



LATVIJAS
UNIVERSITĀTE



Botanical Garden and Society – Third Mission

Uldis Kondratovičs, 24.08.2023.

History of the Botanical Garden

- Founded in 1922



History of the Botanical Garden

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- Has been in its current location since 1926



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- Founded in 1922
- Has been in its current location since 1926
- The ensemble of the entrepreneur Albert Wolfschmidt's manor is located



Wolfschmidt Vodka

During James Bond's night at Blades with M, they start their meal with some vodka

“Ah, Grimley, some vodka, please.” He turned to Bond. “Not the stuff you had in your cocktail. This is real pre-war Wolfschmidt from Riga. Like some with your smoked salmon?”



History of the Botanical Garden

- Founded in 1922
- Has been in its current location since 1926
- The ensemble of the Wolfschmidt manor is located
- Area ~ 15 hektares



History of the Botanical Garden

- Founded in 1922
- Has been in its current location since 1926
- The ensemble of the Wolfschmidt manor is located
- Area ~ 15 hektares
- Number of taxa ~ 5500



Strategy of the Botanical Garden

The mission - to contribute to the preservation of biological diversity by creating plant collections *ex situ*, participating in study and research work, and educating the society

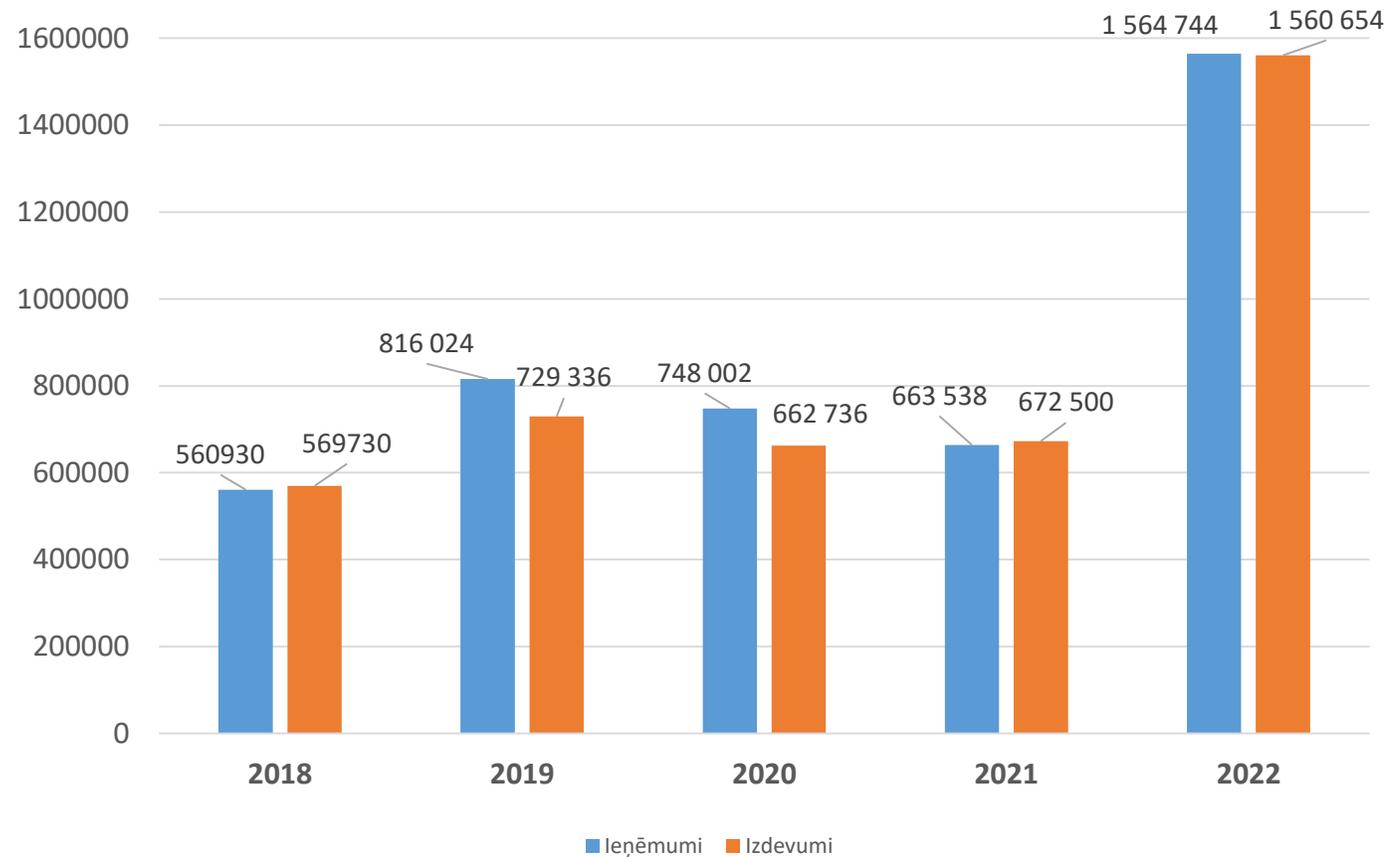
The aim of activity - the collection, preservation, documentation and research of the gene pool of local and foreign plants

The main task - to maintain collections and expositions of living plants, use them for research, plant conservation, demonstration and education



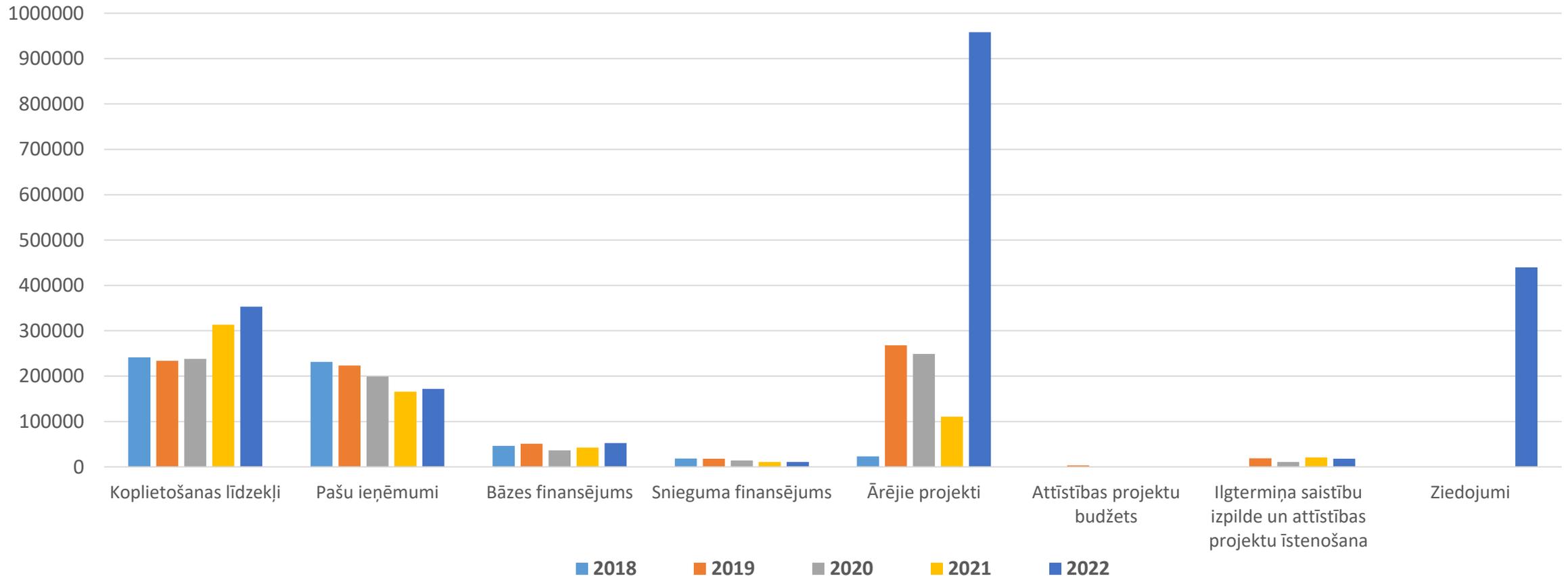
Finances of the Botanical Garden

Revenues and expenses



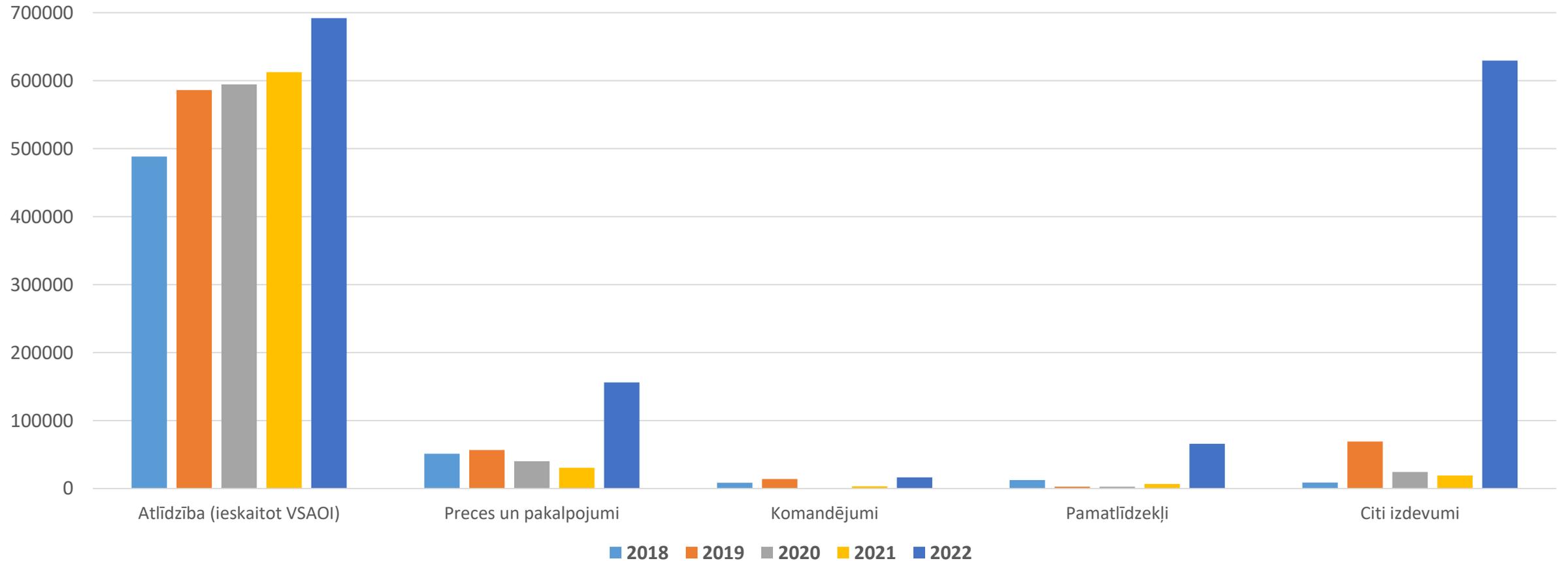
Finances of the Botanical Garden

Structure of revenues



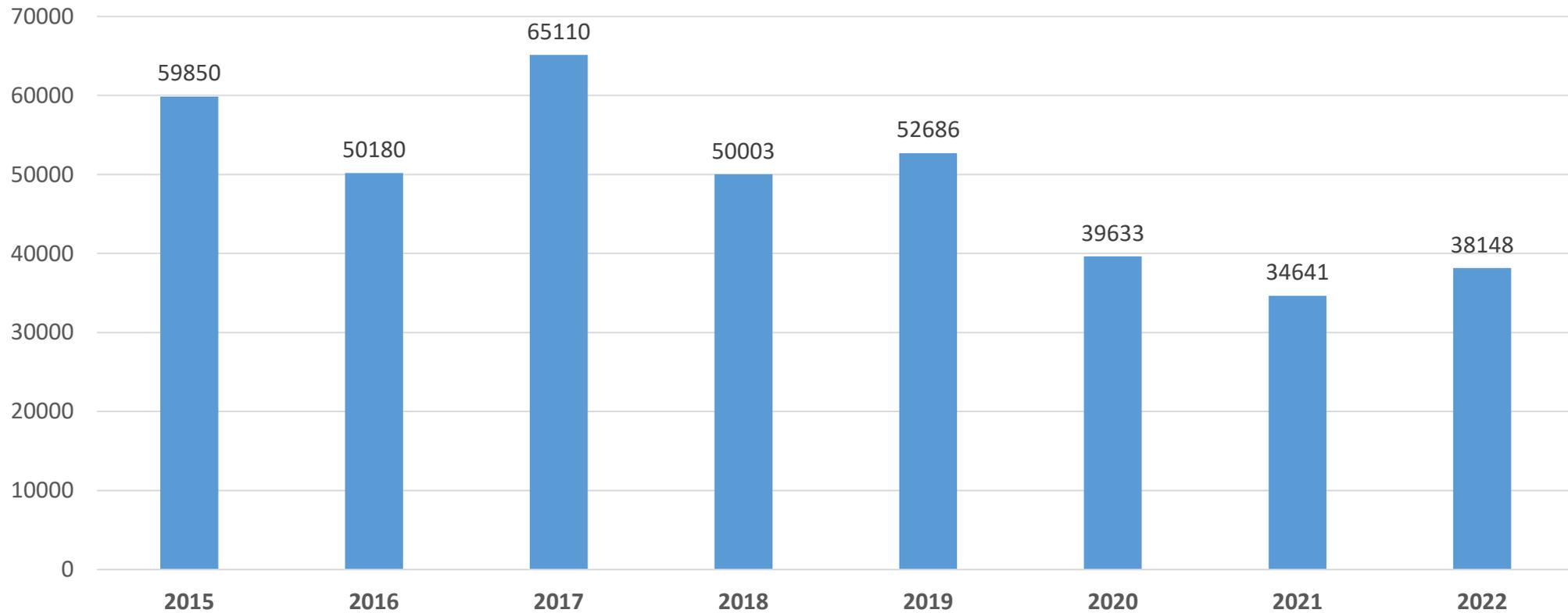
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Structure of expenses



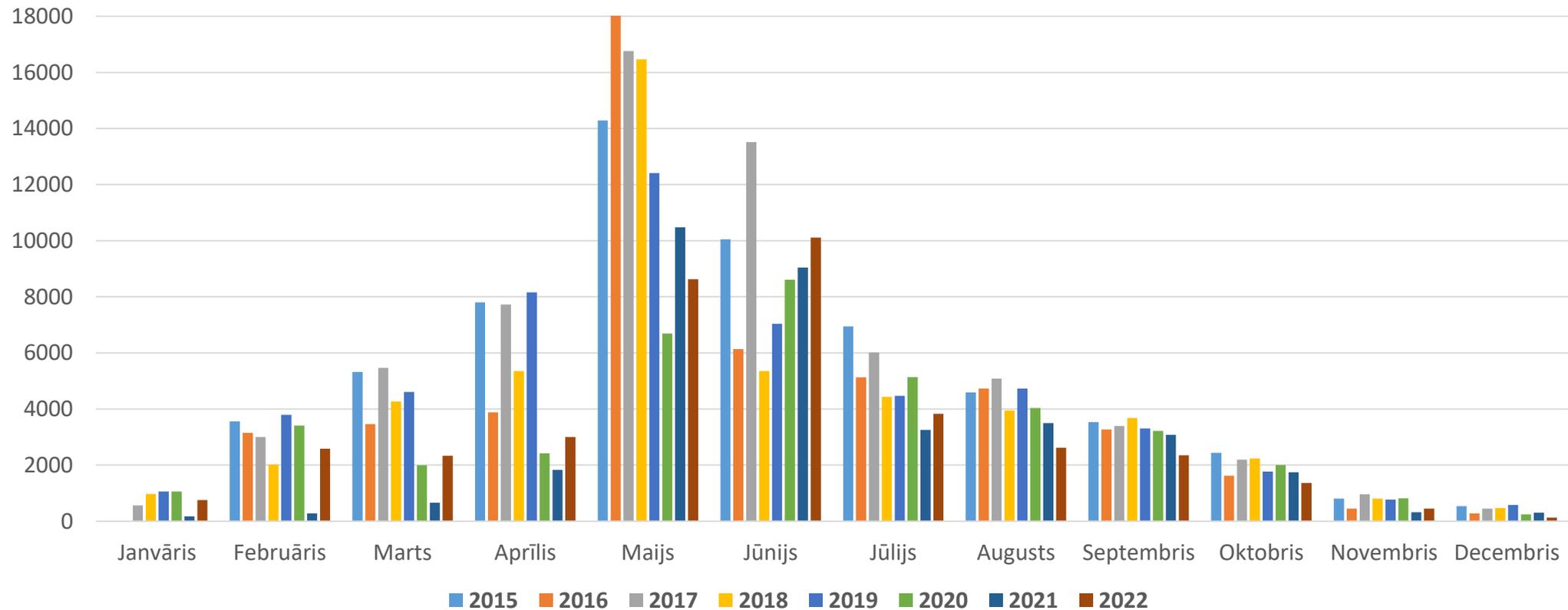
Public benefits

The botanical garden is open to the public every day, except for seven days a year (01.01, 23.06, 24.06, 24.12, 25.12, 26.12, 31.12). In 2022, it was viewed by 38,148 visitors.



Public benefits

The botanical garden is open to the public every day, except for seven days a year (01.01, 23.06, 24.06, 24.12, 25.12, 26.12, 31.12). In 2022, it was viewed by 38,148 visitors.



Public benefits

In 2022, the conduct of events and the availability of the garden to the public were determined by the COVID-19 restrictions adopted in the country, which changed depending on the situation of the spread of the infection in Latvia. For example, from January 1 to April 1, the greenhouses were closed for visits, tours, events and any gatherings were not allowed, which significantly affected the services offered to the public.

In connection with the evaluation of the technical condition of the building, on February 21, 2022, the Palm House was closed for an indefinite period. The closure has affected not only the number of visitors, but also the number of events and photo sessions held at the Palm House, which has decreased.



Public benefits

Events for the public

- Exhibitions
 - The animal, insect and bird of Latvia, 2022
 - Ceramic art exhibition «Talk to me»
 - Exhibition of children's drawings «Plant of the Year 2022 - Globeflower»
 - Exhibition of Dahlias
 - Botanical illustrations of Spanish scientific expeditions
 - Succulents – living stones
 - Paper art exhibition
- Study courses «Care of Indoor Plants» and «Care of Succulent Plants»
- Winter walks «Light in the Dark» and «Winter Light Garden»
- Opening of the book «The Botanical Garden of the University of Latvia in 100 years»
- Opening of the stamp and envelope dedicated to the centenary of the Botanical Garden of the University of Latvia
- Zumba fitness



Public benefits

Events for the public

- Excursions
- Art plein-airs
- Outdoor yoga classes
- Readings of poets Jānis Baltvilks International Award "With bees and cats«
- Open bio-dance lessons
- The morning of botanist Alexander Zāmelis birthday
- Folk group "Grodi" 35th anniversary concert
- Open-air show "Garden of Eden"
- International festival of new theater Homo Novus
- Private and corporative events in the exhibition and event center «Shed»
- Private and corporative outdoor events
- Photo sessions



Public benefits

Events for the public

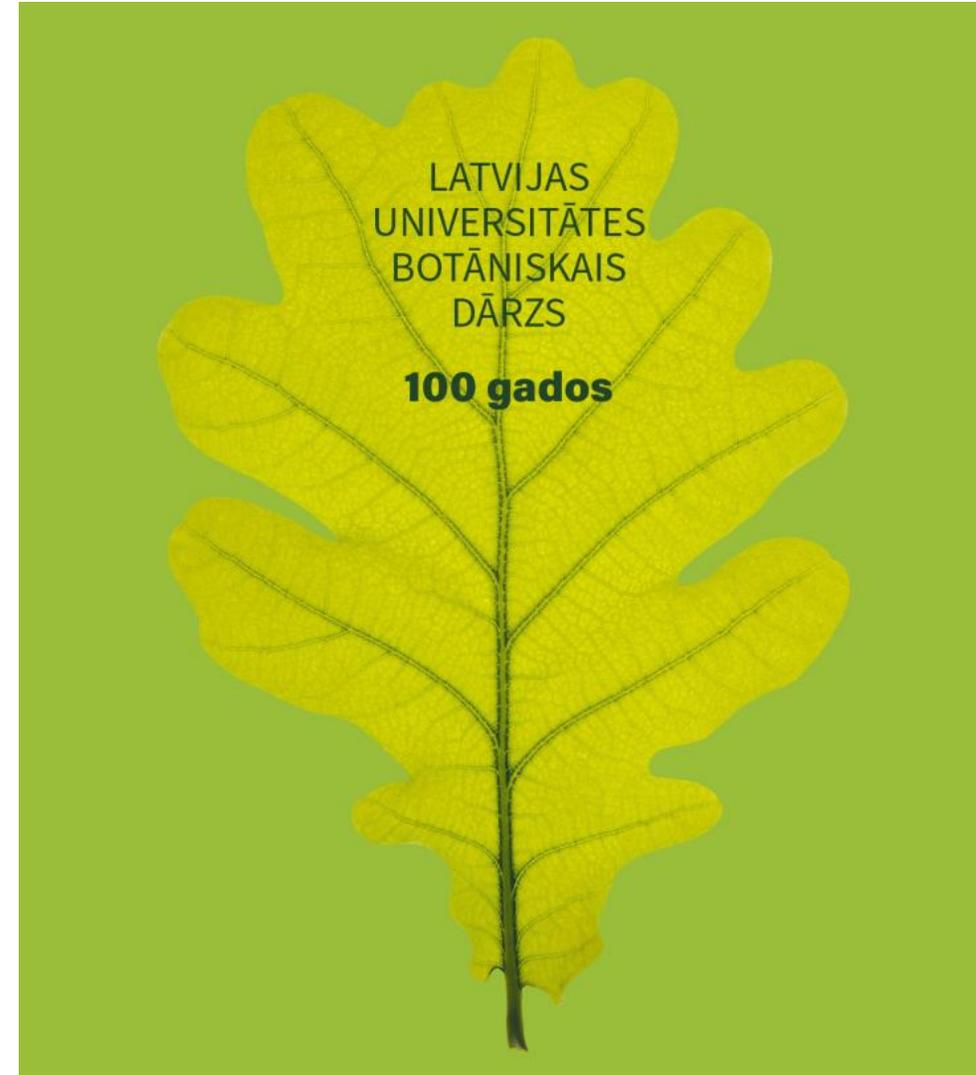


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Research (2022)

- **Scientific publications – 9**
- **Popular science publications – 3**
- **Presentations of scientific conferences – 11**
- **Scientific projects – 6**
- **Scientific expeditions – 3**
- **Other (consultations, interviews etc) – 42**



Infrastructure development projects

Reconstruction of the irrigation system (~470 000 EUR, BITF)



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Infrastructure development projects

Reconstruction of the Palm House (~1 300 000 EUR, UL)



Challenges and troubles

- The cultivated areas are increasing
- Appears lack of employees – scientific staff work as gardeners
- Low salaries – most of employees are missionaries
- Seasonal employees v.s. permanent employees





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