

<https://doi.org/10.15388/ESSSB21.2026>

**21st European Symposium on
Suicide and Suicidal Behaviour - ESSSB21**

Rethinking Suicide Research & Prevention

**August 26–29, 2026
Vilnius, Lithuania**

Organizing Committee

- **Chair:** Paulius Skruibis
- Austėja Agnietė Čepulienė
- Said Dadašev
- Danutė Gailienė
- Dovilė Grigienė
- Jokūbas Gužas
- Miglė Marcinkevičiūtė
- Eglė Mažulytė-Rašytinė
- Jurgita Rimkevičienė

All members of the Organizing Committee are from the Suicide Research Centre at Vilnius University. More details: <https://www.fsf.vu.lt/en/institute-of-psychology/centre-for-suicidology>

Scientific Committee

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Co-chair: Paulius Skruibis | • Nav Kapur |
| • Co-chair: Danutė Gailienė | • Vaiva Klimaitė |
| • Ayesha Ahmad | • Birthe Loa Knizek |
| • Marion Aichberger | • Vitalii Klymchuk |
| • Johnny Andoh-Arthur | • Karolina Krysinska |
| • Karl Andriessen | • Matthew Large |
| • Judit Balazs | • Ian Marsh |
| • Diana van Bergen | • Miglė Marcinkevičiūtė |
| • Silvia Sara Canetto | • Trine Madsen |
| • Amy Chandler | • Konrad Michel |
| • Austėja Čepulienė | • China Mills |
| • Erminia Colucci | • Thomas Niederkrotenthaler |
| • Said Dadašev | • Merete Nordentoft |
| • Derek de Beurs | • Rory O'Connor |
| • Annette Erlangsen | • John Oliffe |
| • Dovilė Grigienė | • Alexis Palfreyman |
| • Eve Griffin | • Vita Poštuvan |
| • Jokūbas Gužas | • Martin Plöderl |
| • Simon Hatcher | • Jurgita Rimkevičienė |
| • Keith Hawton | • Merike Sisask |
| • Michael P Hengartner | • Ellen Townsend |
| • Heidi Hjelmeland | • Nida Žemaitienė |
| • Erkki Isometsa | • Przemysław Waszak |

Students' Needs and Expectations for Suicide Prevention Training: The Lithuanian Contribution to an International Study

Lesinskienė, Sigita; **Pociūtė, Kamilė**; Voinušytė, Austėja

Vilnius University, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of the Clinical Medicine, Clinic of Psychiatry, Lithuania

Introduction: International initiatives help unite professionals and researchers, foster, and support the development of effective suicide prevention strategies. Vilnius University is participating in an international initiative and collecting data through the Multidisciplinary Suicide Prevention Training Curriculum in Higher Education survey to gain insights into students' needs and inform future curriculum development.

Methods: The questionnaire, available in English and Lithuanian, targets undergraduate and postgraduate students. It consists of 55 items divided into six domains: Demographic Information, Personal Experience, Personal Skills, Professional Skills, Attitudes Toward Suicide Prevention, and Training in Suicide Prevention Curriculum.

Results: 114 students participated (85 women, 26 men, 3 non-binary; ages 18–32). The majority of students were studying medicine – 101 (88.6%) and first-year students – 38 (33.3%). 33 students (28.9%) reported that their mental health difficulties make studying more challenging. 74 (64.9%) had no education in suicide prevention at the university; among those who had received training, the most common format was attending a single seminar - 19 (47.5%). Most students—79 (69.3%)—believed that a suicide-prevention module should be compulsory for future healthcare professionals, while 1 student (0.8%) indicated that such training is unnecessary and expressed a low likelihood of attending a course. The most preferred training format was practice in a hospital - 59 (51.8%), followed by practice in a crisis center or helpline - 57 (50.0%). Most students—59 (51.8 %)—indicated that the training should take place during the middle years of their studies. The most common preferred training duration was 8–16 hours - 74 (64.9 %).

Conclusion: This study may serve as a guide for developing suicide prevention modules for students, helping to identify their needs and manage expectations. The Lithuanian data will contribute to cross-national understanding of student needs and support the development of interventions that strengthen future professionals' competencies in suicide prevention.