

SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

RESOLUTION No XI-625

**ON THE APPROVAL OF THE REGULATIONS OF
THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA**

22 December 2009

Vilnius

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania r e s o l v e s:

Article 1.

To approve the Regulations of the Research Council of Lithuania (appended).

Article 2.

To repeal Resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania No X-1378 of 13 December 2007 on the Approval of the Regulations of the Research Council of Lithuania (Official Gazette, No 137-5571, 2007).

Article 3.

To establish that the term of office of the members of the Research Council of Lithuania appointed by Resolution of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania No X-1545 of 15 May 2008 on the Appointment of the Members of the Research Council of Lithuania (Official Gazette, No 59-2205, 2008) shall be regulated pursuant to the Regulations of the Research Council of Lithuania approved by this Resolution.

SPEAKER OF THE SEIMAS

IRENA DEGUTIENĖ

APPROVED BY
Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
22 December 2009
Resolution No XI-625

REGULATIONS OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”) shall be a state budgetary institution established by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the “Seimas”).

2. The Council shall be a public legal entity having a seal with the Lithuanian state emblem and its name inscribed therein as well as bank accounts. The address of the Council shall be: Gedimino ave. 3, LT-01103 Vilnius, Republic of Lithuania.

3. The Council and its programmes shall be financed from the funds of the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania allocated for research and higher education, as well as the funds of the EU structural assistance programmes.

4. The Council shall be governed by the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, laws of the Republic of Lithuania, treaties to which the Republic of Lithuania is a party, resolutions of the Seimas, decrees of the President of the Republic, resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the “Government”), ordinances of the Prime Minister, these Regulations and other legal acts.

II. TASKS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

5. The key tasks of the Council shall be as follows:

1) to advise the Seimas and the Government on the issues pertaining to research and training of scientists;

2) to take part in implementation of competition-based programme funding of research and experimental (social, cultural) development (hereinafter referred to as "research and development");

3) to set the criteria for the evaluation of scientific activities, to organize the evaluation of scientific activities carried out in Lithuania, to examine and submit proposals on their efficiency and compliance with State needs;

4) to promote the development of Lithuania's scientific resources, the activities of research and higher education institutions and to enhance the image of science.

6. In implementing these tasks, the Council shall:

- 1) prepare, evaluate and submit proposals to state authorities in relation to the science and higher education development strategy, research and development priorities, and coordinate their implementation;
- 2) evaluate the scientific activities carried out in Lithuania and prepare proposals on the development thereof, organize external evaluation of the activities of state research institutes;
- 3) in accordance with the procedure established by the Government, prepare and submit for approval the national research and development programmes, and implement them;
- 4) take part in preparing and implementing the EU structural assistance programmes;
- 5) provide financial support to research and other scientific activities carried out on the initiative of the Council or researchers;
- 6) submit proposals and conclusions to the Seimas and the Government in relation to state budget appropriations allocated to research and higher education, improvement of the procedure for funding research and development, competition-based programme funding and efficiency of use of the allocated funds;
- 7) submit proposals and conclusions to the Seimas and the Government in relation to ensuring the operation of research and higher education infrastructures, enhancement of the experimental base of research and higher education institutions, development of national databases, establishment of new institutions and infrastructures;
- 8) set the minimum qualification requirements for positions of research staff members, with the exception of requirements for postdoctoral grant holders;
- 9) submit to the Government draft legal acts regulating doctoral studies in the fields of science and art;
- 10) examine legal acts regulating the system of research and higher education, draft legal acts, draft treaties and submit proposals on their improvement;
- 11) submit summarized reasoned conclusions in relation to proposals by research and higher education institutions and research staff members which fall within the scope of the Seimas, the Government or the Ministries;
- 12) support the activities of organizations of Lithuanian students, teaching staff members, scientists and other researchers;
- 13) perform other functions and obligations established by legal acts and assigned by the Seimas and the Government.

III. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL

7. In performing the tasks assigned to it and fulfilling the specified functions, the Council shall have the right, within the scope of its competence, to:

- 1) obtain required information, data and documents from state and municipal institutions and agencies, public establishments, other enterprises, bodies and organizations;
- 2) involve the representatives and specialists of other state and municipal institutions and agencies to discuss pending issues;

3) invite national and foreign experts to assess research programmes, projects, other documents, advise on other issues under consideration by the Council within the scope of its competence;

4) submit to the Seimas and the Government draft legal acts on the issues of research and development;

5) select and submit to the Seimas a candidate for the office of the supervisor of academic ethics and procedures in the manner prescribed by the rules of procedure of the Council.

6) provide expert services to public and private legal and natural persons and receive income for the services provided;

7) be a member of international organisations and conclude agreements with international institutions operating in the areas related to the activities of the Council.

Amendments to the Item:

No. [XII-179](#), 17-01-2013, *Official Gazette*, 2013, No. 9-350 (04-01-2013)

8. The Council shall annually submit to the Seimas and the Government a report on activities and, where necessary, provide reports on the situation in the field of science in Lithuania. The Council shall publish information bulletins, organize conferences, seminars, symposiums and hold press conferences.

IV. STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL

9. The Council shall consist of the Board of the Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”), two expert committees – the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences, and the Research Foundation.

Amendments to the Item:

No. [XI-1814](#), 15-12-2011, *Official Gazette*, 2011, No. 157-7426 (23-12-2011)

10. The Council shall consist of 29 members working for the Board, the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences, also public servants and employees working for the Research Foundation. The 29 members of the Council shall be approved by the Seimas on recommendation of the Government. The largest permissible number of public servants and the employees working according to employment contracts shall be established by the Board of the Seimas at the motion of the Council.

Amendments to the Item:

No. [XI-1814](#), 15-12-2011, *Official Gazette*, 2011, No. 157-7426 (23-12-2011)

11. The Board shall be a collegial body coordinating the activities of the Council. The Board shall consist of:

1) the Chairperson of the Council;

2) the Vice-Chairperson of the Council – the Chairperson of the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences;

3) the Vice-Chairperson of the Council – the Chairperson of the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences;

- 4) the Scientific Secretary of the Council;
- 5) a member appointed on the recommendation of the Seimas Committee on Education, Science and Culture;
- 6) a member appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister;
- 7) a member appointed on the recommendation of the Ministry of Education and Science;
- 8) a member appointed on the recommendation of the Ministry of Finance;
- 9) a member appointed on the recommendation of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

12. The Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences shall consist of the Chairpersons of these Committees and ten members of each committee who are scientists of appropriate scientific domains. The committees shall, according to the scientific domains, implement the functions and rights assigned to the scope of their competence.

V. FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

13. Candidates for the office of the Chairperson of the Council, the Scientific Secretary of the Council and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Council (Chairpersons of the Committees) shall be selected by the Minister of Education and Science in consultation with the organizations representing scientists. The institutions indicated in subparagraphs 5-9 of paragraph 11 shall, in accordance with the procedure laid down by themselves, select and submit their candidates for the office of members of the Council to the Minister of Education and Science within the time limit laid down by the Minister.

14. On the recommendation of the Minister of Education and Science, the Prime Minister shall form two scientists' selection groups: one group shall propose members of the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences and another – members of the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences. Each selection group shall comprise three members and a candidate for the office of the Chairperson of an appropriate Committee as proposed by the Minister of Education and Science. He may lead the selection group.

15. The selection groups shall publish in the press a call for the nomination of candidates for members of the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences (hereinafter referred to as the "Committees"). The candidates for members of the Committees may, within the time limit laid down by the selection groups, be nominated by state institutions and research and higher education institutions, scientists' organizations and scientists (they may also put themselves forward as candidates). The scientists of good repute who are active in research and have experience in research organization, international science cooperation and expert work in the fields of science, technology and economic development at the Lithuanian and European Union level shall be nominated as members of the Committees.

16. The selection groups shall, upon evaluating the proposals received, select 20 scientists per group out of whom the Minister of Education and Science shall select candidates for members of each Committee in consultation with the persons proposed to be appointed as members of the

Board. Other persons proposed by the selection groups shall be nominated as members of the Committees where the candidates selected by the Minister of Education and Science are not appointed or where the term of office of the appointed members expires prior to expiry of the specified term.

17. The Minister of Education and Science shall provide the public with an opportunity, within two weeks, to express its opinion on the composition of the committees of the Council. Upon considering the comments received, the Minister shall present to the Government the proposed candidates for the office of members of the Council, the Chairperson of the Council, the Scientific Secretary of the Council and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Council (Chairpersons of the Committees). The Government shall submit the composition of the Council to the Seimas for approval.

18. The Chairperson of the Council, the Vice-Chairpersons, the Scientific Secretary of the Council and members of the Committees, with the exception of those appointed in accordance with these Regulations at the initial formation of the Council, shall be appointed for a five-year term of office. A person may not hold office for more than two successive terms. The members appointed on the recommendation of the institutions referred to in subparagraphs 5-9 of paragraph 11 shall hold their office until they are recalled by the institution which has proposed them, but not longer than for two successive five-year terms.

19. A half of the members of each Committee appointed at the initial formation of the Council shall be replaced upon expiry of a half of the term of office. The members to be recalled shall be proposed by the Board on the recommendation of the Committees. In the cases of recalling of members of the Committees, expiry of their term of office or expiry of their mandate for other reasons, new members of the Committees shall be selected and submitted for approval in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraphs 14-20.

20. The mandate of the members of the Council who have been recalled or their term of office has expired shall expire upon approval, by the Seimas, of new members of the Council.

21. The mandate of a member of the Council shall expire when he:

- 1) is recalled on rotation basis;
- 2) resigns;
- 3) is recalled at the initiative of the institution which has delegated him;
- 4) is no longer capable of holding the office of a member of the Council for reasons of an illness or he dies.

VI. ORGANIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

22. The Council shall be headed by, and its single-person governing body shall be the Chairperson of the Council. The Chairperson of the Council shall:

- 1) be in charge of the work of the Council and responsible for the performance of the functions assigned to the Council;

2) be responsible for the use of funds of the Council, as a manager of appropriations, on the basis of approved programmes and estimates;

3) in the prescribed manner, employ and dismiss civil servants of the Council and employees working under employment contracts, establish conditions of their remuneration, give incentives to or impose penalties on them, approve job descriptions as well as regulations of the Research Foundation and its structural units;

4) in the manner prescribed by the rules of procedure of the Council, organize and chair meetings and public discussions of the Council;

5) conclude agreements within the scope of the issues assigned to the Council;

6) by 1 March each year, submit reports on the activities of the Council to the Seimas and the Government;

7) represent the Council in the Republic of Lithuania and abroad;

8) perform other functions assigned by the Council.

23. The Chairperson of the Council may be deputised by a Vice-Chairperson of the Council by order of the Chairperson of the Council or by resolution of the Board. The Chairperson of the Council may grant powers to another member of the Council to represent the Council on specific matters. The Chairperson of the Council may grant powers to the Director of the Research Foundation related to the administration and management of financial, personnel and economic matters of the institution.

Amendments to the Item:

No. [XII-179](#), 17-01-2013, *Official Gazette*, 2013, No. 9-350 (24-01-2013)

24. The Vice-Chairpersons of the Council and the Scientific Secretary of the Council shall be accountable to the Chairperson of the Council. The Vice-Chairpersons shall be responsible for the activities of the Committees they chair.

25. The Council shall operate in accordance with these Regulations and the rules of procedure of the Council. The activities of the Council shall be organized by the Scientific Secretary of the Council in the manner prescribed by its rules of procedure.

26. Meetings of the Council shall usually be held once a quarter. An extraordinary meeting of the Council may be convened by resolution of the Board.

27. A meeting shall be valid if attended by at least half of the members of the Council. Resolutions of the Council shall be adopted by common agreement or by a majority vote of the members present, including at least three members of each Committee.

28. Meetings of the Council shall be open.

29. At its meetings, the Council shall:

1) consider and approve proposals and conclusions submitted to the Seimas and the Government;

2) consider and approve proposals and conclusions concerning research policies and policy implementation measures, research and development priorities, improvement of target funding and competition-based programme funding;

3) consider and approve resolutions of the Committees concerning the criteria and procedure for the evaluation of scientific activities of research and higher education institutions;

4) consider proposals by the Committees concerning topics and projects of national research programmes, submit them for approval in accordance with the procedure established by the Government, consider and approve conclusions and recommendations by the Committees concerning the implementation of these programmes;

5) approve the funds allocated to the Committees and for the programmes they implement, as well as priorities for their use;

6) approve the rules of procedure of the Council;

7) approve procedures for receiving, considering and approving applications for funding, as well as submitting and evaluating reports;

8) consider conclusions and adopt resolutions concerning the results of scientific activities of research and higher education institutions, their evaluation, efficiency and compliance with State needs;

9) approve qualification requirements and appointment procedure for outside experts;

10) deal with other issues put forward to the Council by the Seimas, the Government and ministries, the Chairperson of the Council or the Chairpersons of the Committees.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD

30. The work of the Board shall be led by the Chairperson or a Vice-Chairperson of the Council. The Board shall:

1) coordinate the activities of the Committees and the Research Foundation, as well as interaction between the Council and institutions formulating and implementing the national research policy;

3) propose agendas for meetings of the Council;

3) work out proposals to the Council concerning the allocation of funds for research programmes and other activities of the Council;

4) upon the evaluation of proposals by the Committees, approve the composition of panels of experts and conditions of their remuneration;

5) consider issues and adopt resolutions which are submitted by members of the Board and the Director of the Research Foundation;

6) appoint, through open competition, the Director of the Research Foundation and determine his remuneration;

7) approve the structure of the Research Foundation.

Amendments to the Item:

No. XII-179, 17-01-2013, *Official Gazette*, 2013, No. 9-350 (24-01-2013)

31. Meetings of the Board shall usually be held once a month. An extraordinary meeting of the Board may be convened at the request of at least one-third of members of the Board or the Chairperson of the Council. A meeting shall be valid if attended by at least half of all the members

of the Board. Meetings of the Board may be attended by the Director of the Research Foundation without a voting right. Resolutions of the Board shall be adopted by common agreement or by a majority vote of all the members of the Board.

VIII. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATION OF THEIR ACTIVITIES

32. The Committees shall:

1) summarize research results of the scientific domains falling within the competence of the Committees, evaluate their efficiency and compliance with State needs, prepare proposals for research development;

2) consider and approve the criteria for the evaluation of scientific activity results of research and higher education institutions (their branches) within the Committees' respective scientific domains, appoint commissions of experts to evaluate research and higher education institutions, as well as approve evaluation results;

3) prepare and submit proposals concerning topics and projects of national research programmes, the composition of working parties set up to develop and manage these programmes, the results of the work and recommendations of such working parties;

4) having regard to the conclusions of experts appointed by them and within the limits of the funds allocated to the Committee, approve the funding of projects prepared in compliance with researchers' capacity building programmes, national research programmes and other approved programmes;

5) establish panels of experts to analyze the system of research and higher education and prepare proposals, consider and adopt projects prepared by them;

6) consider and present conclusions concerning draft resolutions and other documents submitted to the Council and the Board;

7) consider and solve other issues related to the activities of the scientific domains supervised by the Committee.

33. Meetings of the Committees shall usually be held twice a month. An extraordinary meeting of the Committee may be convened at the request of at least one-third of the members of the Committee, the Chairperson of the Council or the Chairperson of the Committee. A meeting shall be valid if attended by at least half of the members of the Committee. A meeting shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Committee or a member of the Committee appointed by him.

34. Resolutions shall be adopted subject to approval by more than half of all the members of the Committee. Meetings of the Committees may be attended by the Chairperson of the Council, the members of the Board and the Director of the Research Foundation without a voting right.

35. Resolutions of the Committees adopted within the scope of their competence as defined in the rules of procedure of the Council shall be final.

IX. RESEARCH FOUNDATION

36. The Research Foundation shall be a structural unit of the Council implementing decisions of the Council concerning competition-based programme funding of research programmes and research projects and carrying out the administrative, organizational and information work of the Council. Civil servants of the Council and employees working under employment contracts may not be appointed as members of the Council.

37. The Research Foundation shall be headed by the Director who is appointed, through open competition, and dismissed by the Board. In the temporary absence of the Director, his functions shall be performed by the head of a structural unit of the Research Foundation appointed by the Director. The Director of the Research Foundation shall be directly subordinate to the Chairperson of the Council.

38. The maximum permissible number of civil servants of the Research Foundation and employees working under employment contracts shall, on the recommendation of the Board, be set by the Board of the Seimas.

38. (Repealed as of 24-12-2011)

Amendments to the Item:

No. [XI-1814](#), 15-12-2011, *Official Gazette*, 2011, No. 157-7426 (23-12-2011)

39. The Director of the Research Foundation shall:

- 1) be responsible for the implementation of the objectives of the Research Foundation, performance of the set functions and activities of the staff of the Research Foundation;
- 2) organize the implementation of decisions of the Council concerning and competition-based programme funding of research and other activities; entrusted by the Chairperson of the Council, conclude contracts for funding of research projects carried out in the course of implementing resolutions of the Council and the Committees;
- 3) submit the structure of the Research Foundation to the Board for approval;
- 4) in compliance with resolutions of the Board and the Committees, conclude pay agreements with the members of the Council, experts, members of working parties set up to draft programmes, studies and other documents and other natural and legal persons of the Republic of Lithuania and foreign states whose services are required in order to perform the functions of the Council;
- 5) organize a financial audit of the Council, submit reports on the use of funds to the Ministry of Finance and other institutions in accordance with the procedure laid down by them;
- 6) fulfil other assignments by the Chairperson of the Council and the Board.

X. SOURCES OF FUNDS OF THE COUNCIL, PURPOSE AND USE OF FUNDS

40. Sources of financing of the activities of the Council shall be: State budget appropriations, funds of the European Union and other international financial assistance, and co-funding resources, funds of assistance received in the manner stipulated by laws, funds of

Lithuanian, international and foreign funds and organisations, income from services related to expert activities, and other legally earned funds.

Amendments to the Item:

No. [XII-179](#), 17-01-2013, *Official Gazette*, 2013, No. 9-350 (24-01-2013)

41. The Council shall finance the following with State budget funds and other funds:

- 1) research carried out under national research and other programmes;
- 2) participation activities in programmes of the European common research area which are coordinated by the Council within the scope of its competence;
- 3) other activities specified in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Research and Higher Education and in other legal acts.

Amendments to the Item:

No. [XII-179](#), 17-01-2013, *Official Gazette*, 2013, No. 9-350 (24-01-2013)

42. Accounts of the Council shall be kept, sets of financial statements shall be compiled and submitted in accordance with the procedure laid down by legal acts.

43. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Scientific Secretary of the Council shall be paid remuneration as set in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Remuneration of State Politicians and State Officials. They may work in research and higher education institutions and receive remuneration for scientific and/or pedagogical work as well as royalties.

44. The Director of the Research Foundation shall be paid remuneration in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Civil Service.

45. The members of the Council and external experts shall be paid, from the state budget appropriations allocated to the Council, royalties for prepared studies, reports (submitted to meetings of the Council, Board, committees or working groups) and expert examinations as for copyright works.

Amendments to the Item:

No. [XII-179](#), 17-01-2013, *Official Gazette*, 2013, No. 9-350 (24-01-2013)

XI. ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL

46. The Council shall be accountable to the Seimas and the Government. By 1 March each year, the Chairperson of the Council shall submit an annual report on the activities of the Council to the Seimas and the Government.

47. The Council shall have its website www.lmt.lt. Projects under consideration, prepared studies, resolutions of the Council and other documents shall be placed on the said website.

XII. FINAL PROVISIONS

48. The Council may be liquidated, reorganized or restructured by decision of the founder, in accordance with the procedure laid down by legal acts.

49. Upon the liquidation, reorganization or restructuring of the Council, the procedure for using the unspent funds and fulfilling the obligations of the Council shall be laid down by the founder.
