

Newsletter #4

2026 June

What's new?

INNO4LOGISTICS
Doctoral School 2026

EC Confirms Positive
Project Progress

Human-Centered
Logistics Education
Expands

International
Knowledge Exchange

Contact Info



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the European Union**

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The X-HuLog4.0 Project

What's new?

The INNO4LOGISTICS Doctoral School 2026 brought together doctoral students, researchers, and experts from across Europe for a week of workshops, networking, and academic exchange in Vilnius. Participants explored topics ranging from resilience and human-centered logistics to AI-supported project development, while also engaging with the international Business and Management 2026 conference and building new research partnerships.



Following the official project review, the European Commission positively evaluated the progress of X-HuLog4.0. The assessment recognized achievements across research, education, dissemination, and capacity-building activities, confirming the consortium's successful contribution to advancing human-centered logistics and Industry 5.0 principles in Europe.

New postgraduate courses developed within X-HuLog4.0 are bringing the latest research directly into higher education. Students were introduced to topics such as Human-Robot Collaboration, Operator 4.0 technologies, sustainable intralogistics, and decision-support models, helping prepare the next generation of logistics professionals for increasingly digital and human-oriented workplaces.

X-HuLog4.0 continued expanding its impact beyond academia through public outreach and stakeholder engagement activities. From a featured article on Kurstoti.It developed together with Jungheinrich Lift Truck UAB to presentations at Horizon Europe workshops, the project promoted human-centered logistics concepts while strengthening connections between researchers, industry practitioners, and future project partners.

Let's explore together

Recent activities

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INNO4LOGISTICS Doctoral School 2026: Building the Next Generation of Human-Centered Logistics Researchers

From 12–15 May 2026, VILNIUS TECH welcomed doctoral students and researchers from several European universities to the INNO4LOGISTICS Doctoral School 2026. Organized within the X-HuLog4.0 project, the event provided a unique platform for international academic exchange, interdisciplinary learning, and collaboration in the field of human-centered logistics and Industry 5.0.

The programme began with an opening ceremony and participant presentations, allowing doctoral students to introduce their research interests and establish connections with fellow researchers. The first day also featured an interactive workshop on resilience in professional and personal contexts led by Michael C. Bauer, Saarland University, encouraging participants to reflect on the human dimension of academic and professional development.

On the second day, participants explored Lithuania's financial and economic history during a visit to the Money Museum of the Bank of Lithuania, accompanied by Assoc. prof. Dr. Olga Lingaitienė (VILNIUS TECH). The academic programme continued with the workshop "Human-Centered Project Writing with LLMs: From Idea to Fundable Plan", delivered by Dr. Valentas Gružas (VILNIUS TECH). The session provided practical guidance on transforming research ideas into competitive project proposals, covering project structuring, risk assessment, and the responsible application of AI-supported tools in proposal preparation.

The third day was dedicated to participation in the 16th International Scientific Conference "Business and Management 2026", hosted by the Faculty of Business

Management at VILNIUS TECH. Doctoral students engaged with international researchers, attended scientific presentations and panel discussions, and explored emerging trends shaping the future of business, management, and logistics research.



INNO4LOGISTICS Doctoral School 2026: Conference, Networking and Collaboration

The conference also created valuable opportunities for networking and future research cooperation across institutions and countries.

The final day focused on doctoral research presentations, networking activities, and cultural experiences in Vilnius. Participants continued exchanging ideas, discussing future research directions, and identifying opportunities for joint publications, academic mobility, and international cooperation. The programme concluded with a shared reflection on the week's achievements and the importance of strengthening European research networks in human-centered logistics.

Through its fellowship programme and international collaboration initiatives, INNO4LOGISTICS Doctoral School 2026 successfully connected early-stage researchers with experienced academics and industry-oriented experts. The event further strengthened the X-HuLog4.0 community and contributed to the development of the next generation of researchers working at the intersection of logistics, digital transformation, and human-centered innovation.



Join discussions on INNO4LOGISTICS Doctoral School2026 topic:

👉 [Rukundo Pacifique](#) post

👉 [Tamara Drezner](#) posts

👉 [Alireza Abdollahi](#) post

👉 [Diana Daskevici](#) post

👉 [Anna Dembovskaya](#) post

European Commission Confirms Positive Project Progress

The European Commission has officially confirmed the positive progress of the X-HuLog4.0 project following its periodic review process. This important milestone reflects the consortium's successful advancement towards its strategic objectives and validates the work carried out since the project's launch. The assessment recognized the project's achievements in research, education, dissemination, and capacity-building activities, confirming that X-HuLog4.0 is making a meaningful contribution to the development of human-centered logistics and Industry 5.0 concepts in Europe.

The review highlighted the strong cooperation between consortium partners and the effective implementation of project activities. During the

reporting period partners successfully organized international workshops, thematic seminars, doctoral training activities, staff exchanges, and scientific dissemination events. In parallel, the project continued to develop educational materials, research methodologies, and practical frameworks supporting the implementation of human-centered approaches in logistics and warehousing.

Another important aspect acknowledged during the evaluation was the project's growing visibility and stakeholder engagement. Through participation in international conferences, collaboration with industry representatives, scientific publications, and public outreach activities, X-HuLog4.0 has expanded its impact beyond academia. These efforts have helped promote a broader understanding of how technological innovation can be combined with employee well-being, sustainability, and organizational resilience.

The positive review outcome provides a strong foundation for the next phase of project implementation. Building on the progress achieved so far, the consortium will continue to strengthen international collaboration, advance research excellence, and develop practical solutions that support the transition towards more sustainable, resilient, and human-centered logistics systems. As the project moves forward, particular attention will remain focused on ensuring that digital transformation creates value not only through technology, but also through its positive impact on people and society.

The consortium would like to thank all project partners for their dedication and contributions to the review process, as well as the European Commission representative Paula Valente Correia and independent expert Maja Trstenjak for their constructive feedback, valuable insights, and continued support in strengthening the implementation and impact of X-HuLog4.0.



Human-Centered Logistics Education Expands

Bringing Research into the Classroom

A key objective of X-HuLog4.0 is to ensure that project results contribute not only to research but also to the education of future logistics professionals. During recent months, consortium partners continued integrating project-developed knowledge into postgraduate teaching activities, bringing the latest developments in human-centered logistics directly into university classrooms.

Students across partner institutions were introduced to learning materials covering Human–Robot Collaboration, Operator 4.0 technologies, sustainable intralogistics, and decision-support and optimization models for human-centered logistics. These topics reflect some of the most important challenges facing modern logistics systems, where technological innovation must be balanced with employee well-being, workplace safety, and organizational resilience.



International Postgraduate Courses in Practice

Particular attention was given to the postgraduate course developed by Prof. Fabio Sgarbossa and colleagues from NTNU, focusing on industrial applications of human-centered logistics concepts. The course was presented during a dedicated X-HuLog4.0 session at the Business and Management 2026 conference, where participants had the opportunity to discuss practical applications and provide feedback on the developed educational materials. Initial evaluations from course participants have already been collected and will support further refinement of the teaching content.

To facilitate wider adoption of the course materials, the consortium distributed lecture slides and supporting resources among project partners, encouraging their integration into existing study programmes and future educational activities.

Human–Robot Collaboration and Operator 4.0 Technologies

In addition, the course material *“Sustainable Intralogistics through Human–Robot Collaboration and Operator 4.0 Technologies”*, developed by Saarland University, was introduced by Prof. Dr. Aurelija Burinskienė to Innovation management students at VILNIUS TECH. The lectures were delivered to both Lithuanian and international students as part of third-year bachelor's studies, providing an opportunity to familiarize students with emerging human-centered approaches in logistics and warehousing.

More than 45 students registered for the course activities and participated in knowledge assessment exercises, discussions, and feedback sessions. The positive response demonstrated growing interest in Industry 5.0 topics and the role of people-centered technological innovation in modern logistics systems.

Preparing the Next Generation of Logistics Professionals

By embedding cutting-edge research findings directly into educational programmes, X-HuLog4.0 helps prepare the next generation of researchers, managers, and logistics professionals to successfully navigate increasingly digital, automated, and human-oriented working environments. These educational activities also contribute to the long-term sustainability of project results by ensuring that human-centered logistics principles become an integral part of future teaching, research, and professional practice.

Human-Centered Logistics in the Spotlight

In April 2026, the X-HuLog4.0 project gained additional visibility through a feature article published on the national higher education platform *Kurstoti.lt* entitled “*The Future of Business Logistics: Focusing on People – What Specialists Will Be Needed?*”. The publication introduced the concept of human-centered logistics to a broader audience and highlighted the growing importance of aligning technological innovation with employee well-being, skills development, and sustainable business practices.

The article featured insights from Prof. Dr. Aurelija Burinskienė, project coordinator of X-HuLog4.0, who discussed the transition from Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0. While automation, artificial intelligence, and digital technologies continue to transform logistics operations, the next stage of development focuses on ensuring that these technologies support people rather than replace them. Human-centered logistics promotes effective collaboration between employees and technologies such as collaborative robots, AI systems, and automated warehouse solutions.

Prepared in cooperation with **Jungheinrich Lift Truck UAB**, the article combined perspectives from both academia and industry. Contributions from Darius Aidietis, Sales Manager at Jungheinrich Lift Truck UAB, highlighted the practical benefits of warehouse automation, including improved productivity, reduced operational costs, and faster order fulfilment. Together, these insights demonstrated how organizations can successfully combine technological innovation with employee well-being and long-term business sustainability.

👉 Read the full article: [“The Future of Business Logistics: Focusing on People – What Specialists Will Be Needed?”](#)



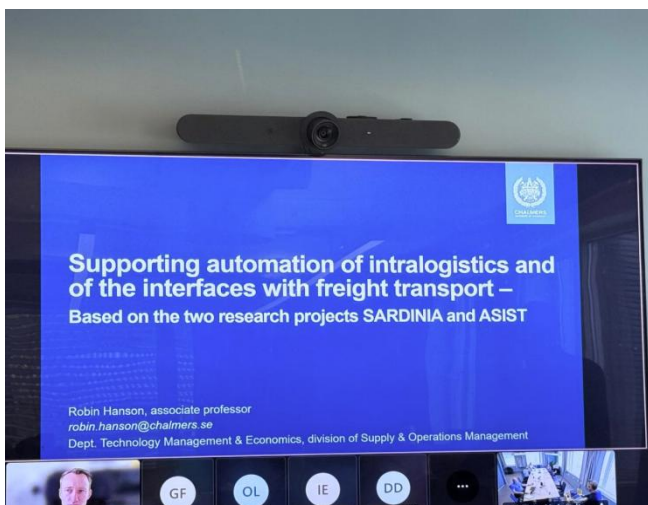
On 13 April 2026, the X-HuLog4.0 project was presented during the Horizon Europe training and proposal workshops organized at VILNIUS TECH in cooperation with six Lithuanian National Contact Points (NCPs). The event brought together around 50 researchers and project professionals interested in European research funding opportunities. During the session, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Olga Lingaitienė introduced the project's vision, objectives, consortium structure, research directions, and key achievements, providing participants with an overview of the methodologies, educational activities, and practical results developed within X-HuLog4.0.

Particular attention was given to future Horizon Europe opportunities and the importance of building strong international research partnerships. The presentation highlighted the consortium's expertise, ongoing scientific activities, and potential collaboration areas that could support the preparation of future project proposals and the development of new international consortia. The session fostered valuable discussions on cooperation, knowledge exchange, and strengthening research capacities within the European logistics and innovation community.

International Knowledge Exchange on Human-Centered Logistics and Automation (1)

In May 2026, representatives of VILNIUS TECH Faculty of Business Management – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Olga Lingaitienė, Lecturer Edita Leonavičienė, and PhD candidate Diana Daškevič – participated in a series of international online seminars organized by the Production Management Research Group and Logistics 4.0 Laboratory at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). The events were held within the framework of the X-HuLog4.0 project and provided valuable opportunities to exchange knowledge with researchers from NTNU, Saarland University, TU Darmstadt, Chalmers University of Technology, and other international institutions.

The programme included the PhD defence presentation of Niloofar Jefroy on *Smart Logistics in the Library Sector* and the midterm evaluation seminar of PhD candidate Amir Zare on *Human-Centric Design of Human–Robotic Systems in Warehouses*. Amir's research focuses on understanding the relationship between robotic solutions and human well-being in shared warehouse environments, exploring topics such as human–robot interaction, fatigue-driven task allocation, decision-making, and the integration of human factors into warehouse design and operations.



International Knowledge Exchange on Human-Centered Logistics and Automation (2)

A particular highlight was the seminar delivered by Assoc. Prof. Robin Hanson from Chalmers University of Technology entitled *Supporting Automation of Intralogistics and the Interfaces with Freight Transport*. The presentation emphasized that the next major advances in logistics automation will depend not only on technological developments, but also on stronger system integration, improved data infrastructures, and more efficient interfaces between intralogistics and freight transport. The seminar provided valuable insights into how organizations can improve productivity, flexibility, and sustainability through interoperability and system-level thinking.

The events demonstrated the value of international collaboration in advancing human-centered logistics research and strengthening the European research ecosystem. Participation in these seminars enabled VILNIUS TECH researchers to gain exposure to cutting-edge scientific developments, identify potential research synergies, and further strengthen cooperation within the X-HuLog4.0 consortium and the broader Horizon Europe research community.



👉 Join the discussion on LinkedIn and explore how international collaboration is advancing research on human-centered logistics, automation, and Industry 5.0: <https://shorturl.at/M4YwF>

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