

2017 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA SUMMARY

The Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Council) advises the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the issues of education and training of researchers, performs an expert function, implements research, experimental (social, cultural) developmental and other programmes, executes the assessment of competitive funding, doctoral studies, contributes to the creation of an international research area. The functions and tasks of the Council are determined by the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania and the regulations of Research Council of Lithuania.

The Council consists of the Board, two expert committees – the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences, and the Research Foundation. The Council is managed by the Chairperson and his or her two deputies – Chairpersons of the Committees, assisted by the Scientific Secretary.

The new Board of the Council was approved by Resolution No 894 of 8 November 2017 of the Government “Regarding the approval of the composition of the Board of the Research Council of Lithuania”.

As of 31 December 2017, the Council consisted of 33 members of the Council (including 9 members of the Board) and 77 members of the Research Foundation.

When performing its expert function, the Council carried out an assessment of 2015-2016 activities of Lithuanian science (art) and studies institutions. It assessed more than 20,000 science (art) works, R&D orders from economic entities and international projects submitted by 38 research and higher education institutions.

The Council continued to assess the performance of ongoing doctoral studies, and conducted an assessment of art doctoral studies. It also performed an assessment of 7 institutions that were awarded the right to conduct doctoral studies with foreign science and study institutions in order to determine whether these doctoral programmes are effective and ensure a real and continuous participation of foreign partners in doctoral studies. In 2017, 9 universities addressed the Council, where members of doctoral committees were changed.

The Council assessed the quality of long-term institutional research and experimental (social, cultural) development (R&D) programmes in research institutes (hereinafter referred to as Institutes). In 2017, the Council assessed fifty final reports on these programmes. Having taken into account the submitted expert opinions and suggestions submitted by Institutes for projects of 2017-2021 R&D programmes, the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania by Order No 273 of 24 April 2017 approved the 2017-2021 long-term institutional R&D programmes: 20 programmes of humanities and social sciences and 29 programmes in the fields of physical, agricultural, biomedical and technological sciences.

The Council in 2017 continued the project “Development of doctoral studies”. Out of 282 applications for doctoral candidacy, it selected 70 doctoral topics most relevant for R&D development, for the investigation of which doctoral students were admitted by science and studies institutions. For the first time, two topics proposed by the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology were selected for the doctoral studies competition, which are being investigated in cooperation with the Kaunas University of Technology and UAB “Baltic Orthoservice”.

In 2017, the project “Development of the database Lituanistika” was continued. It is a modern infrastructure of Lithuanian Studies, a well-functioning open access database that allows Lithuanian material to enter the national and international academic space. In 2017, the Expert Council of the project conducted an assessment of the quality coefficients of periodicals. A review-study of 2011-2014 assessment of performed expert publications was prepared, which summarises the information on the suitability and applicability of assessment criteria, formulates qualitative assessment

problems, provides recommendations on how to improve the qualitative assessment of the database publications. In 2017, the information about the database Lituanistika has been transferred to the OpenAIRE cache, open access registers.

A special expert function is carried out by the Council's Commission for Research Infrastructures (hereinafter referred to as RI), which assesses plans of Lithuanian science and study institutions to become members of international research infrastructures and their reports on their participation in these infrastructures. Currently, Lithuania is a member of two infrastructures (Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure; European Social Survey), as well as a member of the European Molecular Biology Conference (hereinafter referred to as EMBC), an intergovernmental organisation. Through the EMBC, research conducted by Lithuanian science and study institutions is integrated into the European Research Area; also, young researchers have the opportunity to participate in internships and a prestigious dedicated programme, according to which by way of competition talented young researchers receive funding. In 2017, the Commission for RI assessed the 2016 revised report and 2015-2016 summary report on the activities of European Research Infrastructure Consortium of the Common Language Resources and and Technology Infrastructure as well as 2016 report and 2014-2016 summary reports on the activities of European Research Infrastructure Consortium of European Social Survey, considered the 2017 report on the activities of the European Research Infrastructure Consortium. The Commission for RI assessed ten applications according to the criteria specified by the Ministry of Education and Science.

An expert function is performed by the Council's Commission of Ethics of Scientific Activities, which seeks to ensure compliance with the ethical principles of scientific activity carried out by the Council. In 2017, the Regulation of Ethics Commission and other legal acts regulating its activities have been changed. An analysis of the ombudsmen and the services performing the same functions has been carried out, on the basis of which amendments to the LSS related to the extension of the functions of the Seimas Ombudsman for Ethics and Procedures were made.

At the request of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Council assessed non-state research institutes, the draft agreement between the Republic of Lithuania and the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) on the granting of CERN Associate Membership Status, etc. The Council also conducted an academic recognition of foreign science (art) doctoral degrees. In 2017, 23 persons addressed the Council with applications for recognition of scientific (artistic) doctoral degrees awarded to them in foreign institutions of science and studies.

The project "Increasing the internationalisation of the Lithuanian research– development of R&D links (LINO LT)" was launched. This project is intended to encourage Lithuanian researchers and scientists to improve or acquire the missing scientific and practical competence through participation in EU research and innovation programs and initiatives. The main task of the project is the establishment and activation of the RDI Liaison Office in Brussels. In November 2017, two Office's introductory events were organised, three calls for applications and applications were published.

The Council allocates funds to state-commissioned and researchers-initiated research, international co-operation projects, and provides financial support for activities promoting careers and mobility of researchers. In 2017, they were allocated more than 18 million EUR.

In order to exploit the opportunities offered by international cooperation and to ensure the greatest possible competitiveness of Lithuanian science, the Council continued to implement the 2016-2020 international guidelines, which summarise the experience of international cooperation and outline key activities.

In 2017, the Council has participated in three international organisations, two joint programming initiatives, eight national science coordination networks and also joined three new coordination networks of national research programmes. The Council continued to finance Lithuania's representatives in other international programmes administered by the Council, including the implementation of six intergovernmental and inter-institutional agreements on scientific and

technological cooperation. In 2017, the first competition “Daina” was launched for applications for joint research projects in Lithuania and Poland.

The staff of the Council’s Research Foundation administered eleven areas of Horizon 2020, implemented the activities of the Network of National Mobility Centres in Europe “Euraxess” www.euraxess.lt.

International cooperation between researchers is encouraged through other funding instruments used by the Council: five national research programmes, the National Lithuanian Research and Dissemination Programme. The mobility of researchers, especially young ones, is supported by funding for research trips and visits, international events in Lithuania. Researchers are also given other support for promoting their internationality – associations seeking internationality are supported, support for publication in high level international periodicals are provided.

In 2017, a part of the V and VI call research group projects have been completed. The results of the research were summarised in 37 one-time scientific publications (scientific monographs, studies, publications of scientific sources, etc.), 210 articles were published in journals included in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science (hereinafter referred to as WoS) database and 234 articles in other peer-reviewed publications. Presentations were read in more than two hundred international and national scientific conferences, 9 patents were obtained in Lithuania, 1 new product was created, and 4 new technologies were developed.

In the role of adviser, the Council collects, systematises and analyses data on the effectiveness of research funding instruments. During the last five years (2013-2017), Lithuanian researchers in total published 11,144 scientific articles in the WoS database. Of these, 19.1% (2,133) were prepared on the basis of Council-funded activities. Over the selected reference period of 5 years, a total of 1,008 scientific articles have been published by the Lithuanian researchers in the WoS database, which ranked in Top 10. Of these, 13.8% (139) were prepared on the basis of Council-funded activities.

In 2017, 722 applications were received in calls for projects, out of 179 winning projects, 32 projects are carried out jointly with foreign researchers from 15 countries. Over 17.8 million EUR were allocated to projects. More than 700 researchers were employed as principal investigators, including over 160 doctoral students, over 400 researchers. The total success rate of project competitions in 2017 reaches 26.2%.

In 2017, 9 calls were published by two measures are to be implemented by the Council during the 2014-2020 ES investment period: “Development of scientific competence of scientists, other researchers, students through practical research activities” and “Targeted research in smart specialisation area”. For all EU instrument cluster programmes in 2017, more than 84 million EUR were allocated. In practice, all decisions (99.5% by funds) were accepted by expert assessment of foreign expert groups.

In 2017, the Council introduced to the public the electronic information collection system Spektras, which is intended for applications received by the Council, implemented and ongoing projects. Here you can find summaries of implemented and ongoing research, funding tools, information on the number of calls for tender, applicants by individual institutions, their research and related activities.

In 2017, the Council updated its website www.lmt.lt. The design of website has changed, it has become more functional, better reflects the Council’s activities.