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Contacts:

Dr. Jolita Bernatavičienė
jolita.bernataviciene@mif.vu.lt
Prof. Olga Kurasova
olga.kurasova@mif.vu.lt
Tel. (+370 5) 2109 315

Forecasting the Student Pipeline for Lithuanian Universities

Jurgita Markevičiūtė, Alfredas Račkauskas

Institute of Applied Mathematics
Vilnius University

jurgita.markeviciute@mif.vu.lt

The research analyses demographic and educational trends from 2000 to 2025 and projects future student flows to 2036 and 2043. Using national and regional data, it finds a long-term decline in the number of schoolchildren and graduates due to low birth rates, migration, and ageing populations, though slight stabilisation has appeared in recent years—mainly in Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipėda districts. The share of graduates choosing Lithuanian universities dropped sharply after 2009 but is gradually recovering. Forecasts suggest around 9,000–11,000 graduates will enrol in Lithuanian universities annually, with Vilnius, Kaunas, and Klaipėda maintaining dominance and smaller regions facing ongoing decline. The study concludes that universities must adapt to demographic shifts, strengthen regional access, and expand international recruitment to sustain enrollment stability.