

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OR CREATIVE ACTIVITIES (R&D)

R&D serves two main objectives: (1) to support the learning process, development of teaching aids and lecturers in both degree studies and continuing education; (2) to ensure new knowledge and innovative solutions for EASS and other agencies of IS in order to develop their activities and enhance IS in Estonia.

The Research and RDC cooperates on performance of its duties with the ministries and other government agencies, local governments, research and development institutions and other agencies where necessary (c.1 (4)).

Research and development is conducted on the basis of an agreement, in the form of additional work or it is counted as a part of the standard work load of a staff lecturer according to the requirements and pay rates established for research and development in the Procedure for Remuneration. The outcome of the work of the research groups is a scientific publication indexed with the classification of 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1 or 6.2 in ETIS. The head of the research group requests funding of the activity and arranges for preparation/management of the appropriate financing projects. The research group may include other researchers and experts from outside the Academy. EASS compares and analyzes the research and development statistics with the other RCAU members.

Doctoral Chamber was established in 2010, which brings together the lecturers who hold a PhD and the PhD students. The long term goal is to develop these sessions into a research forum where researchers have an opportunity to present their research, receive immediate feedback, advise each other and share experiences. In the Doctoral Chamber, the research groups provide an overview of their activities and results, every meeting there is one main presentation or guest speakers - recognized scholars from other universities.

R&D publishing will include the EASS "Proceedings", which is a peer-reviewed scientific journal with an international editorial board (ETIS 1.3). "Proceedings" has been published since the year 1993 and is the only scientific journal in Estonia focused on IS, where it is possible to publish scientific articles on topical problems of IS. Manuscripts go through peer review, the deadline for submissions each year is the first of October. With a decision of the editorial board, starting in 2011, book reviews and reviews are accepted, the publication of which is decided by the editorial board. In the "Proceedings" summaries of the best Master's and Doctoral theses are published.

In professional higher education and in the Master's program, a part of the curriculum is the graduation thesis or the Master's thesis, the preparation of which supports the deepening of the professional knowledge of the student and demonstrates their ability to use acquired knowledge and practical experience, the ability to analyze and generalize the used materials and thoughts and to present the findings in the proper format. Colleges and the Institutes have extensive experience with the authorities in the formulation of common research topics and the topics generally reflect the current

issues for the authorities. The list of topics has been published on the [home page](#).

According to the Rules of Study Organisation, a graduation thesis has a supervisor and if necessary, a co-supervisor. Generally, the supervisor must have a higher education of the first degree, but exceptions are possible with the permission of the Vice Rector. The primary criteria for selection/validation of the supervisor and co-supervisor is to ensure adequate supervision in both the requirements set for the research as well as in the expertise in the field the research is performed in. Generally, the supervisor is an employee of EASS and the co-supervisor is a person outside the Academy who is able to give advice on the content of the thesis. In case of a Master's thesis, higher demands have been set for the supervisor/co-supervisor - a Master's degree and prior supervision experience.

For ensuring research quality and the successful completion of the graduation/Master's thesis, the final academic year in professional higher education and in the Master's studies has been divided into the following stages: (a) approval of topics/instructors, (b) Seminar for the graduation/Master's thesis, and (c) preliminary defending. According to student feedback, these steps successfully support the ongoing work on the thesis. In recent years, supervisors have been involved in the seminar of the graduation/Master's thesis and in the preliminary defence to ensure consistent quality of work.

List of abbreviations and terms

ETIS	Estonian Research Information System
EASS	Academy of Security Sciences
IS	internal security (SJ)
RDC	Research and Development Council (TAN)