



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

Lietuvos sveikatos mokslų universiteto ir Vilniaus Dailės akademijos  
Kauno fakulteto  
**STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS *DAILĖS TERAPIJA* (valstybinis kodas -  
628B90001)  
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS**

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**EVALUATION REPORT  
OF *ART THERAPY* (state code - 628B90001)  
STUDY PROGRAMME**

at Lithuanian University of Health Sciences and Vilnius Academy of  
Arts, Kaunas Faculty

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## DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	<i>Dailės terapija</i>
Valstybinis kodas	628B90001
Studijų sritis	Biomedicinos mokslai
Studijų kryptis	Medicina ir sveikata
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės studijos
Studijų pakopa	Antroji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinė (2), iššęstinė (3)
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	120
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Medicinos ir sveikatos magistras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	2013-06-17

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## INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	<i>Art Therapy</i>
State code	628B90001
Study area	Biomedical Sciences
Study field	Medicine and Health
Type of the study programme	University studies
Study cycle	Second
Study mode (length in years)	Full-time (2), part-time (3)
Volume of the study programme in credits	120
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master of Medicine and Health
Date of registration of the study programme	17 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the evaluation process

The evaluation of on-going study programmes is based on the **Methodology for evaluation of Higher Education study programmes**, approved by Order No 1-01-162 of 20 December 2010 of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereafter – SKVC).

The evaluation is intended to help higher education institutions to constantly improve their study programmes and to inform the public about the quality of studies.

The evaluation process consists of the main following stages: 1) *self-evaluation and self-evaluation report prepared by Higher Education Institution (hereafter – HEI)*; 2) *visit of the review team at the higher education institution*; 3) *production of the evaluation report by the review team and its publication*; 4) *follow-up activities*.

On the basis of external evaluation report of the study programme SKVC takes a decision to accredit study programme either for 6 years or for 3 years. If the programme evaluation is negative such a programme is not accredited.

The programme is **accredited for 6 years** if all evaluation areas are evaluated as “very good” (4 points) or “good” (3 points).

The programme is **accredited for 3 years** if none of the areas was evaluated as “unsatisfactory” (1 point) and at least one evaluation area was evaluated as “satisfactory” (2 points).

The programme is **not accredited** if at least one of evaluation areas was evaluated as “unsatisfactory” (1 point).

### 1.2. General

The Application documentation submitted by the HEI follows the outline recommended by the SKVC. Along with the self-evaluation report and annexes, the following additional documents have been provided by the HEI before, during and/or after the site-visit:

No.	Name of the document
	No additional documents beyond the annexes to the SER were provided during/before/after the visit

### 1.3. Background of the HEI/Faculty/Study field/ Additional information

The Lithuanian University of Health Sciences is the largest university level institution of higher education in Lithuania providing education and training of specialists in biomedical field. Vilnius Academy of Arts is a national higher education institution of arts. VDA Kaunas Faculty (subsequently – VDA KF) is a structural unit of Vilnius Academy of Arts, and thus can use the basis and methodical resources of the Academy on equal conditions.

The management of the second-cycle study programme *Art Therapy* takes place at the Faculty of Nursing. The second-cycle study programme *Art Therapy* is prepared to educate and train specialists with Master’s degree in the study field of Medicine and Health who would have scientific insight and would be competent art therapy specialists, as well as have a firm scientific basis of knowledge in art therapy.

#### **1.4. The Review Team**

The review team was completed according *Description of experts' recruitment*, approved by order No. 1-01-151 of Acting Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. The Review Visit to HEI was conducted by the team on *29th March, 2016*.

- 1. Prof. Jozef Kobos (team leader)**, *Head of the Laboratory of Pathology, Institute of Pediatrics, Head of the Chair of Biomedical Bases of Nursing, Head of the Department of Pathology of the Age of Development, Poland.*
- 2. Prof. Brigitte A. Volk-Zeiher**, *Research Director, Head of the Research Management of the Faculty of Medicine, Freiburg University, Germany.*
- 3. Prof. Simon van Heyningen**, *Emeritus Professor of the University of Edinburgh, Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, Founding member, Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, United Kingdom.*
- 4. Dr. Natalija Norvilė**, *lecturer at Mykolas Romeris University, expert of UAB „Adduco“, Lithuania.*
- 5. Ms. Monika Stančiauskaitė**, *student of Vytautas Magnus University study programme Biochemistry, Lithuania.*

**Evaluation coordinator – Ms. Dovilė Stonkutė.**

## **II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS**

### **2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes**

The aim of the second-cycle study programme *Art Therapy* is to educate and train specialists with Master's degrees in the field of Medicine and Health, who would have scientific insight, feel the need for improvement, and be competent art therapy specialists who meet international requirements, have a firm scientific basis of knowledge in art therapy, and are capable of professionally applying this knowledge in the field of personal health and well-being. The learning outcomes are well-defined, the general and subject-based competencies are acquired or enhanced during the study of the programme. Among the learning outcomes are: the ability to apply theoretical and practical knowledge in the scientific and practical professional work in collaboration interdisciplinary teams, the ability to assess and explore the patient's biopsychosocial status of the selection and application of different techniques for different client groups and explore their impact on a person's health and establishing therapeutic relationships with clients in the process of art therapy. The list of the competencies of the study programme and the learning outcomes of the subjects have been analysed and approved by the Committee of the Art Therapy Study Programme. The objectives and learning outcomes are published on the websites of LSMU and VDA, and are compliant with the general requirements for Master's study programmes. It is a highly specific programme aimed at a well-defined and clear set of student requirements, and has been compared with similar programmes in United Kingdom. Cooperation in this area is very helpful.

In general, the strengths of this programme include its novelty and continuity, the fact that the social partners have actively participated in the formulation of the aims and the learning outcomes of the programme, and that the learning outcomes are based on competencies that have been formulated on the basis of foreign colleagues' experience. The weakness of this programme is that while in the Classification of the Areas and Fields of Studies, the field "Medicine and Health" is listed and the separate branch of Art Therapy has not yet been included. It will be a challenge to achieve the inclusion of the branch of Art Therapy into the Classification of Areas

and Fields of Studies because the Classification does not have separate field for arts therapy now.

This is a much specialised and highly interesting study programme that is very well described in the self-evaluation report. The review team was impressed with the variety of projects that students had followed and the enthusiasm that they showed for them as well as with the art they had produced. It is a welcome opportunity for many to work in an interesting and rewarding field.

Rather few students (15 in 2015 year) take this programme, which makes considerable demands on staff and facilities. The University should be congratulated for its enterprise and hard work in producing the programme, which is regularly revised and updated.

The programme aims and learning outcomes are consistent with the level of qualifications of the Master Programme, but some of the detailed aims and learning outcomes appear to be available only in Lithuanian.

The name of the programme, its learning outcomes, content and the qualifications offered are compatible with each other. The content of the study programme creates conditions for achieving the results of the Master studies, and ensures a sufficient level of new knowledge and skills required for the professional activity of an art therapist. The aims and the content of the studied subjects as well as the student evaluation techniques are based on the aims of the study programme.

## ***2.2. Curriculum design***

This is the first Master Programme on art therapy in Lithuania and probably unique in the whole Baltic area. The Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU) and Vilnius Academy of Arts (VDA, Kaunas Faculty) present a very well designed and systematic programme according to the Law of Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania, approved by the decision of the LR Parliament (No. XI-2147, June 28, 2012). The overall aim is to provide a Master's degree which allows to work everywhere in the EU, not only in Lithuania, providing many opportunities on the labour market. The study programme starts currently as a part-time programme because most of the participating students (90%) are already working in other jobs.

The curriculum is compliant with the mission and the strategic aim of the LSMU and VDA of the strategic action plan for 2014-2016 and in VDA Statue, as well as the general requirements for Master studies and Joint study programmes, the provision of Dublin descriptors, the requirements set for the professional qualification of an Art Therapist, defined in the description of the professions of an Art Therapists (No. V-1114, October 30, 2014). In this phase, the main theme is focused on "chronic diseases" in elderly and children. The curriculum design meets the legal requirements.

The scope of the study programme "Art Therapy" as full-time studies is 120 ECTS and is sufficient to ensure the achievement of learning outcomes. 48 credits are taught by the LSMU (40%) and 72 credits by VDA (60%). The duration of part-time studies is 3 years; so far only part-time studies have been provided (SER, Table 4). The peculiarities of the part-time studies are taken into consideration when students are distributed into groups according to the modules that they have to take first in order to bring all students up to the same level of knowledge.

The scope of individual subjects, the proportions of contact and self-study work are compatible with the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania. The study subjects are distributed evenly among

the semester, their themes are not repetitive; no more than 5 study modules are introduced during a semester. The content of subjects is consistent with the type and level of the studies. The studies of each subject are completed with an examination of student's knowledge and skills; approximately 70% of the time is allocated to independent work. So far, there is no practical training planned in the Master's study programme.

Independent practical training classes are performed during studies of each subject of the programme at various personal health care institutions, where students develop necessary skills and conduct scientific work. There is a long list of participating health care institutions: e.g. Children's rehabilitation hospital "Lopšelis", LSMU KK, Clinical Department of Psychiatry, Department of Rehabilitation, Neurorehabilitation subdivision, Oncology Hospital etc.

In terms of the two very different main themes (Medicine and Art) of the study programme and the different level of student knowledge in the very beginning, the team would like to suggest more elective courses addressing trans-cultural issues. The study programme would therefore need more flexibility in the first year, starting with a broader spectrum in both themes and giving more attention to research methodology. This process is expected to ensure that knowledge could be provided more systematically.

During the second year, the students study subjects that are directed to deeper understanding of, for example, Ideological Junctions of the Philosophy of Art and Psychopathology, Communicativeness of Visual Expression Therapy and Empirical Analysis of the Phenomenon of Sight and Art Therapy Process (SER, points 36-38). Independent practical work (IPW) is performed from the second to the fifth semester and takes place in the clinical areas and institutions with which practical agreements have been signed.

Students use a "pilot practical work diary" on a daily basis, which is a very useful tool for both teachers' feedback and students. This procedure could be further improved by giving more space for remarks. For clinical practise they can meet a variety of different customer groups and should undergo practical training in at least three different IPW groups. During practical training, special attention is paid to the understanding of the triangular relationship of Art Therapy.

At the end of sixth semester final research work and the completed Master's thesis are defended at the meeting of the joint committee of the defence of graduation thesis. The order of preparation and defence of graduation theses is regulated by the Regulation on Studies of the LSMU and in the Joint LSMU and VDA Master's programme Art Therapy. In total, the scope of scientific work is 30 credits. With the completion of the master-level studies in Art Therapy, graduates are expected to demonstrate their abilities, knowledge and skills for the aims of the study programme.

The achievements of the learning outcomes are related to individual subjects of the programme and through the development of the required abilities and competences by different learning techniques (mostly in team work). The content and methods of the subjects are appropriate for the achievement of the intended learning outcomes. The data about the learning outcomes of each subject and the special abilities of students will guarantee the appropriate the achievement of the indented learning outcomes. Although the content of the study programme is still in the process of development, it reflects the latest achievements both on national and international level in science, art and technologies.

### ***2.3. Teaching staff***

There are 24 staff members participating in the programme, including 5 professors and 10 associate professors. 72% of staff members have a scientific degree (PhD), and 20.9% of major study field subjects' volume is taught by teachers holding a Professor's academic degree. 75% of teachers have >10 years' experience in teaching. Approximately half of the teachers are younger than 50-years, which indicate a good potential for the future. The legal requirement that 60 percent of the subjects in the study field be taught by scientists (researchers who have a PhD) is met. Also the Lithuanian legal requirements in terms of qualifications and experience are met. In conclusion, staff members have the high qualifications needed to ensure the learning outcomes and their number is adequate.

Teachers' turn-over rate is low, but this may be due to the overall small number of teachers involved (24) and the more specialized requirements for teachers in MSc (e.g. compared to BSc) level studies. The recruiting procedure for the teaching positions at the faculty is enacted by the Law of Higher Education. In both higher education institutions, the teachers' pedagogical, scientific, artistic, and practical experience is evaluated during performance evaluation procedures organized every five years.

Although the experts team note that majority of the academic staff involved in the programme is active in scientific work, they demonstrate active research and a reasonable number of publications in the leading national and/or international journals in the last five years. There is still considerable scope for a wider number of staff to be more research active, and hence to publish more scholarly work. This is crucial for the programme to facilitate student progression to the doctoral level. It should be noted that LSMU and VDA have favourable conditions for the professional improvement of the staff, and teachers actively use possibilities to improve their qualification in pedagogical, scientific, and practical spheres, and also strive to refresh their abilities or to acquire new skills. However, the expert team would encourage the Institutions to support staff to increase publications in international journals; for example, by assisting in writing project applications; organizing workshops on academic writing; and financially supporting research.

The data on student/teacher ratio would be considerably more informative if details of contact hours were provided. The operation with 'raw' number of teachers is not a sufficient indicator of students/teacher ratio because many of the 24 faculty teachers are involved in other programmes as well.

The ratio between the number of students preparing their graduation theses and the number of scientific supervisors is optimal: one supervisor has not more than 3-4 students preparing their graduation theses, but teachers also are involved in supervising students from other programmes as well.

LSMU and VDA have established mechanisms for the professional development of the teaching staff necessary for the provision of the programme. However, staff noted that usually only active participation in conferences (presentation of research results) is supported by the University. Short-term and long-term mobility of teachers still should be strongly promoted – participation in workshops, seminars, scientific internships abroad, teaching in European universities (e.g. via Erasmus+ programme), etc. Also, visiting lecturers should be engaged in the programme. It is advised that the profile of the teaching staff could be improved by recruiting/inviting lecturers from among younger generation specialists from Lithuania (e.g. graduates of programmes in Arts, Medicine, Psychology, etc.) and guest lecturers from abroad.



#### ***2.4. Facilities and learning resources***

The joint study programme Art Therapy takes place in quiet a number of locations of LSMU Medical Academy and Vilnius Academy of Arts and Kaunas Faculty of Vilnius Academy of Arts (VDA KF), Lithuanian Veterinary Academy, Medical Academy and Hospital of the Lithuanian University (LSMU KK). According to the high number of facilities involved in the study programme, computer work places with small numbers of working places (app. 4-8) are distributed over all premises. Larger computer classes are mainly located in the University Library with 56 computer work places for students. Teaching classrooms have also up to 12 computers, 8 with CD-DVD viewing for archives of books, journals and resources stored at the Library, additional 8 computers are in the Library's Reading Room available. The VDA KF Library (80 qm) belongs to the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium and is located in a separate building equipped with 16 computer workplaces, specialized books, textbooks, periodicals and about 80 000 units of publications. Students can also use the electronic catalogue for publication search and online order of publications, which is freely accessible on the Internet. All computers are equipped with standard software programmes, unlimited Internet connection, access to databases and the possibility of short term storage at the Library is provided. Some reading rooms contain separate rooms for small students groups with classrooms for problem-based learning having multimedia equipment. 39 workplaces for employees are also available. Students and teachers have also access to databases and computers at the University and the LSME hospital. Since 2012, the First Class intranet system has been implemented at the LSMU for sharing information, uploading of materials of lectures and for communication between staff, teachers and students. VDA lectures are given in a hall with a hundred seats, multimedia equipment and Internet access.

The creative workshops of students in Art Therapy takes place in historical places (which will soon be further renovated) on Muitinës Street, including Panemunë castle, a recreation base in Mizarai, and the Nida Art Colony, which has five residences for artists, a hostel, two multi-functional spaces for artistic and educational events, and a digital laboratory.

VDA also has a separate room for practical seminars and lectures. It is equipped with computer and internet facilities, suitable furniture and good lighting. It is also adapted for practical seminars in art therapy, which need storage space for the materials used, as well as running water. Books on art therapy suitable for this programme have been purchased recently, and the library has been moved to new larger premises, where there are three modern reading rooms as well as a book loan service.

The lack of suitable teaching material in Lithuanian (e.g. new international textbooks not older than 2-3 years) is clearly a general problem, nevertheless for consumables used in the study programme a free provision e.g. for painting (clay, paint, paper, pencil etc.) and equipment (e.g. for stone and metal work, easels, graphic printing press etc..) should be given. The faculty has sufficient amounts of necessary equipment for drawing models and painting display. The premises for studies, teaching and learning equipment are adequate both in size and quality. The higher education institutions have adequate arrangements for student's practise, online access to scientific journals and to databases are ensured.

#### ***2.5. Study process and students' performance assessment***

The adequate rules for the admission of the students are listed in the "Student Admission Rules" yearly approved by Senates of the institutions and published in the websites of the LSMU and VDA. In addition to that, both higher education institutions participate in the fairs of higher education institutions where representatives of the University and the Academy present the study

programmes, prepare and distribute booklets about the study programmes, and advertise them in mass media. Also, the LSMU and VDA KF organise the Doors Open days with information about the study programme.

The competitive grade is calculated, and the admission queue is formed in accordance with the Rules of Admission. The candidates' motivation and research activity are evaluated by the joint committee (LSMU and VDA, including students' representative) for admission to Master studies. The detailed criteria with score point for admission of this study programme are following: education, mean evaluation of the studied subjects listed in the transcript of records, evaluation of the candidate's motivation, evaluation of the candidate's scientific and artistic activity, the candidate's ability to use visual expression for the reflection of the processes of personality change and development and evaluation of practical experience

The level of drop-out of the student is relatively high. Nine students are currently in the third year, although 16 entered in the 2013/2104 academic year. The reasons for students leaving were disease or maternity leave. No students had any academic debts during the academic years of 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

Students are encouraged to participate in research activities - LSMU students may participate in the activity of the Students' Scientific Society (SSC), an organisation whose members are students interested in science and young researchers interested in the same field of health care. They are grouped in scientific groups according to their professional and research activities. Art Therapy students, together with other VDA KF students, may also participate in the creative workshops organised by the Department of Visual Arts. These workshops take place in the VDA KF premises, the Panemunė castle, or in Nida Art Colony.

Information about studies for the students admitted to the Art Therapy study programme is provided by the Administration of the LSMU Faculty of Nursing, the Study Programme Committee (SPC), and also by the teachers working in this study programme. During the first semester, a meeting with the students is organised in the introductory class where the students are familiarised with the aims and objectives of the study programme, the peculiarities of its implementation, the evaluation of the achievements, and staff members are presented. The information about the study programme is presented in social networks and the VDA website and detailed information about the aims and objectives of the studied subjects is presented in the subject descriptions published in the LSMU Study Information System (SIS) website. Also, intranet in the First Class group work system has been implemented at the LSMU; the system is used for communication, effective and fast information exchange, and uploading of the lecture material. Information on timetables, seminar topics, self-study assignments, and optional subjects is available through this system, but so far, VDA does not have any intranet, although all teachers employed by VDA and teaching in Art therapy programme has an access to First Class of LSMU.

The evaluation of the students' achievements is directly linked to the learning outcomes of the study programme, students have access to VDA-owned practice and recreation bases in Nida (the Curonian Spit), in Mizarai (Druskininkai district), and in Panemunė castle (Jurbarkas district). During the course of the studies the evaluation of students' visual expression work is based on the teachers' and the students' opinions expressed mainly in a discussion. The final examination evaluations at the end of the term are carried out with the participation of the teachers of the subject and the supervisor commission of the Faculty. The decision concerning the evaluation grade is made on the collegial basis (discussions and voting). Other subjects in speciality studies at VDA KF are evaluated with a mark at the end of the semester. The forms of evaluation include an examination, a report, or a written paper.

The Institutions ensure an adequate level of academic and social support. The distribution of student scholarships and support is regulated by the documents approved by the LSMU Senate. Students may receive social grants that are awarded and administered by the State Studies Foundation regulated by the state resolution ( “Regarding the Approval of the Description of the Provision and Administration of Social Grants to Students of Higher Education Institutions”, No. 1801 (Official Gazette, 2009-12-31, No. 158-7187). Also, Merit-based scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrated the best academic achievements (Resolution of the LSMU Senate No. 47-10, 20 June, 2014) as well as, a single merit-based scholarship may be awarded once per semester to students with good academic achievements in cases of distress or in special cases. In total, scholarships (57 euro per month) in the Art Therapy study programme have been awarded to 2 first-year students, 7 second-year students, and 4 third-year students.

Information about employment possibilities is provided by the LSMU Career Centre, which also organises seminars, courses, lectures, and career days, assisting the graduates in finding the job.

The weakness the programme is the lack of opportunities to participate in student mobility programmes because of lack of external social partners.

## ***2.6. Programme management***

The expert team appreciated the quality of the programme management chapter in self-evaluation report and recognized the team effort in its production. LSMU and VDA apply internal study quality assurance system, based on sharing responsibility for the quality of studies between the administration staff of the LSMU and VDA KF. Responsibilities for decisions and monitoring of the implementation of the programme are clearly allocated: in LSMU Dean’s office and Department Rehabilitation are responsible for the general administrative and management tasks, and in VDA the programme is administered by VDA KF Department of Humanities in cooperation with the Department of Visual Arts.

The Study Programme Committee (SPC) plays the central role in ensuring the quality of the joint study programme. SPC meetings are called as required, but at least one per semester. SPC members from LSMU and VDA communicate regularly via e-mail, Skype, organize formal meetings. The SPC includes a student and a social partner besides the teachers. The SPC is responsible for the supervision, updating, improvement, and quality assurance of the study programme. The SPC also ensures the compliance of the programme contents with legal acts, special professional and scientific requirements, and the needs of the labour market. The SPC prepares the plans of the study programme, discusses the course of the programme with members of the Students’ Union, and presents propositions concerning the elimination of the detected shortcomings. One of the examples of programme management excellence is that joint requirements for Master’s theses were developed for this programme.

It seems from SER and meetings with teachers, students, alumni and social partners that the internal quality assurance system is well-developed and is a great advantage of the Art Therapy joint study programme: information relevant for the evaluation of the quality of studies is collected and analyzed, the academic community is regularly informed (via both universities Rectors’ yearly report, LSMU Study Centre as well as other means like social networks) about feedback on the evaluation and improvement of the quality of studies, students and social partners fully participate in decision making.

The outcomes of internal evaluations of the programme are used for the improvement of the programme – from the meeting with students, teachers and social partners it was clear that

during the evaluating and monitoring of the quality of studies, attention is paid to the demands of students, teachers' work, optimality of the programme, and the necessary changes are made quickly.

Student participation in the evaluation of the study programme and the improvement of its quality is revealed through direct or anonymous questionnaire-based surveys, joint meetings, sessions, and discussions. Students' representatives participate directly in the activity of the SPC and the Admission Committee, Faculty Council, and may also participate in examinations as external evaluators of the process. Students' representatives participate in the meetings of the LSMU Faculties, the University Council and the Senate, and are encouraged to make comments and share their opinion.

The evaluation and improvement processes also involve stakeholders: social partners (the Lithuanian Association for the Application of Art Therapy and Public establishment Art Therapy Centre) collaborate with students and the implementers of the programme, and positively evaluate the abilities and knowledge of the students trained in this programme. It is worth mentioning that the contents of the studies are formed in coordination with the consultants of social partners from Roehampton University (London, UK), which is a plus for the programme. However, one of the possible weaknesses of the programme is lack of social partners. Programme managers could consider cooperation with Lithuanian Psychological Association, Lithuanian Association for Art Therapy, and other similar associations outside Lithuania or possible employers of graduates – rehabilitation institutions, mental health centres, other personal health care institutions, crisis centres, social services, specialized education institutions, or employers from private sectors.

Invitation of prominent local and foreign experts on Art Therapy, more detailed communication with partners about milestones, shortcomings and future development of the programme would be also welcome.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In terms of the two very different main themes (Medicine and Art) of the study programme and the different level of student knowledge in the very beginning, the team would like to suggest more elective courses addressing trans-cultural issues.
2. Programme managers could consider cooperation with Lithuanian Psychological Association, Lithuanian Association for Art Therapy, and other similar associations outside Lithuania or possible employers of graduates – rehabilitation institutions, mental health centres, other personal health care institutions, crisis centres, social services, specialized education institutions, or employers from private sectors.
3. It is advised that the profile of the teaching staff could be improved by recruiting/inviting lecturers from among younger generation specialists from Lithuania (e.g. graduates of programmes in Arts, Medicine, Psychology, etc.) and guest lecturers from abroad.
4. Free provision of all materials for students (e.g. painting colours, equipment, consumables etc.) needed for the study programme.

### IV. SUMMARY

The aim of the second-cycle study programme *Art Therapy* is to educate and train specialists with a Master's degree in the field of Medicine and Health, who would have scientific insight, feel the need for improvement, and would be competent art therapy specialists. In general, the strengths of this programme include its novelty and continuity, the fact that the social partners have actively participated in the formulation of the aims and the learning outcomes of the programme, and that the learning outcomes are based on competencies that have been formulated on the basis of foreign colleagues' experience.

Independent practical training classes are performed during studies of each subject of the programme at various personal health care institutions, where students develop necessary skills and conduct scientific work. The study programme starts currently as a part-time programme because most of the participating students (90%) are already working in other jobs. Although the content of the study programme is still in the process of development, it reflects the latest achievements both on national and international level in science, art and technologies.

There are 24 staff members participating in the programme, including 5 professors and 10 associate professors. 72% of staff members have a scientific degree (PhD), and 20.9% of major study field subjects' volume is taught by teachers holding a Professor's academic degree. The experts' team notes that part of academic staff involved in the programme is active in scientific work. They demonstrate active research and a reasonable number of publications in the leading national and/or international journals.

This programme is taught at LSMU and VDA, Kaunas faculty. At LSMU are enough workplaces in the library and other places for the students. The lack of suitable teaching material in Lithuania is clearly a general problem, nevertheless for consumables used in the study programme a free provision e.g. for painting and equipment, should be given.

Adequate rules for the admission of students are listed in the “Student Admission Rules” yearly approved by Senates of the Institutions and published in the websites of the LSMU and VDA. Art Therapy students, together with other VDA KF students, may participate in the creative workshops organised by the Department of Visual Arts. These workshops take place in VDA KF premises, the Panemunė castle, or in Nida Art Colony. The distribution of student scholarships and support is regulated by the documents approved by the LSMU Senate. Students may receive social grants that are awarded and administered by the State Studies Foundation regulated by the state resolution.

The expert team appreciated the quality of the programme management chapter in self-evaluation report and recognizes the team effort in its production. Student participation in the evaluation of the study programme and the improvement of its quality is revealed through direct or anonymous questionnaire-based surveys, joint meetings, sessions, and discussions. It is worth mentioning that the contents of the studies are formed in coordination with the consultants of social partners from Roehampton University (London, UK), which is a plus for the programme.

## V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *Art Therapy* (state code – 628B90001) at Lithuanian University of Health Sciences and Vilnius Academy of Arts, Kaunas Faculty is given **positive** evaluation.

*Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.*

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation of an area in points*
1.	Programme aims and learning outcomes	3
2.	Curriculum design	3
3.	Teaching staff	4
4.	Facilities and learning resources	3
5.	Study process and students' performance assessment	4
6.	Programme management	4
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>21</b>

\*1 (unsatisfactory) - there are essential shortcomings that must be eliminated;

2 (satisfactory) - meets the established minimum requirements, needs improvement;

3 (good) - the field develops systematically, has distinctive features;

4 (very good) - the field is exceptionally good.

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Grupės nariai: Team members:	Prof. Brigitte Volk-Zeiher
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	Ms. Monika Stančiauskaitė