



InSPiR2eS Global Pitching Research Competition 2026 (IGPRC2026) at Kaunas University of Technology, School of Economics and Business

General Information & Timelines

We invite doctoral students and young researchers from Lithuanian academic institutions who received the doctoral degree not later than 5 years ago to participate in a pitching competition at Kaunas University of Technology, School of Economics and Business (KTU SEB).

The best-written pitches will be selected and earn the right to advance through the semi-final of the global pitch competition (IGPRC2026). The winners of the global IGPRC2026 competition will share approximately **AUD10,000 monetary prize!**

Core Task

The core task of this competition is to produce a written 1,000-word novel research pitch using the “pitching research” framework, PRF (see the skeleton PRF tool on the following page). This tool provides a simple, methodical device to communicate ... confidently/succinctly ... all the essential elements of a new research proposal to an academic expert e.g., to your thesis supervisor. For a detailed explanation of the PRF, see the latest version of the SSRN paper “[Pitching Research](#)” [[Faff \(2024\)](#)].

Selected candidates will also be invited to present their pitches.

Eligibility to Participate

The competition is open to *PhD students and young researchers from Lithuanian academic institutions* who received the doctoral degree not later than 5 years ago, from any discipline.

Competition Prizes and Awards

The winners from Lithuania of the best-written pitches will go to the global semi-final.

** Semi-final and final will take place remotely and will be organized by prof. Robert Faff (University of Queensland, Australia).*

The first-place winner of the *IGPRC2026 Lithuania* selection will receive a prize valued at **EUR 300**, the second-place winner will receive a prize valued at **EUR 200**, and the third-place winner will receive a prize valued at **EUR 100**.

The following potential prizes await the ultimate winners of *the global IGPRC2026*:

The first-place winner of the *global IGPRC2026* will receive a cash prize of **AUD 3,000**, the second-place winner will receive **AUD 2,000**, and the remaining grand finalists will share up to **AUD 5,000** among them. In addition, all participants who reach the semi-final or grand final rounds will receive an official certificate recognizing their achievement.

Important Dates & Timeline

- **Until 31 October 2026:** registration to the *IGPRC2026 Lithuania* at KTU SEB pitch competition. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/pCKmQkWQcVa9tUAT8>

- **10 November 2026:** participation approval in the IGPRC2026 Lithuania pitch competition at KTU SEB.
- **13 November 2026:** pitching seminar given by prof. Robert Faff to pitch competition participants. 09:30 – 11:00 online, Lithuania time.
- **19 November 2026:** Generative AI training given by prof. Robert Faff for participants. In-person at KTU SEB, time 13:00-16:00*
**Address and auditorium at KTU will be provided closer to the event*
- **20 November 2026:** IGPRC2026 Lithuania pitching competition* at KTU SEB and announcement of winners who will participate in the semi-final of the global IGPRC2026, time 10:00-13:00**
**Selected participants will be invited to present their pitches.*
*** Address and auditorium at KTU will be provided closer to the event.*

Web Resources

- **SSRN paper:**
Faff, Robert W., InSPiR2eS Global Pitching Research Competition 2024 (IGPRC2024) ... What, Why, How, Who, and When? (12 March 2024). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4722247>
- **IGPRC2024 short information briefing video:**
<https://pitchingresearch.com/competitions/igprc-2024-information-briefing/>
- **Accompanying PPT slides:** <https://bit.ly/3W0zWs5>

InSPiR2eS Global Pitching Research Competition Winners

2025

 **Joint Overall Winner: Roberta Spangelytė, Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (LAMMC), Lithuania**

 "Enzymatic Extraction and Fermentation of Plant-Based Raw Materials for Women's Nutrition"

 Winning Pitch Video: <https://bit.ly/3MLKRU9>

 Written Research Pitch: <https://bit.ly/4k9b3ob>

 **Joint Overall Winner: Magdalena Schoeneich, Poland**

 "When Machines Care: Does Artificial Empathy Help or Harm Cancer Patients?"

 Winning Pitch Video: <https://bit.ly/4qQMD5>

 Written Research Pitch: <https://bit.ly/3NDYfK>

2024

 **Overall Winner: Eglė Butkevičiūtė, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania**

 "Enhancing Wearable Stress and Fatigue Detection with Noise-Resilient PPG Signal Processing"

 Video of Eglė Butkevičiūtė's Winning Pitch: <https://bit.ly/3BQJZZ5>

Contact person and any further enquiries

Assoc. Prof. Neringa Gerulaitienė (neringa.gerulaitiene@ktu.lt)

Faff's (2026) Pitching Research Framework Tool

FOUR	Four Big Picture Anchors
(A) Working Title	
(B) Basic Research Question	
(C) Key paper(s)	
(D) Motivation/Puzzle	
THREE	Three essential Building Blocks
(E) Idea?	
(F) Data?	
(G) Tools?	
TWO	Two key questions
(H) What's New?	
(I) So What?	
ONE	One bottom line
(J) Contribution?	
(K) Other Considerations	

IGPRC2026 Chairpersons



Professor at Corvinus University,
Budapest, Hungary;
Founder & Director, IC4RS;
Founder, InSPiR2eS Network



Associate Professor at KTU School
of Economics and Business;
Head of the IC4RS Lithuania
Center

Scientific Committee



MEDA ANDRIJAUSKIENĖ
Associate Professor & Vice-Dean
for Research at KTU School of
Economics and Business;
Outreach & Engagement Lead,
IC4RS Lithuania



EGLĖ BUTKEVIČIŪTĖ
Associate Professor at KTU at
KTU Faculty of Informatics



ROBERT FAFF
Professor at Corvinus University,
Budapest, Hungary;
Founder & Director, IC4RS;
Founder, InSPiR2eS Network



NERINGA GERULAITIENĖ
Associate Professor at KTU School
of Economics and Business;
Head of the IC4RS Lithuania Center



ERNESTAS UZDILA
Lecturer at KTU Faculty of
Mathematics and Natural Sciences



JULIUS VENGELIS
Associate Professor at VU Faculty
of Physics;
Chairperson of Young Academy of
the Lithuanian Academy of
Sciences

IGPRC2026 Lithuania Support

ZINEB BENMYA
Student at KTU School of
Economics and Business;
Ambassador at IC4RS Lithuania



OLGA DENISOVA
PhD Student at KTU School of
Economics and Business;



DEIMANTĖ RAUCKYTĖ
Student at KTU School of
Economics and Business;
Ambassador at IC4RS Lithuania



**INDRĖ TAUROSEVIČIŪTĖ-
RIBIKAUSKĖ**
PhD Student at KTU School of
Economics and Business
Ambassador at IC4RS Lithuania