: scientific publications issued by *Springer*, *Elsevier*, *Emerald*, etc., monographs included in publications indexed in SCOPUS/WOS.

- **In other scientific reports and reviews.**

Priority: use and dissemination of research results among industrial, governmental and non-academic stakeholders.

3. Planning, selection and recruitment of scientific staff

- 3.1. Planning of scientific work of the BIA is based on an assessment of the potential of existing academic staff, information on the initiation of new projects or research, the development of ongoing projects or research, or changes in staffing.
- 3.2. The decision to open vacant research positions and announce a competition is made by the BIA Board, based on the proposal of the BIA Vice-Rector for Science.

- 3.3. The selection of scientific staff at the BIA is determined by the “Regulation on elections to academic positions at the BIA”.
- 3.4. The selection of scientific staff at the BIA is carried out on the basis of an open competition, ensuring the transparency of the selection process, based on the assessment of qualifications, competencies and compliance with scientific criteria.
- 3.5. The decision to elect a person to the position of Leading Researcher, Researcher or Research Assistant is made by the BIA Scientific Council. The decision of the Scientific Council is approved by the BIA Senate in accordance with the Senate’s regulation.

4. Ethics and integrity in science

- 4.1. In its scientific activity, the BIA ensures that the scientific institution complies with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, contributing to the development of ethical thinking within the scientific community.¹
- 4.2. Researchers of the BIA are obliged to comply with the requirements of the BIA Code of Ethics and Academic Integrity.
- 4.3. To promote academic integrity in the modern technological era, the BIA has introduced the Guidelines for the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Academic Activity of the BIA, which set out general principles for the use of AI and for upholding the principles of academic integrity in any context where AI is used.

5. Dissemination of research results and Open Access

- 5.1. Practice of open science contributes to increasing the accessibility of scientific research results (data, metadata, code, publications) by making research more open to participation, peer review/refutation, improvement, and reuse, thereby promoting the achievement of global benefits. Open science includes open access to publications, open access to data, open access to software, open collaboration, open peer review, open notebooks, open knowledge/educational resources (scientific publications, teaching materials, educational software), open monographs, citizen science, research crowdfunding (crowdfunding platforms), etc.²
- 5.2. The BIA, as a scientific institution, supports free or open access to research information, encouraging researchers to make their work openly accessible in accordance with the open access policy.
- 5.3. Information on research funded by the EU, the state or local authorities must be made open.
- 5.4. The BIA encourages researchers to process and provide data as fully as possible, using the principles of openness and FAIR data – guidelines for parties involved in the creation and management of research data that promote the maximum use of research data. FAIR data are *Findable, Accessible, Interoperable* and *Reusable*.

¹ <https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/>

² Bite, K., Daugavietis, J., Kampars, J., Kreicbergs, J., Kuchma, I., Kuchma, I., Ostrovska, D., Vecpuize, E., Veisa, K., and Želve, M. (2020). Final report of the “Study on the Development of an Open Science and Policy Roadmap”. Available at: https://www.izm.gov.lv/images/zinatne/P%C4%93t%C4%ABjums-Atv%C4%93rt%C4%81_zin%C4%81tne_2.pdf.

- 5.5. All open access publications and digital objects must be assigned unique identifiers, such as DOI, ORCID, ISBN.
- 5.6. The BIA provides open access to scientific publications – scientific papers resulting from the research activity of the BIA are published in the proceedings of international scientific conferences organised by the BIA³ and in scientific journals.⁴
- 5.7. In its scientific activity, the BIA ensures the dissemination of research results to the general public, thereby promoting the exchange and development of knowledge.

6. Management of scientific staff

- 6.1. Scientific staff of the BIA consists of leading researchers, researchers and research assistants.
- 6.2. The management of the scientific staff of the BIA is carried out in accordance with the Labour Law, Law on Higher Education Institutions, Law on Scientific Activity, and other external and internal regulatory enactments of the BIA in order to achieve the strategic goals of the BIA.
- 6.3. The terms of remuneration of BIA scientific staff are established by the Regulation on Remuneration of BIA employees.
- 6.4. The BIA supports the research activity of its scientific staff in accordance with the System of incentives and support for the scientific activity of academic staff and students of the BIA.
- 6.5. The BIA provides research infrastructure: premises with appropriate equipment, *Social and Neurocognitive Implicit Processes Laboratory*, *Smart Tourism and Innovative Marketing Laboratory*, scientific library services with access to the library collection and databases; the scientific journal “*Baltic Journal of Legal and Social Sciences*”, “*Administrative and Criminal Justice*”, the online article submission system, scientific research conference registration system.
- 6.6. The BIA provides training, technical support and guidance for researchers and staff.

7. Monitoring and evaluation of scientific activity

- 7.1. Monitoring of scientific and artistic creative activity and regular analysis of their results is conducted by the Vice-Rector for Science and the Scientific Council of the BIA based on key performance indicators (KPIs) and measures to improve efficiency within the framework of the priorities established in the scientific activity plan.
- 7.2. BIA annually summarises and publishes the results of scientific work.
- 7.3. The achieved results of scientific work and artistic creativity in the study field “Arts” (School of Design of the BIA) are reported at the BIA’s annual international scientific and practical conference “Society Transformations in Social and Human Sciences”.

³ <https://bsa.edu.lv/index.php/en/con-ferences/main-publications.html>

⁴ <https://bsa.edu.lv/index.php/en/bjlss-en.html>