



# **RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA**

## **ACTIVITY REPORT 2011**

Vilnius, 2012

## CONTENTS

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<b>1. Name of the institution</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Founder of the institution</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Head of the institution</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. Reporting period</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5. Nature and objectives of the institution's activities (according to legal acts governing activities of the institution (Regulations, etc.))</b>	<b>3</b>
5.1. Legal basis governing activities of the Research Council of Lithuania	3
5.2. The organisational structure of the Council	4
5.3. Advisory activities of the Council	7
5.3.1. Academic ethics and procedure supervisory institution	7
5.3.2. Classification of research fields and branches	8
5.3.3. Minimum qualification requirements for positions of research staff of public higher education and research institutions	9
5.3.4. Long-term institutional R&D programmes	10
5.3.5. Doctoral studies in research and art	12
5.3.6. Development of research infrastructure	13
5.3.7. Expert group for the evaluation of the terms of reference of R&D works	14
5.3.8. Lithuanian studies development strategy	16
5.3.9. Technology Development Commission	16
5.3.10. Assessment of research (art) works	18
5.3.11. Other expert-advisory activities of the Council	18
5.4. Implementation of the programme-based competitive funding of research and development (social, cultural)	21
5.4.1. National research programmes	22
5.4.2. Development and other programmes	28
5.4.3. Support and fellowship programmes	35
5.5. International cooperation	38
5.5.1. European Science Foundation	38
5.5.2. Joint Programming Initiatives	40
5.5.3. Researchers in motion network EURAXESS	40
5.5.4. Other international cooperation activities	40
5.5.5. Financing of representatives in European Union and other international working groups	41
<b>6. Activities of the institution and its tasks according to special assignments (Resolutions of the Parliament, State programmes, etc.)</b>	<b>42</b>
6.1. Projects of the European Union structural funds	42
6.1.1. Support to research activities of scientists and other researchers (Global grant)	42
6.1.2. Technical assistance for the implementation of the Global grant	43
6.1.3. Lithuanian studies	44
6.1.4. Implementation of post-doctoral fellowship in Lithuania	44
6.1.5. Competitive financing of short-term visits of scholars	45
6.1.6. Promoting students' research activities	46
6.1.7. Developing and implementing of the programme-based competitive (research and development projects) financing scheme – strengthening of administrative and expert abilities of the Research Council of Lithuania and its functions related to the development of the programme-based competitive financing model	47
6.1.8. Promotion of gender equality in sciences (LYMOS)	48
6.2. International projects	48
6.2.1. Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme “Research and development”	48
6.2.2. Swiss Grant Fund (Sciex-NMS <sup>ch</sup> )	49
6.2.3. Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme BONUS	50
6.2.4. FP 7 project “Coordination of research policies in regions and countries” (TARGET)	50
6.2.5. Participation in the ERA-NET programme EuroNanoMed	51
6.2.6. Participation in the ERA-NET programme BiodivERsA2	51
<b>7. Budget appropriations allocated to the institution at the beginning of the reporting period (according to the State budget programmes)</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>8. Other funds of the institution (if any)</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>9. Use of budget funds</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>10. Use of other funds</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>11. Balance of budget appropriations and other funds at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>55</b>

## **RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA. ACTIVITY REPORT 2011**

### **1. Name of the institution**

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RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA

### **2. Founder of the institution**

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PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

### **3. Head of the institution**

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Chairman of the Council, Prof. Habil. Dr. EUGENIJUS BUTKUS

### **4. Reporting period**

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1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011

### **5. Nature and objectives of the institution's activities (according to legal acts governing activities of the institution (Regulations, etc.))**

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#### **5.1. Legal basis governing activities of the Research Council of Lithuania**

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The basis for the activities of the Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter – the Council) is the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – RL) (Official Gazette, 200, No. 54-2140) whereby the Council was designated to act as an advisory body for the Parliament of the RL and the Government of the RL on research and training of researchers, participate in the implementation of research and development (social, cultural) programmes, implement the programme and tender based funding of research and development (social, cultural) works, organise the assessment of research activities carried out in Lithuania. The purpose of the Council is prescribed in the Regulations of the Council approved by Resolution No. -625 of 29 December of the Parliament of the RL “On the approval of the Regulations of the Research Council of Lithuania” (Official Gazette, 2009, No. 153-6902) to which the Council was adhering during 2011. By its Resolution No XI-1814 of 15 December 2011 (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 157-7426) the Parliament of the RL specified Items 9 and 10 of the Regulations whereby the Foundation of the Research Council was expressly defined as part of the Council.

After Resolution No. 1840 of 29 December 2010 of the Government of the RL “Concerning the classification of science fields, areas and branches” (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 158-8030) approved the agricultural science field, the Council by its Resolution No. VII-62 of 17 January 2011 approved the requisite amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Council by assigning the agricultural science field to the competence of the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences.

The Council is composed of 29 members: 9 members of the Board and 10 members in each of the Committees. Members of the seventh (VII) term of the Council were appointed by Resolution No. X-1545 of 15 May 2008 of the Parliament of the RL (Official Gazette, 2008, No. 59-2205), and Resolution No. XI-1242 of 21 December 2010 of the Parliament of the RL (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 153-7801) authorised the first rotation of the Council member. It should be noted that in 2011 the Council was working of incomplete composition. In January, the Council received the resignation letter of a member of the Council Darius Milčius, and in June – the resignation letter of Prof. Asta Pundzienė. Thus until December 2011 the Council was composed of 27 members. By its Resolution No. X-1816 of 15 December 2011 (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 157-7428) the Parliament of the RL appointed Prof. Vytautas Getautis a member of the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences. Currently the Council is composed of 28 members.

By its Resolution No. X-1815 of 15 December 2011 the Parliament of the RL (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 157-7427) amended the list of institutions of the Parliament of the RL, the Office of the Parliament of the RL, institutions accountable to the Parliament, Office of the President of the RL, and the institutions accountable to the President of the RL, National Court Administration, courts, Prosecutor's Office, local government institutions and organisations according to the groups in respect of which the grades of uniform positions of civil servants are established and included the Council into Group II of the list.

## 5.2. The organisational structure of the Council

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The Council is composed of the Board and two expert committees: the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences. The committees of the Council are authorised to pass decisions on issues related to the research areas curated thereby. The Board of the Council the activities whereof are carried out by the Chairman of the Board, chairmen of the Committees, the Research Secretary, a representative appointed upon a motion of the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Parliament,

representatives delegated by the Prime Minister, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Finance, Lithuanian Academy of Sciences makes up the agenda of meetings, approves the expert groups proposed by the committees and tackles other issues.

The Council performs its tasks by providing and discussing recommendations regarding the research policy areas and their implementation measures, the development of the programme and competitive research funding, training of researchers, criteria for the assessment of research activities of research institutions, and other issues assigned to its competence. Proposals to the Council are submitted by its Committees, *ad hoc* working groups, experts, research and studies and public authorities.

The documents produced by the Council and their drafts are introduced to the Ministry of Education and Science, and other research and studies institutions. Resolutions of the Council are published in the website of the Council at [www.lmt.lt](http://www.lmt.lt). Also the Council's website posts information on scheduled open plenary meetings of the Council. Proposals and recommendations drafted by the Council are communicated to the Parliament of the RL, the Government, Ministry of Education and Science and other public authorities. The Council maintains regular cooperation relations with the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Parliament, the Ministry of Education and Science.

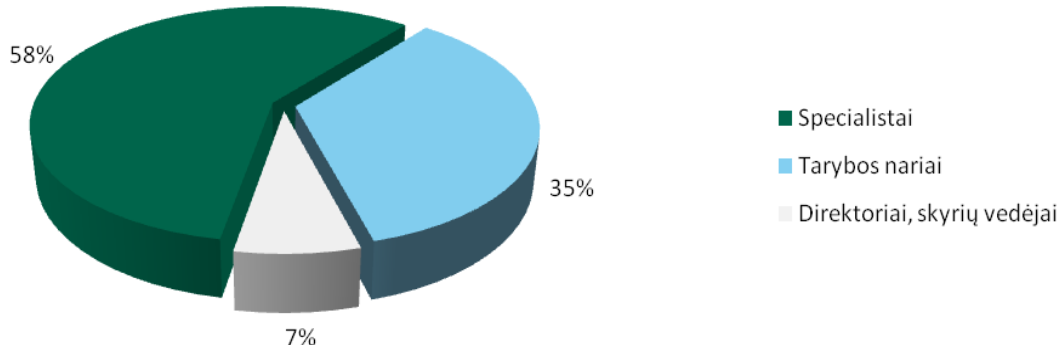
The functions of the Foundation of the Council (hereinafter – the Research Foundation) include the implementation of decisions passed by the Council, drawing up of rules and regulations related to different procedures, organisation of the activities of the Council, drafting of documents for the administration of public and European Union structural funding earmarked for the promotion of science and research and development activities. The updated structure of the Research Foundation was approved by Resolution No. 7V-121 of 10 January 2011 of the Board of the Council. In 2011, the Research Foundation was composed of the Research Funding Department and 6 divisions: Finance and accounting, Research policy, International cooperation, Support to Researchers, Research programmes, Law and administration divisions. In pursuit of its strategic objectives the Council was developing and ensuring the administrative activity of the Research Foundation, professional development of its staff members, managing its financial accounting and improving the relevant legal regulation.

In 2011, the Research Foundation had 55 positions (Fig.1). The number of the positions was approved by Resolution No. SV-S-873 of 6 October 2010 of the Board of the Parliament of the RL “Concerning the approval of the maximum permitted number of positions of public servants and employees working under employment contracts and remunerated from the State budget and

the State monetary funds in the administration of the Research Council of Lithuania”. The Research Foundation of the Council has 45 positions funded from the State budget appropriations, 10 positions funded from the European Union (hereinafter – EU) and the international programme technical assistance resources, and 6 positions funded by the Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme (the Board of the Parliament does not establish any maximum permissible number of positions in respect of the latter).

Resolution No. SV-S-1463 of 1 February 2012 of the Board of the Parliament of the RL “Concerning the approval of the maximum permitted number of positions of public servants and employees working under employment contracts and remunerated from the State budget and the State monetary funds in the administration of the Research Council of Lithuania” the total maximum permissible number of civil servants and employees working under employment contracts of the Research Foundation of the Council was increased to 62 positions (the number of the positions funded by the EU funds and the international technical assistance resources was increased from 10 to 17) (Table 1).

**Fig. 1** Breakdown of positions according to position groups in 2011, in percent



**Table 1** Total positions in 2011-2014, and compensation costs.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Members of the Council	29	29	29	29
Research Foundation staff	55 (6)*	62 (6)*	62 (6)*	62 (6)*
Total positions (units)	90	97	97	97
Compensation costs, LTL 000 thus as compared to the respective results of the Company in 2010	2311	2671	2671	2671

\* – Positions funded from the Swiss financial assistance programme and not included into the total maximum permissible number of positions (see the text).

In 2011, the Council updated and has been regularly improving its website at ([www.lmt.lt](http://www.lmt.lt)).

### 5.3. Advisory activities of the Council

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During 2011, the Council was consistently performing its functions as an advisory institution to the Parliament and the Government.

#### 5.3.1. Academic ethics and procedure supervisory institution

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The institution of the supervisor of academic ethics and procedure is provided for by Article 18 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the RL. The Council supported and approved the establishment of such an institution. Having regularly been receiving different applications related to academic ethics issues in 2011 the Council set up the Academic Ethics Commission (Resolution No. VII-65 of 4 April 2011). However, this Commission is authorised to examine cases of possible plagiarism and other academic dishonesty indications only in relation to projects funded by the Council.

In 2011, the Council submitted to the Parliament of the RL a certificate concerning the institution of the Supervisor of academic ethics and procedures. Furthermore, the Chairman of the Council submitted to the Parliament of the RL and the Constitutional Court of the RL his opinion on the recommendations submitted by the Supervisor of academic ethics and procedures to education and studies institutions and on whether the recommendations are in accord with the principle of autonomy of higher education institutions.

On 15 September 2011, by its Resolution No. XI-1583 the Parliament of the RL approved the Regulations of the service of the Supervisor for academic ethics and procedures (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 115-5389). Following the procedure for the election of the Supervisor for academic ethics and procedures established in the Council's Rules of Procedures (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 40-1927) approved by the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Parliament and the Ministry of Education and Science announced a selection to the position of the Supervisor of academic ethics and procedures (hereinafter – the Supervisor). A single candidate elected by secret ballot is then submitted by the Council to the Parliament of the RL for approval. The candidate to the position of the Supervisor is considered approved provided the meeting of the Council is attended by not less than two thirds of all members of the Council and not less than half of them vote in favour of the candidate.

The first election of the Supervisor of academic ethics and procedures was held in September - December 2011. After the call to submit possible candidatures for the Supervisor's position the Council received seven applications. The Selection commission set up by the Council

compiled out of the applications received a list of recommended candidates for public discussion. In the second stage, having assessed the public comments received the Selection commission selected two candidates to be considered by the Council. The meetings of the Selection commission were attended by the Chairman of the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Parliament of the RL, or a representative authorised thereby.

At the plenary meeting of the Council of 12 December 2011, the Chairman of the Commission for the selection of the Supervisor of academic ethics and procedures introduced at the two proposed candidates. After the candidates presented the guidelines for their prospective activities the Council concluded as missing a clear conception of the academic ethics and procedures supervisor institution based on the relevant international practice or any more in-depth understanding of problems arising in Lithuania due infringements of academic ethics. None of the candidates collected the required number of votes following the procedure for the selection of the supervisor of academic ethics and procedures prescribed in Section IX of the Rules of Procedures of the Council the competition for the position of the Supervisor will be launched repeatedly. The Council decided that the selection procedure must be improved and then call a new competition for the position of the Supervisor of academic ethics and procedures. The new competition to the position of the Supervisor of academic ethics and procedures will be announced on 15 February 2012, having specified the selection procedure.

### **5.3.2. Classification of research fields and branches**

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According to Resolution No. 1840 of 29 December 2010 of the Government of the RL “On the classification of research areas and branches” (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 158-8030) the Ministry of Education and Science was obligated, in coordination with the Council, to establish the research fields and branches of the six research areas. The Council submitted its proposal concerning research fields and branches to the Ministry of Education and Science on 18 January 2011. Also the Council undertook to compile, in the course of 2011, a systemically updated classification of research and submit it for public discussions. In December 2011, the Council submitted a new draft classification of research fields and branches. The drafting of the classification sought to ensure that the classification must be:

- modern and corresponding to the reality of modern research;
- oriented to the international experience and that of other countries;
- based on the specifics of the research development in Lithuania;



- related to the context of the entire academic life (studies and research);
- open to interdisciplinary relations.

The interdisciplinary nature is to be specifically underscored in the area of humanities and social sciences, therefore the draft classification of research fields and branches distinguished the general, special and interdisciplinary branches of research.

Upon an invitation of the Council the academic community became an active participant in preparing the draft classification. A public call to submit proposals and comments concerning the effective research classification as early as autumn 2009. In March 2011, a working group of the Council was set up and obliged to work out an initial draft of the classification. The draft was discussed at meetings of the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences. On 11 May 2011, the draft classification was published and discussed with the community at the event on 30 May 2011. The Council then received over 200 letters from individual researchers, institutions and associations. Also in that relation the Council held meetings with researchers from different fields. The working group set up by the Council and its committees discussed and summarised all the proposals received in writing or verbally. The improved classification was discussed at the committees of the Council and repeatedly published. The draft research classification submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science was approved at the plenary meeting of the Council of 21 November 2011.

The project classification indicated the research areas in accordance with Resolution No. 1840 of 29 December 2010 of the Government of the RL. The Council, however, considers it appropriate to distinguish medical sciences into a separate research field. Although the draft classification as submitted distinguishes individual research branches, the Council holds that a new concept of the research classification should be discussed providing for only research areas and fields regulated by legal acts. Research branches then could be treated as key words only describing the contents of research fields. The Council is prepared to compile and publish a regularly updated list of research branches defining the relevant research fields.

### **5.3.3. Minimum qualification requirements for positions of research staff of public higher education and research institutions**

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By its Resolution No. VII-71 of 16 May 2011 (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 60-2882) the Council approved the description of the minimum qualification requirements for positions of research staff of public higher education and research institutions. The minimum qualification requirements for positions of research staff have been defined for the purpose of the Law on the

Higher Education and Research and having regard to the Resolution of the Government authorising the new agricultural science area. The requirements duly take into account the peculiarities of research areas by formulating individual provisions for researchers in humanities and social science areas, and physical, biomedical, technology and agricultural science areas.

These requirements apply to those individuals only who after the approval of the description apply for the first time to take research positions in higher education and research institutions. The minimum qualification requirements prescribed by the Council do not apply to the evaluation of research staff members. The evaluations of research staff members are conducted in the procedure set forth in the Law on Higher Education and Research. These requirements neither apply to academic staff.

The description of the minimum qualification requirements of research staff members provides for abundant discretion of public higher education and research institutions. It should be noted that by referring to the minimum qualification requirements the institutions are authorised to establish their specific requirements for positions of research staff, however, in any case the minimum qualification requirements provided for in Items 8.1-8.5 of the description approved by Resolution No. VII-71 of the Council cannot be replaced by applying any equivalent requirements.

#### **5.3.4. Long-term institutional R&D programmes**

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The Council submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science concerning the draft Description of the procedure for the initiation, approval, implementation and assessment of long-term institutional research and development (social and cultural) (hereinafter – R&D) programmes. The Description was approved by Order No. V-153 of 31 January 2011 of the Minister of Education and Science (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 16-783). On the basis of the Description the Council examined and submitted its comments concerning the themes of the long-term R&D programmes of public research institutes submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science in respect of the projected long-term institutional R&D programmes.

Public research institutions drafted the long-term R&D programmes for the first time. As a result, the institutes prepared and submitted 22 programmes in the area of humanities and social sciences and 28 programmes in natural and technical sciences. Experts of the Council were evaluating the relevance of the programmes, the compliance of the tasks and measures with the objectives prescribed to be attained, the appropriateness of the research methods chosen to the

tasks foreseen to fulfilled, the feasibility of the plan implements, adequacy of distribution means, etc. The conclusions assessed were submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science. The programmes submitted by essentially approved in that relation having noted that the long-term R&D programmes contributed to specification of research fields and their priorities, and anticipate the outcomes, include and systematise different research efforts, disintegrate long-term research areas from limited duration projects, and thus contribute to equalisation of disparities in project-based competitive research funding.

The Description of the procedure for the initiation, approval, implementation and assessment of long-term institutional R&D programmes approved in 2011 establishes that long-term institutional R&D programmes may be initiated by a public research institute or the Ministry of Education and Science. With a view to consolidating research efforts in the field of economics, also facilitating or developing the research activities in the areas relevant for the national economic policy the Ministry of Education and Science initiated and the Council in 2011 announced a contest of ideas to draw up the long-term economic research programme.

The expert evaluation of the applications received was conducted having regard to the provisions of the Section “Coverage of the call and expected results” of the call announced by the Council and the international context of economic research. Having examined and assessed the projects proposed in respect of the formulated criteria, also the submitted ideas and the research potential the expert panel proposed that the long-term economic research programme is drawn up by the Kaunas University of Technology in cooperation with the Lithuanian Energy Institute while including into the programme the topics and ideas of perspective research and involving the authors of the ideas and the institutions as partners. The experts also proposed then to develop a competent network of researchers implementing the programme involving a largest number of prominent Lithuanian economists and best specialist in the area working in other universities and business structures.

The long-term research programme in economy “Long-term competitiveness challenges to the Lithuanian economy” has been prepared essentially having regard to the comments and proposals submitted by the Council's experts. The programme is scheduled to be launched during the first half of 2012. Research under the programme will be carried out employing the most advanced economic research methods and one of the outcomes of the programme will be recommendations to public authorities and entities on tackling the current problems in the economy, anticipate and ensure preparedness to facing new challenges.

### 5.3.5. Doctoral studies in research and art

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Acting in accordance with the legal acts governing art and research doctoral studies passed by the Ministry of Education and Science and following the Description of the procedure for the evaluation of the applications to be authorised to provide doctoral degree studies approved in December 2010 (Resolution No. VII-53 of 6 December 2010 of the Council), and the Description of the procedure and the evaluation of art doctoral studies (Resolution No. VII-54 of 6 December 2010 of the Council), during 2011 the Council assessed 90 applications of higher education and research institutions to be authorised to conduct doctoral studies: 16 application in humanities, 20 applications in social science area, 12 applications in the area of physical sciences, 18 applications in biomedical sciences, 4 applications in agricultural sciences and 20 applications in the area of technologies.

Having examined and evaluated all applications received, and assessed the demand and the substantiation of doctoral studies, the effectiveness and efficiency of the doctoral studies previously conducted, the scientific competence of the members of the committee of doctoral studies and of the researchers participating in the doctoral studies' process in the field of the doctoral studies applied for, the infrastructure of the research institutes and the regulations of the doctoral studies submitted the Council approved 77 applications filed by different institutions (15 – in humanities, 19 – social, 9 – physical, 3 – agricultural, 15 – biomedical, and 15 applications in technology sciences), and recommended to the Ministry of Education and Science to authorise the relevant higher education and research institutions to conduct doctoral studies in research areas applied for. The Council rejected 13 applications for the right of doctoral studies (1 in humanities, 3 – in physical sciences, 2 in biomedical sciences and 5 applications in technology sciences) and accordingly did not recommend to authorise the institutions to conduct doctoral studies.

The Council also received 3 applications from higher education and research institutions be granted the right to conduct doctoral studies in arts. The applications were assessed positively and the institutions were recommended to be granted the right to conduct doctoral studies.

Requested by the Ministry of Education and Science the Council drew up a proposal regarding the distribution of the places of doctoral studies among universities and institutes in 2011.

### 5.3.6. Development of research infrastructure

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The Council has been devoting significant attention to the development of research infrastructures. As provided for in the new EU strategy “Europe 2020”, the top level research infrastructures (hereinafter – RI) will be developed in the European research area by 2020. Such RIs are intended to become one of the key drivers of innovations developed following the Roadmap first drawn up in 2006 by the *European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures*) and last updated in 2010.

In 2011, the working group for the drawing up of the Roadmap for the development of the Lithuanian research infrastructures set up in 2009 under Order of the Minister for Education and Science completed its assignment. The purpose of the working group was to draw up the guidelines for the development of Lithuanian research infrastructures. The working group was composed of three expert sub-groups (humanities and social sciences, physical and technological, and biomedical sciences).

In 2011, the Council published “The Roadmap for the Lithuanian research infrastructures” (hereinafter – “Roadmap”). Having regard to the research development globally and on the national level the Roadmap presented an overview of the current status of the RIs in Lithuania, also assessed a number of viable national RIs projects and included proposals concerning the participation of Lithuania in European RI projects. The Roadmap is a long-term (10-15 years) and systematically updated planning document the purpose whereof is to identify the possibilities for the improvement and development of the existing RIs and the establishment of the new ones. Following the evaluation carried out by Lithuanian and foreign experts three infrastructure projects and six of each of biomedical, physical and technology sciences were included into the Roadmap. Presentation of an RI in the Roadmap does not necessarily mean that the RI will be funded; however, reference to the Roadmap will ensure that most efficient utilisation of public funds when taking decisions concerning investment into specific RIs.

Acting in accordance with Letter No. 43-01-R-3604 of 24 May 2010 “Concerning the participation in the development of consortia of European research infrastructures” of the Ministry of Education and Science where by the Council was authorised to represent the Republic of Lithuania in the establishment of European research infrastructure according to the EU Council regulation the Council was continuing the process that was launched in 2010 of inclusion into three research consortia in humanities and social sciences: CLARIN (*Common Language*

*Resources and Technology Infrastructure*), CESSDA (*Council of European Social Science Data Archives*) and ESS (*European Social Survey*).

The management committees of the emerging pan-European infrastructures at which the Council was represented, acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Council regulation (EC) No. 723/2009 On the Community legal framework for a *European Research Infrastructure Consortium* (ERIC) drew up the draft statutes of the relevant ERIC (*European Research Infrastructure Consortium*), approved their funding models, was drawing up technical and scientific descriptions for the applications to be submitted to the European Commission.

The Chairman of the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Council attended the constitutive meeting of the CLARIN infrastructure of the ESFRI ERIC.

In 2012, the Council of European Social Science Data Archive and the European Social Survey will become the operative consortia of pan-European research infrastructures and the Government of Lithuania shall in the near future pass a Government-level decision concerning the participation in such consortia.

In 2011, the Council was submitting its comments and proposals concerning the draft description of the Procedure for the participation in international research infrastructures drawn up by the Ministry of Education and Science and intended to regulate initiation of participation in international research infrastructures, also decision making process and assessment of the outcomes of such participation.

### **5.3.7. Expert group for the evaluation of the terms of reference of R&D works**

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Acting in accordance with Resolution No. 151 of 9 February 2011 of the Government of the RL “On the approval of the description of the procedure for the procurement of commissioned research and development works by Ministries, Government institutions and institutions under Ministries” (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 18-849), the Council by its Resolution No, VII-66 of 4 April 2011 approved the Description of the procedure for the evaluation of the terms of reference of research and development works.

On 18 April 2011, by its Resolution No. 7V-165 the Council approved the expert group for the evaluation of the terms of reference of research and development works (hereinafter – the Group of EETR for R&D works). Having approved the Group of EETR for R&D works the Council dismissed the Commission for the explanations on the assignment of specific services to R&D that had been operational since 2009.

The terms of reference of research and development works were submitted for the evaluation via the new developed commissioned research and development works' data managed by the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA). The purpose of the evaluation of terms of reference is to determine whether works procured by different customers operating in the public sector may be assigned to R&D works. Works are considered to be R&D works provided they meet the requirements established in the Frascati Manual (standard practice for surveys on research and development proposed by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), or other standards developed on the basis of the Frascati Manual.

The year 2011 was the first year of activity of the Group of EETR for R&D works in evaluating the terms of reference of research and development works. The Group of EETR for R&D works was evaluating the terms of reference of R&D works intended to be commissioned by the Ministry of Economy of the RL, the Lithuanian Research Centre and the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre. Total the experts evaluated the terms of reference of 21 R&D works including the repeated evaluations of some terms of reference.

At the initiative of the Group of EETR for R&D works the Description of the procedure for the evaluation of the terms of reference of research and development works was supplemented providing that in the event the terms of reference of a work intended to be procured fails to meet the requirements for a R&D work, the specified terms of reference may be submitted for a repeated expert evaluation not before two months later.

The Council then approved the draft Resolution of the Government of the RL "On the approval of the procedure for the procurement of research and development services except the research and development services the benefit derived from which is used only for operating projects of the contracting authority and which are fully paid up by the contracting authority". The Description of the procedure was approved by Resolution No. 772 of 22 June 2011 of the Government of the RL (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 80-3904). Acting in accordance with the Description the Council on 21 November 2011 passed Resolution No. VIII-85 "On the approval of the procedure for the selection of terms of reference of research and development works, of research and development services and the providers of such services" (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 143-6750).

### **5.3.8. Lithuanian studies development strategy**

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Acting in accordance with Letter No. SR-1911 of 4 May 2011 of the Ministry of Education and Science and the Resolution of the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences the Council approved the expert working group that was obligated to draft specific strategic guidelines for the development of Lithuanian studies (hereinafter – the Guidelines) defining potential fields of research. The purpose of the Guidelines is, on the basis of the assumptions concerning the development of Lithuanian studies and the objectives of such studies define the priorities facilitating a significant renewal of Lithuanian studies with the next decade (until 2020). The Guidelines are intended to science and studies policy makers and executors, academic circles and the community with an interest in Lithuanian studies. The document provides guidelines for the formation of the long-term research policy, for drafting strategic science development documents, and providing the policy enforcement measures. The Guidelines were developed on the basis of the Law on Higher Education and Research and having regard to the draft Lithuania's Progress Strategy “Lithuania 2030”, as well as other documents describing the course of Lithuanian studies: the prognostic evaluation – insight of the research and higher education studies, the strategy of the development of the Lithuanian humanities and social sciences, the feasibility study of the International scientific data base *Lituanistika*, and the feasibility study of the development and consolidation of the Lithuanian research institutions in humanities and social sciences. The Guidelines also define the status of the Lithuanian studies, the general principles and the development assumptions, the value approaches underlying the identification of priorities in Lithuanian studies and the criteria for their development strategies. 21 priority subject-matters of Lithuanian studies were formulated on the basis of the principles and approaches identified in the Guidelines. The Guidelines were published in the website of the Council.

### **5.3.9. Technology Development Commission**

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With a view to ensuring equal possibilities and favourable conditions for the expansion of applied R&D in technology sciences and other areas, and at the same time to promoting the development of high technologies in Lithuania, by its Resolution No. 7V-166 of 18 April 2011, the Council set up the Technology Development Commission (hereinafter – TDC). The Council obliged the TDC to carry out an analysis of the evaluation of research papers in technology sciences, qualification requirements of researchers, applied research programmes, and submit proposals



to the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences concerning promotion of applied research activities. The TDC is authorised to involve into its activities also external members representing technology sciences, as well specialists from industry and business.

In relation to the developing of the special criteria for the evaluation of technology projects, qualification requirements for researchers involved in technology projects, also in identifying priority technology research areas, one of the tasks of the TDC was to identify the scope of the area to be analysed. As part of this assignment, the TDC drew a dividing line between technology sciences and other research areas, and the basic and applied research activities. It was concluded that applied sciences should unite researchers of all areas, as the absence of integration among researchers of different areas is currently one of the issues of immediate import. The TDC also sought to identify and define the principal qualities specifically distinguishing applied research from other types of research.

The TDC proposed that the competitive funding of basic and applied (technological) research be pursued separately, while applying a flexible dividing line between them depending on the formulated objectives and the number of proposals submitted. Since in assessing the applied research in technology and other research areas an important aspect is its ultimate objective and the outcome, the TDC proposed several detailed criteria for the assessment of projects and research works. Part of the criteria are designed to assess the relevance and the substantiation of the idea, the competence and expertise of the project team, as well as the substantiation of the project costs and the significance of the results achieved. The other part of the criteria would facilitate the decisions concerning the scientific competence of the project leader and other project team members and their ability to implement projects in the technological applied research area. The TDC sought to develop the assessment criteria and indicators the application whereof would take into consideration the ultimate outcome of the research activities and their applied value.

The TDC also expressed a view that for the purpose of creating favourable conditions for the development of not only technology sciences, it was expedient to promote and support applied research in all areas.

It was proposed to consider the approval of a unified classification of the levels of technological preparedness in Lithuania. The classification should be designed to specify the stages of the cycle of research and development activities and the innovation cycle by the nature of the activity and the indicators achieved as a result. The classification would be recommendable also for public authorities in relation to the development of R&D and innovation development

programmes, also in developing the R&D and innovation activity funding, promotion and support programmes, evaluating proposals on research projects and the results of implementing such projects, also in drawing up methodologies for the assessment of research institutions and the qualification requirements for the research staff.

#### **5.3.10. Assessment of research (art) works**

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Acting in accordance with Clause 2 of the Methodology for the evaluation of research (art) works of Lithuanian higher education and research institutions approved by Order No. V-1128 of 10 July 2010 of the Minister for Education and Science (version of Order No. V-572 of 8 April 2011) the Council organised the evaluation of works of Lithuanian higher education and research institutions. In the agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science the Council also drew up and approved by the Order of the Chairman of the Council the Regulation for the evaluation of research (art) works of Lithuanian higher education and research institutions. The Regulation was discussed with representatives of Lithuanian higher education and research institutions.

Acting in accordance with Order No. V-798 of 10 May 2011 of the Minister of Education and Science the higher education and research institutions submitted to the Council the reports on their research, artistic and other related activities for 2009 and 2010. The Council set up three evaluation panels that were assigned a task to evaluate the submitted reports in accordance with the Methodology for the evaluation of research (art) works of Lithuanian higher education and research institutions. The results of the evaluation will be made public.

#### **5.3.11. Other expert-advisory activities of the Council**

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In addition to the activities pursued and the proposals submitted during 2011 the Council was also accomplishing other significant assignments.

In May 2011, the Art Commission was set up and obliged to submit proposals to the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Council concerning doctoral studies in arts, development of cultural industries, development of individual fields of art, evaluation of art works, qualification requirements for art workers, fields in art research, programmes and projects and other related issues.

The Council submitted its proposals to the Ministry of Education and Science concerning the draft Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “Concerning the approval of the description of the external assessment of activities of public research institutions”. The

Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the Description of the external assessment of activities of public research institutions by its Resolution No. 289 of 9 March 2011 (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 32-1500).

Until mid-2011 the Commission on the assessment of text books of higher schools was operating within the Council. This Commission was set up on the basis of Order No. ISAK-108 of 19 January 2009 of the Minister for Education and Science “Concerning the approval of the commission for the assessment of quality of textbooks of higher schools” (Official Gazette, 2009, No. 12-487). In 2011, the Council repeatedly appealed to the Ministry of Education and Science concerning the commission for the assessment of quality of textbooks of higher schools. The principal activity of the Commission involves the organisation of the expert evaluation of textbook manuscripts, submission of conclusions concerning their quality and assignment of marks to textbooks. The funding for the publication of general textbooks of higher schools has been terminated. Since the Regulations of the Council approved by the Parliament on 29 December 2009 do not provide for any activity of the Council in the area of higher education, the Council proposed to review the regulations of the Commission for the assessment of quality of textbooks of higher schools and to transfer the responsibilities of the Commission to another institution. Having regard to the arguments and considerations presented by the Council and those of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, by his Order No. V-1458 of 27 July 2011 (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 100-4701) the Minister for Education and Science terminated the activities of the Commission for the assessment of quality of textbooks of higher schools.

In response to the Letter of the Group for Interparliamentary Relations with the Republic of Bulgaria of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania the Council submitted a proposal to the Group and the Government concerning a possible aid for the memorialisation of Lithuanian soldiers perished in the fights for the freedom of Bulgaria in 1877-1878.

The Council examined the draft Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “Concerning the approval of the qualification requirements for positions of research interns, the procedure for the appointment to such positions, and the procedure for funding researcher internship programmes” and submitted its proposals to the draft Resolution. The new version of the Description of the procedure was approved by Resolution No. 699 of 15 June 2011 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 75-3610).

The Council also submitted its proposals concerning the draft Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “Concerning the amendment of Resolution No. 1431 of

11 September 2002 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “Concerning the procedure for allocation of State support to doctoral students and post-graduate students in arts”. The procedure for the allocation of State support to doctoral students and port-graduate students in arts was approved by Resolution No. 1134 of 28 September 2011 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 120-5659).

The Committees of the Council also examined the draft “Description of the procedure for allocation of funds to institutions for the co-financing of orders of applied research by economic entities according to proposals by economic entities” and submitted its proposals. Acting in accordance with Item 18 of the “Description of the procedure for the allocation of State funds of the Republic of Lithuania for research and development (social and cultural) and art activities to public higher education and research institutions approved by Resolution No. 597 of 17 June 2009 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania” (Official Gazette, 2009, No. 76-3103; 2010, No. 158-8045), the Description was approved by Order No. V-2129 of 14 November 2011 of the Minister for Education and Science (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 139-6561).

In 2011, the Council was submitting to the Ministry of Education and Science its proposals concerning the further implementation of bilateral (multilateral) international agreements on cooperation in the area of research activities, providing for funding not only the mobility expenses, but also other expenses of joint research projects.

The Council also submitted an opinion concerning the draft Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the reorganisation of the Lithuanian Textile Institute, and a proposal to specify the research fields indicated in the draft Statute of the Centre for Physical Sciences and Technology.

Besides, responding to a member of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania Andrius Endzinas, the Council submitted its position concerning the draft Resolution No. XIP-3095 of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania “Concerning the application of the summer time in the Republic of Lithuania”.

Requested by the Ministry of Education and Science the Council drew up a proposal regarding the distribution of the places of master degree studies in 2011.

The Council drew up the conclusions of the expert assessment of research activities of proposals submitted for the competition for academic awards to researchers of Lithuanian descent and researchers citizens of the Republic of Lithuania residing abroad.

Upon a request of the Lithuanian Business Support Agency experts of the Council carried out the expert assessment of the research part of proposals for R&D projects, and submitted

some generalised conclusions concerning their conformity with the R&D concept, project costs eligibility and optimisation of activities.

In 2011, experts appointed by the Council were evaluating the proposals of students submitted by Lithuanian higher education and research institutions for receiving nominal scholarships of Lithuanian Presidents Antanas Smetona, Kazys Grinius and Aleksandras Stulginskis granted for outstanding academic performance and active research activity. In respect of the 30 scholarships available the higher schools submitted 85 candidates. Five best candidates were selected from each of the six study areas: one student from the colleges, two university students from each of bachelor's and master's degree studies. Students of humanities and social sciences and studies of arts are granted 15 scholarships of Antanas Smetona, 10 representatives biomedicine and physical sciences are awarded scholarships of Kazys Grinius, and 5 best students in technology sciences are awarded the scholarships named after President Aleksandras Stulginskis.

Representatives by the Council were appointed and participated in different working groups. For instance, representatives of the Council were members of the supervisory committee of the State project "The development and implementation of the system for monitoring of the integrated research, studies and business centres (valleys) and the joint research programmes" implemented by the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre. The Council appointed its representatives to the bilateral committee with Belgium (Wallonia), representatives to the Council of Supervision of Lithuanian Research Centres, also the commission on the evaluation and selection of projects of foreign research and education institutions carrying out studies in Lithuanian (Baltic) philology.

After the resignation of Auksė Balčytienė, to replace her member of the Council Prof. Gražina Daunoravičienė was delegated as the representative of the Council to the Lithuanian Radio and Television Committee.

#### 5.4. Implementation of the programme-based competitive funding of research and development (social, cultural)

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During 2011, the Council was continuing the works related to the implementation and ensuring of functioning of the information system for the acceptance and evaluation of research projects and other proposals and reports meeting the most contemporary requirements.

The principal documents adopted in 2011 by the Council and governing the implementation of the programme-based competitive funding of research activities include the Description of the

procedure for funding of researcher teams projects (Resolution No. VII-77 of 19 September 2011 of the Council), and the Description of expert evaluation of research projects and their reports (Resolution No. VII-79 of 19 September 2011 of the Council). Referring to its acquired expertise the Council was further revising and improving the Descriptions of the procedures for the implementation of other research and support programmes implemented by the Council.

In March 2011, the procedure for the submission and examination of appeals was enacted by the Order of the Chairman of the Council.

On 21 November 2011, the Council by its Resolution No. VII-87 approved the schemes for avoidance of possible conflicts in relation to the implementation of research and dissemination projects.

The results of the implementation of the programme-based competitive R&D (social, cultural) development are summarised in Table 2.

**Table 2** The results of the implementation of the programme-based competitive R&D (social, cultural) development are summarised in Table 2.

No.	Activities in the implementation of the programme-based competitive R&D (social, cultural) development	Projects financed in 2011 (including commitments from previous years)	Funding granted in 2011, LTL thous.
<b>1.</b>	<b>National research programmes</b>		
1.1	State and nation: heritage and identity	21	2,952.2
1.2	Social challenges to national security	22	2,807.8
1.3	Chronic non-infectious diseases	34	4,002.5
1.4	Future energy	11	3,453.0
1.5	Ecosystems in Lithuania: climate change and human impact	24	4,978.8
1.6	Healthy and safe food	9	2,024.1
<b>2.</b>	<b>Development programmes and other research projects:</b>		
2.1	The National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015	123	5,160.0
3.2	Researcher teams projects	254	18,350.0
<b>3.</b>	<b>Support and internship programmes:</b>		
4.1	Support for academic associations	39	140.8
4.2	Support for researcher travel	393	1,047.3
4.3	Researcher internship programme	9	193.2
4.4	Support for research events	87	947.1
4.5	Support for research works	1	6
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>46,062.8</b>

#### 5.4.1. National research programmes

The Council is implementing a programme-based competitive research funding model, whose one of the main implementation measures is the National Research Programmes

(hereinafter – NRP) that represent the entirety of research activities, methods and measures employed to facilitate the State and the society to address problems of strategic importance. The programmes are designed to concentrate the research potential and financial resources of Lithuania, initiate new programme-based research and coordinate the research activities already in progress. With a view to ensuring an appropriate funding for highest competence research activities and promoting the competitiveness of Lithuanian science, team members of the measures under the programmes are selected by way of public competition. The Council in its activities was following Resolution No. [731](#) of 16 July 2008 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On the approval of the Regulations of the National Research Programmes” (Official Gazette, 2008, No. 85-3382), Resolution No. [980](#) of 1 October 2008 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “On the approval of the list of the National Research programmes” (Official Gazette, 2008, No. 116-4427), and the Description of the procedure for the implementation of the NRP approved by Resolution No. VII-16 of 1 June 2009 of the Council. Resolution No. 877 of 13 July 2011 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “Concerning the amendment of Resolution No. 731 of 16 July 2008 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “Concerning the approval of the Regulations of the National Research Programmes” (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 92-4378) approved a new version of the Regulations of NRP that was enacted as of 2 January 2012. Pending the enactment of the new version of the Regulations of the NRP on 19 September 2011 the Council passed its Resolution No. VII-81 “Concerning the implementation of the National Research Programmes in the period until 31 December 2011” (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 117-5535), whereby the Council invalidated Resolution No. VII-16 of 1 June 2009 of the Council “Concerning the approval of the description of the procedure for the implementation of National Research programmes” (Official Gazette, 2009, No. 73-3006) and established that pending 31 December 2011 calls for proposals concerning funding of NRP projects shall be published, the proposals shall be submitted and evaluated in accordance with the Description of the procedure for funding of researcher teams projects approved by Resolution No. VII-77 of 19 September 2011 of the Council (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 117-5532). It was also established that pending the enactment of the Resolution the NRP projects already in progress shall, from the enactment of the Resolution until 31 December 2011, be implemented in accordance with Description of the procedure for funding of researcher teams projects as referred to earlier.

The following six NRP programmes were under implementation in the course of 2011:

1. NRP “State and nation: heritage and identity” (approved by Order No. V-7 of 5 January 2010 of the Minister for Education and Science (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 4-170);

2. NRP “Social challenges to national security” (approved by Order No. V-2334 of 17 December 2010 of the Minister for Education and Science (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 152-7764);
3. NRP “Chronic non-infectious diseases” (approved by Order No. V-952 of 19 June 2010 of the Minister for Education and Science (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 75-3851);
4. NRP “Ecosystems in Lithuania: climate change and human impact” (approved by Order No. V-951 of 19 June 2010 of the Minister for Education and Science (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 75-3849);
5. NRP “Future energy” (approved by Order No. V-950 of 19 June 2010 of the Minister for Education and Science (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 75-3847);
6. NRP “Healthy and safe food” (approved by Order No. V-694 of 26 April 2011 of the Minister for Education and Science (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 51-2499).

#### *5.4.1.1. “State and nation: heritage and identity”*

The aim objective of the NRP “State and nation: heritage and identity” is to formulate the general theoretical concept of social and cultural identity, to examine and evaluate the development of specific identity forms in the aspects of heritage, contemporary state of identity and impacts of the modern world challenges. The following tasks have been defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

1. Basic research of the preconditions of the identity, its conception and expression forms and development, and the forms of the social and cultural identity of the Lithuanian society, their development and prospects;
2. Research of the historic consciousness discourse, the historic memory of the GDL and the formation of the modern national identity in the XIX-XX c., also research of the Soviet period legacy and its management, consciousness of the emigration, self-consciousness and the preserved identity;
3. Research of the relation between the cultural heritage and the society, and the development of the infrastructure required for the research of the heritage and identity;
4. Research of the nature of the impact of the different (including the new ones) challenges of the modern world – globalisation, secularisation and others upon the identity, of the impact upon the State, language and culture;
5. Development of the concept of the integrated information infrastructure of the Lithuanian heritage and identity.



Early in 2011, the Council assessed 21 annual and 8 final reports of the projects under the programme. In 2011, the programme funds we granted to finance only the projects under the grant agreements signed in previous years. Total 21 projects were implemented, and the allocations for the projects in 2011 totalled LTL 2,952,200. In November the Council announced a call for proposals of projects under the programme starting with 21. Total 41 proposals were received and submitted for eligibility check.

#### *5.4.1.2. "Social challenges to national security"*

The objective of NRP "Social challenges to national security" is to reveal the nature, content, scale and trends of social phenomena threatening national security as well as to develop strategic solutions and provide recommendations to overcome these threats. The following tasks have been defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

1. surveys of the country's demographic development;
2. surveys of the country's human resources, labour market policy and employment;
3. surveys of social welfare;
4. surveys of criminogenic processes threatening personal or public security;
5. performing of surveys of psychosocial interfaces and the subjective welfare.

Early in 2011, the Council assessed 18 annual and 2 final reports of the projects under the programme. Upon the assessment of the annual report funding in respect of one project was terminated. In 2011, one call for proposals was announced only for the second task of the programme. 11 proposals were received in response to the call. Following the expert assessment of the proposals 5 projects were selected as eligible for financing. Also in 2011 funding was granted to 17 projects under the grant agreements signed in previous years. Total allocations for the projects under the programme in 2011 accounted for LTL 2,807,800. In November a new call for proposals was published in respect of all tasks under the programme for projects to be launched starting from 2012. 27 proposals were received and submitted for eligibility check.

#### *5.4.1.3. "Chronic non-infectious diseases"*

The goal of the NRP "Chronic non-infectious diseases" is to gain new scientific knowledge required to reduce the morbidity, mortality and disability of the Lithuanian population caused by the major chronic non-infectious diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancer diseases, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, allergies and autoimmune diseases, mental and behavioral disorders (hereinafter – CNID), develop the strategic principles for the prevention of such

diseases and create further improved methods for the prevention and diagnostics thereof. The following tasks have been defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

1. Establish the impact of social, economic, life-style and biological factors upon the disparities in the health of Lithuanian residents, the risk of falling ill with CNID, and provide scientific grounds for the strategic principles of prevention and control of such diseases.

2. Develop the comprehensive analysis, molecular marker and non-invasive visualisation methods for the prevention and an early diagnostics of CNIDs.

Early in 2011, the Council assessed 29 annual reports of the projects under the programme. In 2011, one call for proposals was announced only for the first task of the programme. 20 proposals were received in response to the call. Following the expert assessment of the proposals it was decided to grant financing to 5 projects. Also in 2011 funding was granted to 29 projects under the grant agreements signed in previous years. The allocations for the projects under the programme in 2011 totalled LTL 4,002,500. In November a call for proposals was published for projects under all tasks of the programme starting from 2012. 59 proposals were received and have been already submitted for eligibility check.

#### *5.4.1.4. "Future energy"*

The aim of the NRP "Future energy" is to address the most relevant scientific problems concerning the Lithuania's energy security, improvement of energy efficiency and the production of future energy as well as development of supply technologies and optimization of their usage. The following tasks have been defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

1. Development and surveys of Lithuania's energy security and its development models;
2. Development of the scientific base for the production, supply and efficient consumption of future energy.

Early in 2011, the Council assessed 10 annual reports of the projects under the programme. In 2011, the Council published one call for proposals under the programme. 7 proposals were received. Following the expert assessment of the proposals it was decided to grant financing to 1 project. Also in 2011 funding was granted to 10 projects under the grant agreements signed in previous years. The allocations for the projects under the programme in 2011 totalled LTL 3,453,000. In November a call for proposals was published for projects under the programme starting from 2012. 23 proposals were received. The proposals have been already submitted for eligibility check.

#### *5.4.1.5. "Ecosystems in Lithuania: climate change and human impact"*

The NRP "Ecosystems in Lithuania: climate change and human impact" aims to obtain new scientific knowledge of contemporary and historical impact of biologic invasions towards the structure of biologic systems, their functioning and evolution in order to clarify the basic adaptation patterns of ecosystems and their components in the context of global changes. In addition, it aims to implement a complex evaluation of the current state of ecosystems, their biological diversity and resource availability given the impact of global biologic invasions, identify the most common adaptability and mitigation measures. The Programme sets the following three research tasks:

1. on the basis of biogeochemical indicators analyse the changes in the paleoenvironmental conditions establishing their stages and relationship with the globally recorded Quaternary fluctuations, identifying the impact of the paleoenvironment factors upon the patterns of species invasion (expansion) and adaptation;

2. study the invasiveness of alien species, their evolutionary (genomic) changes and adaptation in new localities, by drafting the guidelines for the assessment, forecasting and management of biological invasions under the conditions of the global environmental change;

3. identify the vulnerability of native species and their adaptation under the conditions of biological invasion and other global changes, and to identify the environmental impacts and socio-economic consequences of the invasions and species range change on the current biological diversity, and the organisation, functions and evolution of communities and ecosystems.

Early in 2011, the Council assessed 24 annual reports of the projects under the programme. In 2011, the programme funds we granted to finance only the projects under the grant agreements signed in previous years. Total 24 projects were implemented. In 2011, LTL 4,978,800 were allocated for the implementation of these projects. In November a call for proposals was published for projects under the programme starting from 2012. 27 proposals were received and submitted for eligibility check.

#### *5.4.1.6. "Healthy and safe food"*

Acting in accordance with Resolution No. 980 of 1 October 2008 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania "On the approval of the list of the National Research Programmes" (Official Gazette, 2008, No. 116-4427), the Council designed and submitted for approval the National Research Programme "Healthy and safe food" included in the list of the National Research

Programmes. The NRP “Healthy and safe food” was approved by Order No. V-694 of 26 April 2011 of the Minister for Education and Science (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 51-2499).

The NRP “Healthy and safe food” is designed to obtain and systematise new scientific knowledge required for the development of the relevant methods and the application of bio-substances to new, safe and higher quality food products or enhanced biological value complying with the healthy nutrition principles, and competitive at domestic and foreign markets; develop the theoretical basis for technologies of functional food products while efficiently using local raw materials and ensuring the safe supply of food products to consumers. The Programme sets the following two tasks:

1. Analyse and identify the changes of biologically valuable and hazardous substances while raising animals and plants for food, storing and processing agricultural raw materials, and develop the technology prototypes enhancing the safety and quality of food products;

2. Analyse and assess the food components from the chemical, biological, toxicological aspects as well as from the point of view of their impact upon food matrices in developing safer food products of enhanced biological value.

In 2011, the Council published one call for proposals under the programme. 20 proposals were received in response to the call. Following the expert assessment funding was granted to 9 projects and in 2011 total LTL 2,024,100 was allocated for their implementation.

#### **5.4.2. Development and other programmes**

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##### *5.4.2.1. “The National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015 “*

The National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015 was the first programme the Council had undertaken starting in 2009 the programme-based and competitive financing of research activities. In the beginning of 2011, the Council assessed the final and the annual reports of the projects implemented under the Programme. In this relation improvements were introduced to two documents constituting the basis for the administration of the Programme. This included a new version of the Description of the procedure for the implementation of the National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015 (approved by Resolution No. VII-78 of 19 September 2011 of the Council) and the Description of the expert assessment of dissemination projects and their reports (approved by Resolution No. VII-80 of 19 September 2011 of the Council (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 117-5536).

In 2011, one call for proposals was announced according to the four groups of the Programme measures:

1. Research in different fields of Lithuanian studies, dissemination of the results of such research, and enhancement of researcher qualification;
2. Development and monitoring of digital information resources in Lithuanian studies;
3. National and international dissemination of studies of Lithuanian philology, promotion of international relations and international recognition;
4. Publishing of works in Lithuanian philology.

130 proposals were received in response to the call. Following the expert assessment of the proposals funding was granted to 54 projects. Also in 2011 funding was granted to 69 projects under the grant agreements signed in previous years. The allocations for the projects under the programme in 2011 totalled LTL 6,160,000. In October a call for proposals was published for projects under the programme starting from 2012. 108 proposals were received. Following the eligibility check the proposals were submitted for expert assessment.

More about the Programme see the Annex to the Report (The National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015: annual implementation team report for 2011).

#### *5.4.2.2. Researcher teams projects*

In the beginning of 2011, the Council was assessing the annual and final reports on the projects implemented by researcher teams. Total the Council assessed 52 reports in the area of humanities and social sciences, and 96 reports in natural and technical sciences. Resolution No. VII-77 of 19 September 2011 of the Council introduced amendments to the principal document constituting the basis for the implementation of this supported field, and adopted the Description of the procedure for financing researcher team projects (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 117-5532), and the Description of the procedure for expert assessment of research projects and their reports (Resolution No. VII-79 of 19 September 2011 of the Council) applicable to projects of not only this supported field but also in relation to the assessment of other research projects.

In 2011, the Council published one call for proposals under the programme. 513 proposals were received in response to the call. Following the expert assessment of the proposals funding was granted to 122 projects. Also in 2011 funding was granted to 132 projects under the grant agreements signed in previous years. The allocations for the projects under the programme in 2011 totalled LTL 18,350,000. In October a call for proposals was published for projects under the

programme starting from 2012. 350 proposals were received in response to the call. Following the eligibility check the proposals were submitted for expert assessment.

#### *5.4.2.3. Cooperation programmes implemented under bilateral (tripartite) intergovernmental agreements*

During 2011, the Council was further implementing the four cooperation programmes in the area of research and development implemented according to intergovernmental treaties and agreements (hereinafter – Cooperation programmes):

1. the cooperation co-funding programme between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, the National Research Council of China (Taiwan) and the Ministry of Education and Science of Latvia (hereinafter – Joint Lithuanian-Chinese (Taiwan)-Latvian programme);
2. the programme on cooperation in research and technologies between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania and the State Research and Technology Committee of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter – Lithuanian-Belarus programme);
3. the programme on cooperation in research and technologies between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania and the State Science, Innovations and Informatisation Agency of Ukraine for 2011-2015 (hereinafter – Lithuanian-Ukrainian programme);
4. the bilateral Lithuanian-French integrated activity cooperation programme in research and development “Gilibert” (hereinafter – “Gilibert” programme).

With a view to ensuring an efficient implementation of Cooperation programme the Council drafted four Descriptions of the procedures for the implementation of Cooperation programmes. The Descriptions were approved by Resolution No. VII-90 of 19 December 2001 of the Council. The Descriptions set the procedure for the submission of proposals seeking funding for the implementation of projects under a respective programme, also the procedure for the assessment of such proposal, granting of State budget funds, submission of reports and evaluation of such reports at the Council.

In 2011, the Council published the calls to submit proposals under the Lithuanian-Chinese (Taiwan)-Latvian programme and the Lithuanian-Ukrainian programme. For the purpose of administration of the calls the Council implemented the electronic proposal reception system, organised information days and the expert assessment of the proposals. 15 proposals were submitted according to the call of the Lithuanian-Chinese (Taiwan)-Latvian programme; following the expert assessment the decision was passed to grant funding to 3 projects (to be launched in

2012). 48 proposals were received in response to the call of the Lithuanian-Ukrainian programme; total 12 proposals were selected as eligible for funding (starting from 2012).

In 2011, the Council granted financing to 39 research projects implemented under the Cooperation programmes. The funding granted for the projects under the Cooperation programmes totalled LTL 741,000.

In 2011, the Council also organised the expert assessment of the 2010 reports of the following projects under the Cooperation programmes: the Lithuanian-French programme “Gilibert” (10 reports), Lithuanian-Ukrainian programme (23 reports), and the Lithuanian-Chinese (Taiwan)-Latvian programme (8 reports).

A representative of the Council attended the meeting of the Lithuanian side within the tripartite committee of the Lithuanian-Chinese (Taiwan)-Latvian programme, in which he presented the expert assessment of the reports for 2010, principal outcomes of the projects, and the statistical data of the usage of the project funds, as well as proposals concerning funding of the projects. Also representatives of the Council were participating at the meetings of the Lithuanian side commission and the joint commission presenting the expert assessment of the proposals under the calls of 2011, and submitting proposals concerning funding of the projects.

#### *5.4.2.4. COST activities*

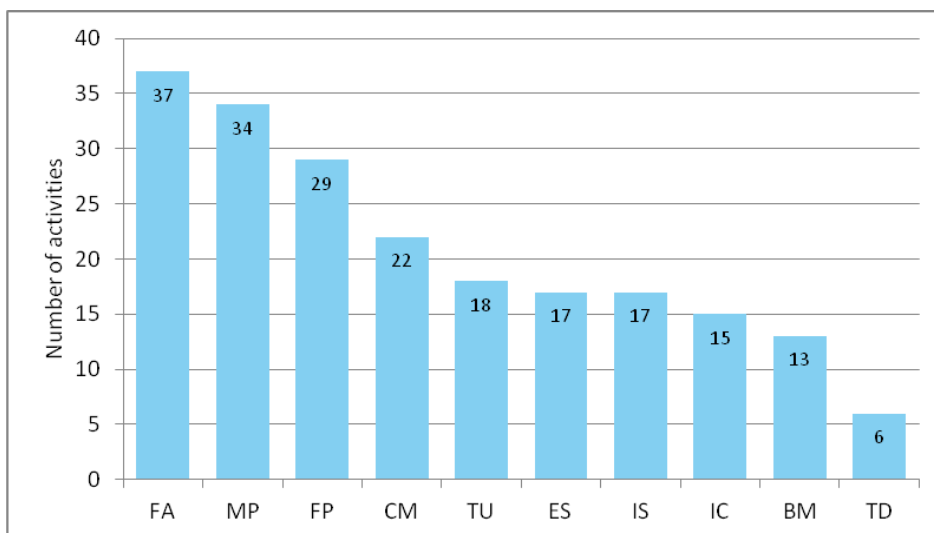
The Council is the coordinating and funding institution in Lithuania for the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). In February, May and November 2011, a member of the Research Foundation of the Council performing the COST national coordinator functions participated at the 181st, 182nd and 183rd meetings of the COST Committee of Senior Officials that approved new activities under the COST programme and discussed other current issues relevant to the programme management.

By its Resolution No. VII-67 of 19 September 2011 the Council amended the “Description of the procedure for the participation in the COST programme action management committees”, “Description of the procedure for the submission of applications for the participation in the COST programme actions, for the assessment of proposals and the appointment of representatives to the COST programme”, and “Description of the procedure for the submission of financial proposals for the COST programme, evaluation of such proposals, allocation of funds, submission and assessment of reports” (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 117-5537), providing for a possibility to appoint a substitute representative at a COST action management committee and amending the procedure for the expert evaluation of proposals.

During 2011, the Council was further implementing the continuous calls to submit proposals concerning participation in Actions under the COST programme. In the course of the year the Council organised three interim proposal collection and expert assessment sessions. In 2011, the Council received 18 proposals for the participation in the COST programme from 7 Lithuanian higher education and research institutions. Following the expert assessment 12 representatives of Lithuania were nominated to 11 COST action management committees.

Lithuanian higher education and research institutions were most actively participating in the COST action domains “Food and Agriculture”, “Materials, Physics and Nanosciences”, and “Forests, their Products and Services”, while the least number of representatives participated in the activities of the “Interdisciplinary” domain (Fig. 2).

**Fig. 2** Participation of Lithuania in COST actions in 2000-2011 according to research domains (FA – Food and Agriculture; MP – Materials, Physics and Nanosciences; FP – Forests, their Products and Services; CM – Chemistry, Molecular Sciences and Technologies; TU – Transport and Urban Development; ES – Earth Sciences and Environmental Management; IS – Individuals, Society, Cultures and Health; IC – Information and Communication Technologies; BM – Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences, ID – Interdisciplinary Domain).



In 2011, a call for financial proposals for the COST National Coordinator. Following the expert evaluation a financial support of LTL 178,000 was granted to the COST National Coordinator for his representation activities and research related to the subject-matter of the activities.

In 2011, the Council was actively involved in the dissemination of information on participation in and the financing possibilities under the COST programme; for that purpose the Council was providing regular consultations to interested parties and hosted 4 information events.



*5.4.2.5. Administration of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (FP 7)*

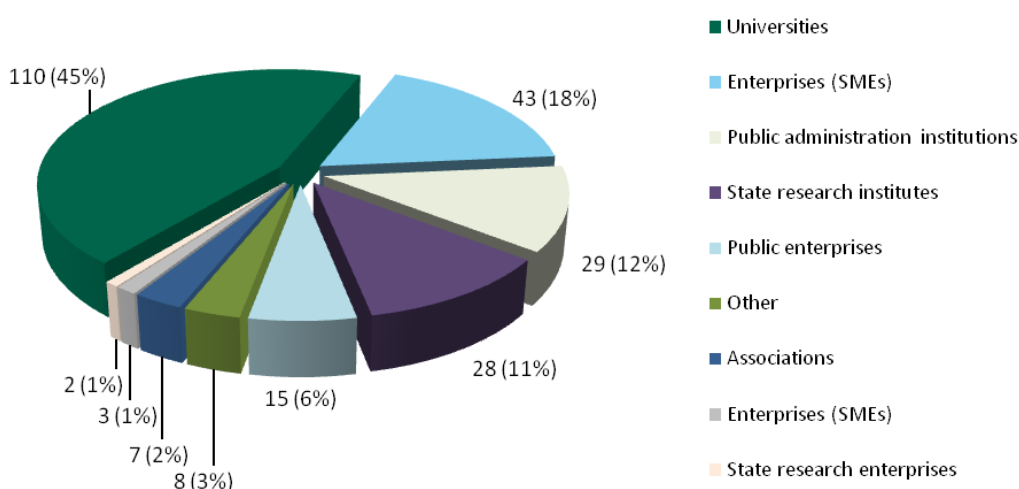
In 2011, the Council was managing the following parts of the EU 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities:

- thematic areas “Environment (including climate change)” and “Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities” under the specific “Cooperation” programme;
- thematic areas “Research infrastructures”, “Research potential”, “Science in Society”, “Support for Coherent Development of Research Policies”, “International Cooperation” under the specific programme “Capacities”;
- specific programme “People”;
- specific programme “Ideas”;
- the activities of the Joint Research Centre.

In cooperation with MITA the Council administers the thematic areas “Health” and “Food, agriculture and fisheries, biotechnology” of the specific programme “Cooperation” of the FP 7.

Currently 7 National Contact Points (NCP) are working at the Council. In 2011, the NCP of the Council participated in 10 NCP meetings hosted by the European Commission. The Council also held 10 information events about FP 7. The Council developed the statistical database on the participation of Lithuania in the FP 7; the database is updated 2-3 times per year. As of 19 October 2011, there were 245 participants of the FP 7 from Lithuania (Fig.3).

**Fig. 3** Total Lithuanian institutions in FP7 projects by institution types.



Funding to participants of the FP 7 programme is granted by the European Commission following the rules on the participation in the FP 7 programme, however, the value added tax (hereinafter – VAT) paid in the course of the implementation of projects is not an eligible cost and therefore not compensated by the European Commission. With a view to facilitating the participation of Lithuanian scientists and researchers in the FP 7, the Council on 14 January, 1 June and 19 September 2011 published calls according to which institutions implementing FP 7 projects could file the documents for the reimbursement of the VAT. The funds for the reimbursement of VAT costs were granted in accordance with Resolution No. VII-47 of 15 September 2010 “Concerning the approval of the description of the procedure for the value added tax costs incurred in relation to the projects funded from the programmes of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities” (Official Gazette 2010 No. 112-5731). Total LTL 574,551,000 was granted to 18 applicants.

On 12 October 2011, the Chairman of the Council participated at the 11th meeting of the FP7 specific programme “Ideas” held in Brussels. Prof. Dr. Donald B. Dingwell, a newly appointed Secretary General of the *European Research Council* (hereinafter – ERC) introduced the Work programme for 2013, and briefed on other most immediate tasks. The Programme has been drafted seeking coherence with the Strategy “Europe 2020”. An important aspect in the Programme is its international dimension, with the significant efforts to attract participants from outside Europe, since currently their share accounts for about 10%. The Programme also emphasised equal opportunities, as in respect of young researcher competitions women account for only about 25% of funded projects. Authors of proposals are entitled to apply concerning appeal (corrigendum). It should be noted that the results and the quality of the expert evaluation were not questioned taking that the experts were highly qualified and working independently. There might be some issues concerning formal procedures and other discrepancies; however the percentage share of such proposals was marginal. Dr. A. Baltuška is a first researcher from Lithuania who became a winner of the young researcher project and has been for a number of years working abroad (currently in Vienna). The number of proposals submitted in response to the 2011 call for proposals for support to advanced researchers was relatively small, i.e. 2,167, which is significantly less than in the case of young researchers. Total 25 evaluation panels were set up to evaluate the proposals. The success ratio according to the number of proposals and the funds allocated is 12-15%, which is a fairly satisfactory achievement. It needs, however, to be regretfully noted that Lithuanian researchers are not sufficiently active in submitting their

proposals. It is absolutely necessary to encourage Lithuanian researchers to more actively engage in submitting proposals although the national funding sources in case the success indicator is higher, do not facilitate activity. It has been proposed to consider the funding of some highly-evaluated Lithuanian applicants waiving an additional expert evaluation via different programmes of the Council.

With a view to encouraging FP 7 participants in Lithuania the Council drafted and approved by Order No. V-192 of 21 November 2011 of the Chairman of the Council “Concerning the approval of the description of granting support to applicants drawing up proposals under the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities, and the form of the grant agreement” (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 142-6695) the Description of the procedure and published a call for financial proposals concerning support for applicants drafting the proposals under the calls of the 2011 Work programmes. Total under this measure LTL 722,000 were granted to 65 applicants.

The Council also finances the expenses of experts and representatives related to participation in meetings of the FP 7 programme committees. The Council's experts and representatives participated in 10 meetings of FP 7 programme committees; total disbursements in that relation accounted for LTL 11,313,000.

The Council was also submitting its proposals and was actively participating in drawing up Lithuania's position concerning the future Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities programme – Horizon 2020.

### **5.4.3. Support and fellowship programmes**

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#### *5.4.3.1. Support for academic associations*

Acting in accordance with Article 66 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2009, No. 54-2140) and its Regulations Council supports the activities of student unions and organisations, organisations of scientists and other researchers, student research organisations and other associations (hereinafter – academic associations). The support to academic associations seeks to promote activities of such associations related to the objectives of the higher education and research system and the engagement in identifying and addressing issues relevant for the development of the higher education and research system, as well as searching for most efficient ways for their solution.

Resolution No. VII-68 of 4 April 2011 of the Council approved the new Description of the procedure for granting support to academic associations (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 45-2152).

In 2011, the Council published two calls for proposals to provide grants under the measure. Total 60 proposals were received; grant support in the amount of LTL 140,767,000 was awarded to 39 projects of academic associations. Partial support was allocated to specific activities of academic associations related to the implementation of objectives of higher education and research system and addressing issues relevant to the development of research and studies system, continuation of the activities of organisations and those specified in projects, expertise of an organisation, also taking into consideration the quality of a proposal, funding demand and the eligibility of funds. Also account was taken of the scale of participation of academic associations in international organisations, their activity scope and visibility.

It must, however, be observed that among applying academic associations there were some that failed to meet the requirements specified in the Description of the procedure for granting support to academic associations, or their activities were not related to research system, or the associations submitted ungrounded estimates providing for non-eligible costs, such as for catering, business trips, expenses for travel or accommodation, office supplies, transport services or publication of periodic magazines.

#### *5.4.3.2. Support for researcher travel*

In this area the Council is carrying its activities in accordance with Art. 77(9) of the Law on Higher Education and Research. The purpose of the support to research travels is to promote researchers to develop their professional qualification, enhance mobility of researchers, and support the international dissemination of results of research activities in Lithuania. By its Resolution No. VII-61 of 17 January 2011 Council approved the new Description of the procedure for granting support to researcher travel (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 9-438). Resolution No. VII-69 of 4 April 2011 of the Council (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 45-2153) introduced amendments to and supplemented the Description.

The call for proposals was published in January and was open until 2 November. The Commission was evaluating the proposals received once in two months. Total 578 proposals were received. Support in the amount of LTL 1,047,337 was awarded to 393 trips of researchers.

Support to researcher trips is the most popular type of support as compared to support to research events and academic associations.

#### *5.4.3.3. Support for research events*

The purpose of support to research events is to promote the development of research activities in Lithuania and strengthen international research relations. Research events supported by the Council are supposed to address topical science problems, facilitate the dissemination of the most modern scientific ideas, support the adaptation of such ideas in practice and the social cultural development.

This area of supported activities was administered in accordance with the Description of the procedure for granting support to research events approved by Resolution No. VVI-57 of 20 December 200 of the Council (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 56-7960).

In 2011, three calls for proposals concerning support to research events were published. Total 27 proposals were submitted and support of LTL 947,140 was awarded to 87 research events.

#### *5.4.3.4. Researcher internship programme*

The researcher internship programme is implemented in accordance with Resolution No. 1153 of 21 November 2006 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania "[Concerning the approval of the qualification requirements for positions of research interns, the procedure for the appointment to such positions, and the procedure for funding researcher internship programmes](#)" (Official Gazette, 2006, No. [127-4835](#)). In 2007-2009, the programme was managed by the former State Studies Foundation of Lithuania, and since 2010 the function was delegated to the Council. In 2011, the Council was evaluating the annual and final reports on internship assignments of researchers. During the period 9 internship assignments were continued and supported with a grant of LTL 193,200.

#### *5.4.3.5. Grants to doctoral students and support to their academic trips*

The Council commenced administering this area of activity in accordance with Resolution No. 1134 of 28 September 2011 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania "Concerning the amendment of Resolution No. 1431 of 11 September 2002 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania "Concerning the State support to doctoral students and post-graduate students in arts" (Official Gazette, 2011, No. [120-5659](#)). Resolution No. VII-68 of 21 November 2011 of the Council approved the new Description of the procedure for granting support to academic associations (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 143-6749). In 2011, the Council published one call for proposals under the programme. By 15 December total 837 proposals for doctoral grants and 92 proposals

for funding study trips of doctoral students were received. The proposals were submitted to expert evaluation.

#### *5.4.4.6. Support to drawing up research papers*

This area of activity was taken over by the Council from the former State Studies Foundation of Lithuania. In 2011, support was awarded to the drawing up of one research work only. Following the positive assessment of the manuscript by the experts the group of authors was awarded support in the amount of LTL 6,000.

## 5.5. International cooperation

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### 5.5.1. European Science Foundation

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During 2011, the Council was further participating in the activities of the European Science Foundation (hereinafter – ESF). However, the insufficiently effective performance of the ESF prompted the national organisations in charge of financing research to search different ways of activities. A conclusion was arrived at to establish a new organisation. The issue concerning a smooth transformation of the ESF into another organisation was submitted for voting at the General Assembly of the ESF, however, the decision was not passed falling short of 2 votes for the required approval by 2/3 of the members. Thus a different decision was passed – to establish a new organisation.

On 21 October 2011, an Assembly of national research and science funding and performing organisations was held in Berlin which announced a launch of a new uniting organisation “Science Europe”. National organisations administer over 90% of all European funds allocated to European research, therefore the most relevant issues of European dimension are to be related to coordination of research activities, enhanced visibility and impact of science and the organisations representing it. The Assembly was attended by 150 most eminent figures in science and politics. A special focus was placed on the need to enhance the visibility and competitiveness of European science globally. References to these objectives were made by the M. Geoghegan-Quinn, the current European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General of DG Research, and other speakers. Within the new organisation the key role in forming the framework science policy and the relevant priorities will be played by scientists: six scientific committees will be set up according to individual research fields and

involving the most prominent European researchers. Science Europe is expected to strongly support cooperation between national organisations so necessary in strengthening the European Research Area. The representation of Science Europe in Brussels is expected to successfully represent the common interests of national organisations in cooperation with the European Commission and other European institutions. This organisation is designed to fill in the gaps in the activities of the ESF. Science Europe currently unites 50 research funding and research performing organisations from the entire Europe, including the Research Council of Lithuania.

The ESF's activities have not been terminated either, under a new management though. The Chairman of the Council was a member of the selection panel that elected a new President of the ESF from among 5 possible candidates. The selection panel proposed Prof. P. Omling to be elected to the position of the new President; Prof. P. Omling was elected President of the ESF at the General Assembly of the ESF of November 2011. Within the next three years the ESF is obliged to accomplish the activities already in progress and ensure the possibilities to continue the joint research projects currently implemented.

In 2011, the Council was invited as a participant at the events organised by the ESF, and was disseminating information about its activities. 5 representatives of Lithuania were appointed to the ESF Management committees:

- Prof. Juozas Kulys was repeatedly appointed to the Standing Committee for Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences;
- Dr. Julius Žilinskas was appointed to the Standing Committee for Physical and Engineering Sciences;
- Prof. Limas Kupčinskas was appointed to the Standing Committee for the European Medical Research Councils;
- Prof. Algis Krupavičius was repeatedly appointed to the Management Committee “Social Sciences”;
- Dr. Aldona Miežalienė was appointed to the Standing Committee for the European Network for Gastrointestinal Health Research.

On 10-11 May 2011, the spring plenary meeting of the ESF’s Standing Committee for Social Sciences was held at the Council.

Prof. Rūta Marcinkevičienė, Chairwoman of the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Council was representing Lithuania at the Standing Committee for the Humanities of the ESF. Prof. Rūta Marcinkevičienė, being a member of the Programme committee was working on the joint topic *Changing Publication Cultures in the Humanities* at the Young

Researcher's Forum "Spring of Humanitarians 2011", and participated at the joint ESF and COST seminar *Cultural Literacy in Contemporary Europe*. Furthermore, Prof. Rūta Marcinkevičienė is participating in the standing Forum of ESF member States and the Insight prepared by the ESF *Media Studies: New Media and New Literacies*.

### **5.5.2. Joint Programming Initiatives**

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One of the representatives appointed by Lithuania being not able to participate in the activities of the Council of the *Joint Programming Initiative Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a New Challenge for Europe*, the Council initiated the procedure for the appointment of a new representative. By motion of the Council, Audronė Kasperavičienė, Director of the State Cultural Reserve of Vilnius Castles, was approved as its representative.

### **5.5.3. Researchers in motion network EURAXESS**

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In the second half of 2011, the Council took over from the Centre of Quality Assessment in Higher Education the functions of the coordinator of the Lithuanian national EURAXESS centres. EURAXESS – is the network of the European Researchers in Motion centres established at the initiative of the European Commission. Currently EURAXESS is operating through over 200 *EURAXESS Service Centres* established in 37 European States. The principal mission of such centres is to provide to scientists and researchers free and personalised practical information related to the legal system, social protection, guarantees and the taxation system. The Lithuanian researcher mobility centre is also a member of EURAXESS.

### **5.5.4. Other international cooperation activities**

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On 26 February – 5 March 2011, the Chairman of the Council participated in and delivered a presentation at the seminars on cooperation between Japan and the Baltic States in research area. During the trip several meetings with representatives of institutions funding science in Japan were organised, also the delegation visited different research and education institutions, discussed possibilities of cooperation in the field of research and considered possible funding schemes. On 6-8 March 2011, the Chairman of the Council was visiting the United Kingdom within the delegation of the Ministry of Education and Science. At the meetings with representatives of the Royal Society, research councils and ministries members of the delegation



discussed possible cooperation issues, especially, the possible involvement of experts into proposal evaluation exercise.

Prof. Rūta Marcinkevičienė, Chairman of the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences was an active participant at the working meetings of the Humanities Education and Research Association HERA (ERA-NET Plus project) held in Amsterdam and Ljubljana. In this relation an agreement on participation in a HERA programme “Culture crossings” was concluded. This was the first ever occasion of the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Council participating in this activity. During 2011, the Council undertook the necessary preparatory works for publishing a call for proposals regarding the international HERA projects.

On 7 December 2011, Dr. Brigita Serafinavičiūtė, the Scientific Secretary of the Council participated at the meeting of scientific secretaries of advisory councils on research and technology issues of the EU States. Participants of the meeting exchanged information on the changes in research and education systems in their respective countries.

In 2011, the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Council appointed three representatives to the working groups of the European Commission related to the development of the Framework strategic programme of the European Commission.

#### **5.5.5. Financing of representatives in European Union and other international working groups**

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During 2011, the Council continued financing the activities of representatives in various EU and other international working groups, committees, commissions, etc., acting in accordance with the “Regulations on the delegation of representatives of the Research Council of Lithuania to European Union and other international working groups, committees, commissions related to research and development” approved by Order No. V-14 of 1 February 2011 of the Chairman of the Council (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 17-827).

In 2011, the Council concluded 18 tripartite agreements concerning financing of activities of representatives in various EU and other international working groups, committees, commissions, etc. Total LTL 44,267.26 was granted as support under these agreements.

## **6. Activities of the institution and its tasks according to special assignments (Resolutions of the Parliament, State programmes, etc.)**

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### **6.1. Projects of the European Union structural funds**

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#### **6.1.1. Support to research activities of scientists and other researchers (Global grant)**

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Since by Order No. 1K-382 of 14 December 2010 of the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2010, No. 148-7606) the “Rules on the administration and funding of Global grant measures” were laid down in a new version, it became necessary to amend the tripartite Agreement on financing and administration of the Global grant. The Agreement was accordingly amended by the Agreement of 9 February 2011 between the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Science and the Council.

The Order of 24 January 2011 of the Chairman of the Council approved the list of projects eligible for funding under measure VP1-3.1-ŠMM-07-K “Support to Research Activities of Scientists and Other Researchers” (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Global Grant Measure’), Priority 3 “Strengthening of Capacities of Researchers and other Scientists” of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development). Funding was granted to 33 research projects implemented by world-class researchers; the leaders of two projects financed were foreign researchers. Funding was granted to 12 projects in the areas of social sciences and humanities, and 21 projects in natural and technical sciences. The signing of the project grant and administration agreements was delayed because of the protracted proposal evaluation process. Despite difficulties, the agreements with project teams were signed in March 2011.

The high international level research projects are being successfully implemented. In 2011, LTL 3.4 m were granted to the project teams. The major share of the funds was granted for salaries of scientists and researchers, acquisition of materials, laboratory equipment and scientific literature required for research activities, as well as for the participation in international conferences.

With research projects financed under the first call gaining momentum the Council by its Resolution No. VII-89 of 2 December 2011, the Council approved the Description of the Global grant measure for the second and third call for proposals (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 158-7509). On 28 December 2011, the Council announced the second call for proposals under the Global grant measure envisaging an allocation of LTL 50 m for high international level research projects. The third call for proposals is scheduled to be announced in Q3 2012.

### 6.1.2. Technical assistance for the implementation of the Global grant

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The Council started performing its functions in relation to the implementation of the measure VP1-3.1-ŠMM-07-V Support to research activities of scientists and other researchers (Global grant) (hereinafter – Technical assistance project) after on 30 March 2010 the Council and the PE Central Project Management Agency concluded the agreement on funding and administration of the Technical assistance project. The purpose of the Technical assistance project is to ensure appropriate financial and technical conditions for the implementation of the measure VP1-3.1-ŠMM-07-K “Support to Research Activities of Scientists and Other Researchers“ of Priority 3 of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development. In 2011, total LTL 877,000 was granted for the implementation of the Technical assistance project, of which LTL 332,000 was earmarked for salaries. In 2011, LTL 481,500 were used out of the total grant amount. The grant funds were not completely absorbed having not used the funds earmarked for expert evaluation of proposals (fees according to copyright agreements, expert travel and accommodation expenses). In 2011, no expert evaluation was carried out as the call for proposals under the programme Global grant II was announced as late as December 2011. Therefore the expert evaluation process was postponed until March-April 2012.

With a view to ensuring the efficient management and implementation of the Global grant measure, favourable working conditions and appropriate compensation were provided to the employees performing functions related to the implementation of the programme-based competitive financing: 9 working places were created, the participating employees were enhancing their professional qualification and benefited from the opportunities to advance their professional knowledge and skills.

In 2012, the appropriations for the Technical assistance project were increased to LTL 1,189,000. The staff for the purpose of the appropriate implementation of the Global grant measures was increased to 17 employees. The increase in the allocations under the technical assistance programme was also related to the appropriations granted to the Council for the information on and publicity of the measures under the action programmes. The purpose of the technical assistance for information and publicity is to inform applicants, project teams and the society about the use, results and the benefit of the structural support.

### 6.1.3. Lithuanian studies

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The project is being implemented according to Priority 3 “Strengthening of capacities of researchers” (VP1-3.1-ŠMM-02-V-01-001) of the Operation Programme for Human Resources Development. The project is a continued project that has been in progress since 2009. The purpose of the Project is to carry out research about the State of Lithuania, the society, the past of the nation and the present of the nation and the language. For scientific Lithuanian studies to become part of the global knowledge accessible to not only Lithuanian but also foreign consumers interested in the subject, it is important to accumulate the research materials and information using modern information accumulation, access and processing technologies. The principal purpose of the project is the development of the international scientific database (hereinafter – DB) *Lituanistika* accumulating and disseminating verified and high quality information on the most current Lithuanian studies. Principal tasks envisaged under the project:

1. Accumulate information in Lithuanian studies;
2. Ensure the scientific quality of the works entered into the DB (qualitative and quantitative evaluation);
3. Ensure the internationality and the quality criteria of the DB (drawing up and translation of summaries for works in the access to reference information and the most important full-text works, data transfer to other DBs).
4. Other services (quoting, usages of databases, reporting).

In 2011, total 3,100 research works were evaluated, and the database was supplemented by 3,000 comprehensive entries.

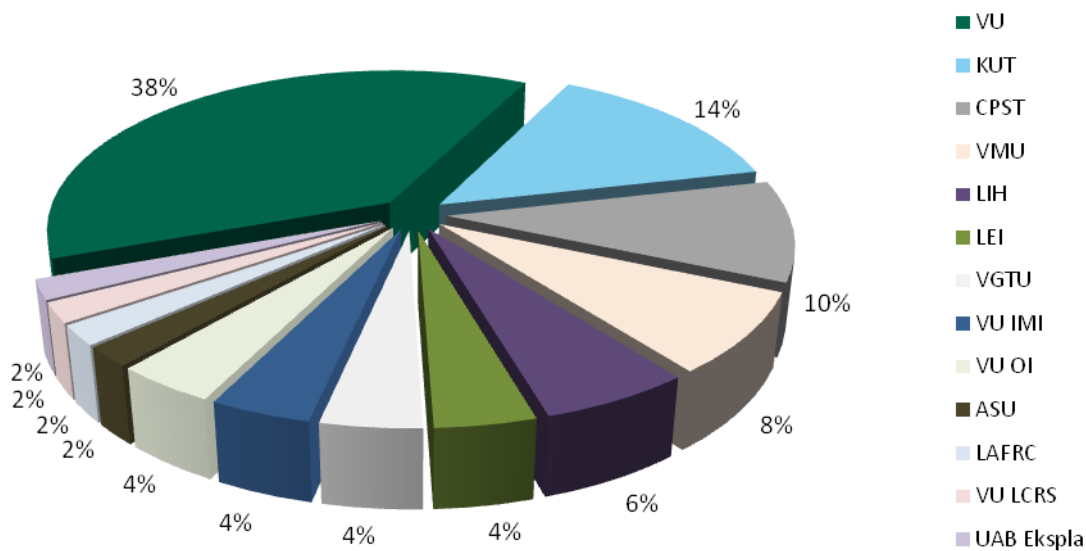
### 6.1.4. Implementation of post-doctoral fellowship in Lithuania

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The project is implemented according to Priority 3 “Strengthening of capacities of researchers” (VP1-3.1-ŠMM-02-V-01-001) of the Operation Programme for Human Resources Development for 2007-2013. The objective pursued by the project is to develop the post-doctoral fellowship system by including into the research activities third cycle university level students enabling them to pursue independent research, and prepare for academic pedagogy career. The Project enables fellowship students to prepare for independent research work, upgrade their scholarly, pedagogical and academic management qualifications. Fellowship students may initiate their original research subjects, thus ensuring the development of competences and qualifications of human resources.

In the autumn of 2011, having completed two-year post-doctoral studies 49 researchers completed their fellowship programmes, and their graduation reports were submitted for evaluation. Another 51 researchers are still continuing their post-doctoral fellowship studies in Lithuanian higher education and research institutions. The break-down of post-doctoral fellowship studies in progress in Lithuanian research centres is shown in Fig. 4.

**Fig. 4** Post-doctoral fellowship studies in Lithuanian research centres (VU – Vilnius University; KUT – Kaunas University of Technology; CPST – Centre for Physical Sciences and Technology; VMU – Vytautas Magnus University; LIH – Lithuanian Institute of History; LEI – Lithuanian Energy Institute; VGTU – Vilnius Gediminas Technical University; VU IMI – Vilnius University Institute of Mathematics and Informatics; VU OI – Vilnius University Institute of Oncology; ASU – Aleksandras Stulginskis University, LAFRC – Lithuanian Agrarian and Forestry Research Centre; VU LCRS – Lithuanian Culture Research Institute).



In December 2011, Agreement No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V-02-004 was signed concerning the second stage of the project “Implementation of post-doctoral fellowship in Lithuania” to last until mid-2015. Late in 2011, the Council announced the 3rd call to submit proposals for the competition in post-doctoral fellowship studies.

#### 6.1.5. Competitive financing of short-term visits of scholars

The project is implemented according to Priority 3 “Strengthening of capacities of researchers”(VP1-3.1-ŠMM-02-V-01-001) of the Operation Programme for Human Resources Development for 2007-2013. On 16 November 2009, a Grant agreement was signed providing for the completion of the project by 16 November 2011. The agreement was amended in view of the

changes in the conditions of the principal activities – organisation of visits of scholars. Furthermore, the project was extended until September 2012.

The objectives of the Project include the strengthening the links between researchers working in foreign States and Lithuanian higher schools, research institutions and other entities and institutions engaged in research activities thus enhancing the level of research conducted thereby; facilitate in preparing for attracting high-level foreign researchers to Lithuania and the reintegration of Lithuanian researchers currently working abroad, also to enable young researchers to participate in international research events. The funds are granted to cover the travel expenses of scholars and researchers, participation fee, accommodation and other expenses related to the visits and the activities during such visits.

Scholars and researchers may arrive to pursue the following activities: take part in the doctoral process (opponent, reviewer, member of the committee, consultant) (visit duration – up to 4 days); lecture or workshop cycle (visit duration – up to 14 days), research work (visit duration – up to 50 days). Scholars and researchers may also travel to participate in international research events (visit duration – up to 5 days).

On 29 June 2011, the first call to submit proposals for receiving support was announced. Eligible for submitting proposals were applicants for support for visits under any of the four categories in the period from September 2011 to 31 January 2012. Total 127 proposals were received, of which 76 were ranked as eligible for financing and granted support in the amount of LTL 347,063.66.

#### **6.1.6. Promoting students' research activities**

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The Project is implemented according to Priority 3 “Strengthening of capacities of researchers” of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development for 2007-2013 (VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V-01-002). The Project is financed from the resources of the European Social Fund and the State budget of Lithuania.

The purpose of the students' research activities promotion is to enhance the interest among academic youth in research activities and reveal the prospects for a scholar's career. The Project enables researchers to carry out individual research using the most state-of-the-art research equipment and facilities and resources of scientific literature required for modern research. The Project seeks to promote the mobility of academic youth between different higher education and research institutions.

The Project is composed of three parts, namely the research practice for students, research activities during the semester and visits of doctoral degree students to foreign research centres. Academic supervisors of student's research works are the highest qualification Lithuanian scholars and researchers. Students participating in the Project are paid fixed-amount grants.

In April 2011, the Council completed the first stage of the Project, and in November launched the second stage of the Project. The activities within the first stage of the Project (2009-2011) involved 711 first, second and third cycle students from Lithuanian and EU higher schools, and total LTL 4,127.79 was granted to finance the activities pursued by students.

In 2011, a conference was held to discuss the results of the research works carried out by students. Another conference was held to review and discuss the results of research projects carried out by doctoral students at foreign research centres. The two conferences were attended by 250 participants, and the conference materials were issued in separate publications.

Within the second stage of the Project 196 tripartite agreements between the Council, a student and the higher education and research institution hosting the students' research works were signed. Total LTL 841,000 was allocated for such students' research Project.

#### **6.1.7. Developing and implementing of the programme-based competitive (research and development projects) financing scheme – strengthening of administrative and expert abilities of the Research Council of Lithuania and its functions related to the development of the programme-based competitive financing model**

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The Project is financed from the resources of the European structural funds and the State budget of Lithuania. The project financing and administration agreement was signed on 23 December 2009. The purpose of the project is to develop and implement an efficient competitive financing scheme for research and development projects. The project includes a task to develop an information system for the administration of proposals for research projects. For the objective to be achieved three principal tasks were defined: strengthen the abilities of members of the Council in the area of expert evaluation of research projects and facilitate them in mastering the key principles of working in expert groups; strengthen the abilities of employees of the Council in administration of research projects; develop a computerised information system for administration of research projects integrating all research financing schemes administered by the Council.

During 2011, the Council was implementing the areas of the Project related to strengthening of expert abilities – members of the Council participated in the activities of quality assessment panels (expert evaluation of projects drawn up at the initiative of groups of

researchers, national research programmes and other projects). Also the Council has started organising training visits and training of its administrative staff.

#### **6.1.8. Promotion of gender equality in sciences (LYMOS)**

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Starting from 1 March 2011, the Council has been on partner's rights implementing Activity 1.2.1. "Application of financial support measures for scientists and other researchers" of the Project "Promotion of gender equality in sciences (LYMOS)" implemented by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. The objective of the project is to work out the structural basis for the implementation of gender mainstreaming principles in the Lithuanian science system, and contribute to the increase of the number of women researchers in the academic, research and studies management and physical and technology sciences.

Two types (activities) of financial support have been envisaged: 1) participation in conferences, summer schools, etc.; 2) restoring of qualification of doctoral students and researchers returning from maternity (paternity) leave.

In 2011, two calls to submit proposals were published under the 1st type of support. Total 9 proposals were received of which 6 were ranked as eligible for financing. One of the reasons for having a relatively small number of proposals is that the support for travels could be provided to doctoral students and researchers in the area of physical and technology sciences only. Furthermore, this is a new type of support with which many of potential applicants are not familiar with. In 2011, the Council initiated an amendment to the project agreement.

In March 2012, the Council intends to announce a call to submit proposals within the LYMOS programme for applicants seeking to obtain grants for the restoration of their scientific qualification and support for research visits. Eligible beneficiaries of the financial support include scientists and other researchers (including doctoral students) of all research areas (physical, technology, biomedical, agriculture, humanities and social sciences) who have returned to continue their research activities after maternal (paternal) leave.

## **6.2. International projects**

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### **6.2.1. Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme "Research and development"**

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On 5 November 2011, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and the PE Central Project Management Agency the Council signed the Agreement on the implementation of



the project under the Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme (hereinafter – LSCP) “Research and Development” seeking to alleviate economic and social disparities in the enlarged European Union. The Council, being an executive institution for the LSCP, is responsible for the organisation and publicity of the call to submit proposals, preparation of the call documentation and its approval at the Joint Selection Committee, collection of proposals, organisation of the evaluation process, conclusion of contracts with applicants and the supervision over the implementation of projects.

In 2011, in cooperation with the Joint Selection Committee the Council drew up the LSCP implementation Description in the Lithuanian and English languages that was approved by Order No. V-182 of 9 November 2011 of the Chairman of the Council (Official Gazette, 2011, No. 35-6446). On 16 November 2011, the call to submit proposals until 6 May 2012.

During 2011, the Council was actively engaged in the dissemination of information: the information about the LSCP programme and the call was published in the website of the Council, at information events in Vilnius and Fribourg (Switzerland), by information releases in media, potential applicants were extensively consulted on issues of participation in the programme and submission of proposals.

### **6.2.2. Swiss Grant Fund (Sciex-NMS<sup>ch</sup>)**

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The Swiss Grant Fund allocated to Lithuania is one of the measures financed under the Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme. The Grant Fund is implemented according to Scientific Exchange Program between the new Member States of the EU (EU-10) and Switzerland (Sciex-NMS<sup>ch</sup>). In 2011, the second call to submit proposals was published and was open for young researchers from Lithuania.

During 2011, the Council, being the coordinating institution, was continuing the administration of the Swiss Grant Fund in Lithuania. The Council was disseminating information about the call for proposals earmarked for Lithuania and organised an information day. Furthermore, the Council drew up and approved questionnaires for expert evaluation of proposals, and updated the Sciex-NMS<sup>ch</sup> Procedure Manual. A representative of the Council participated at events for Programme administrators held in Switzerland.

According to the call of 2011, young Lithuanian researchers submitted 16 proposals. Following the evaluation as eligible for funding were ranked 5 proposals of doctoral students and 3 proposals of post-doctoral fellowship students. The applicants were allocated CHF 557,000. The Council has carried out the eligibility check and the first stage expert evaluation of the proposals.

### **6.2.3. Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme BONUS**

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The Council acts as the coordinating, administering and financing institution in Lithuania for the Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme. In 2011, a representative of the Council was actively participating in the work of the Programme Management Committee and attended 4 meetings. The agenda of the meeting included discussions of the programme documents, conditions for participation, financial commitments of member States and other issues. In 2011, the national representative of the Programme was attending 2 meetings of the call group the purpose whereof was to prepare for the publishing and implementing of the first call. In view of the comments to the documents received from the European Commission, the call could not be launched in 2011, therefore it is expected to launch in the first half of 2012.

The year 2011 was the year of intensive preparation for the new stage of the programme – the BONUS-85 programme period scheduling the launching and execution of calls. In cooperation with other responsible institutions the Council organised two national information events for potential programme participants in Vilnius and in Klaipėda.

In 2011, the Council completed the financing of 3 Lithuanian participants of the international projects under the 3 year long BONUS+ call; following the expert evaluation the Lithuanian participants of the BONUS projects were allocated LTL 436,976.

### **6.2.4. FP 7 project “Coordination of research policies in regions and countries” (TARGET)**

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From 2009 to October 2011, in cooperation with partners from five countries the Council was implementing a FP7 OMC-NET activity project “Coordination of research policies in regions and countries” (TARGET) funded by the European Commission. The project participants were five public sector research institutions (Ministry of Economy and Labour of France, Slovenian TIA, XUNTA (Spain), National Council for Research and Development of the Ministry of Science of Israel, and the Research Council of Lithuania) that are directly related to the formation of research policies, and three institutions carrying out research (Jerusalem Institute of Israel Studies, the Innovation, Structural Change and Development Group of the University of Santjago de Compostela, and the Innogen Group of the Institute for the Studies of Science, Technology and Innovation of the University of Edinburgh ).

In 2011, the Council drew up and tested in practice the guidelines for the public sector research policies, and a set of measures in formation and implementation of an efficient R&D policy. As an object for the project the Council chose the rapidly developing biotechnology sector

the research results whereof may be applied in medicine and other areas. The institutions participating in the project, as well as scientists and politicians from other European countries discussed the research structure at institutions of their respective countries and their activities in forming and implementing the science policy at a summarising conference of the TARGET project.

#### **6.2.5. Participation in the ERA-NET programme EuroNanoMed**

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In spring 2011, the third international call was published to submit proposals for the project EuroNanoMed implemented under the FP 7 research coordination scheme ERA-NET. At the end of 2011, the project was completed exceeding the expectations of the international consortium – in the course of the project implementation three calls were published instead of the originally intended two calls.

#### **6.2.6. Participation in the ERA-NET programme BiodivERSA2**

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According to the 2010-2011 call under the BIODIVERSA2 programme total 72 proposals were submitted, including 6 proposals submitted together with partners by Lithuanian higher education and research institutions. Following the international expert evaluation 7 projects were ranked as eligible for financing (no Lithuanian higher education and research institutions among the financed project partners). Total EUR 9.5 m was committed to fund the projects under the programme.

In 2011, the Council drew up the draft Description of the procedure for financing projects under the BIODIVERSA2 programme. The Description sets forth procedure for the submission of proposals seeking to obtain financing for implementation of projects under the programme “Cooperation and common strategy in implementing biological diversity research programmes in Europe”, evaluation of the proposals, allocation of State budget funds, submission of reports and evaluation thereof at the Council.

On 1 November 2011, the Council published a preliminary registration for the call of 2011-2012; the call to submit proposals was published on 16 December 2011. The gross budget under the call is EUR 6 m.

Representatives of the Council were participating in two general meetings and the kick-off meeting of BIODIVERSA2 that overviewed the network of the participating organisations, the organisational structure, and approved the documents required for the operations of the consortium, as well as discussed the activity schedule. Furthermore, representatives of the Council attended two meetings of the BIODIVERSA2 administration committee that discussed a

number of issues, such as the setting up of the international expert panel, organisation of expert evaluation, project financing and other issues related to the administration of the call.

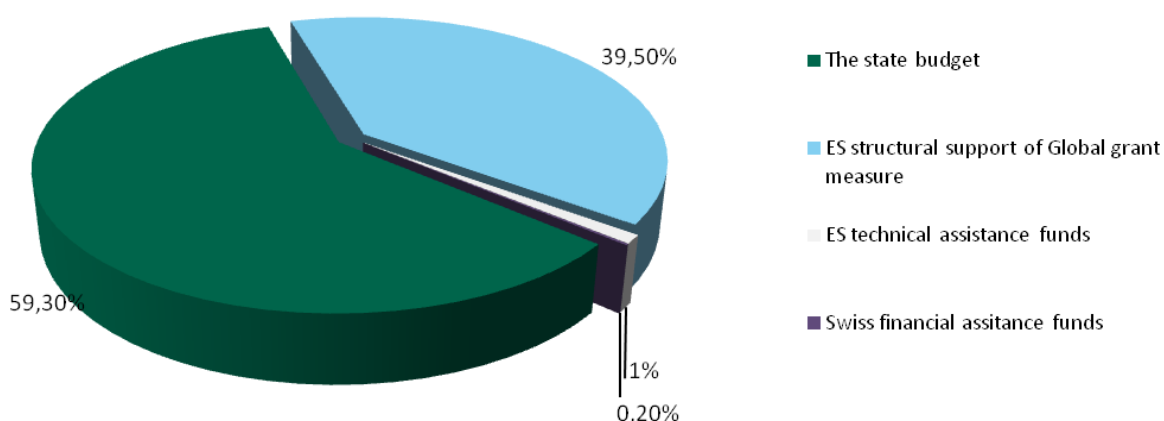
## 7. Budget appropriations allocated to the institution at the beginning of the reporting period (according to the State budget programmes)

The 2011 appropriation plan – LTL 91,163,000. The data break-down according to the approved programmes is presented in Table 3 and Fig. 5.

**Table 3** Appropriations to the Council in 2011, LTL thous.

Programme name / No.	Cash expenses, LTL thous.	Cash expenses, LTL thous.	Deviation (+ -), LTL thous.	Execution, %
1	2	3	4 (3-2)	5 (3/2)
Development of the national higher education and research system (European Union funds)/01.101	36,000.00	8024.40	-27,975.60	22.29
Development of the national higher education and research system (State budget funds)/01.301.	54,141.00	52,548.70	-1,592.30	97.10
Development of the national higher education and research system (European Union Technical assistance funds)/01.501.	877.00	481.40	-395.60	54.90
Development of the national higher education and research system (Switzerland funds)/01.701.	145.00	22.90	-122.10	15.79
<b>Total:</b>	<b>91,163.00</b>	<b>61,077.40</b>	<b>-30,085.6</b>	<b>67.00</b>

**Fig. 5.** Appropriations granted to the Council in 2011, %.



## 8. Other funds of the institution (if any)

In 2011, the Lithuanian Business Support Agency transferred to the Council LTL 25,100.

## 9. Use of budget funds

The expenses of the Council in 201 are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4** Break-down of the Council's expenses in 2011 by items.

No.	Item name	Appropriation plan, LTL thous.	Cash expenses, LTL thous.	Unspent funds, LTL thous.
1	2	3	4	5 (3-4)
1.1.	Costs of salaries	2,311.00	1,965.75	345.25
1.2.	Social insurance costs	716.50	607.35	109.15
1.3.	Communications costs	30.00	26.90	3.10
1.4.	Costs of business travel	156.00	135.00	21.00
1.5.	Copyright agreements	1,807.50	1,577.60	229.90
1.6.	Professional development costs	76.30	44.50	31.80
1.7.	Costs of other services	482.80	318.10	164.70
1.8.	Other goods	140.90	115.75	25.15
1.9.	Other expenses for current purposes (Item 2.8 – institutions)	49,355.00	48,183.3	1,171.70
1.10.	Social support (severance pays)	32.00	31.90	0.10
1.11.	For current purposes (transferred funds from the European Union, other international financial support and the general financing funds) (Item 2.9 – institutions)	36,000.00	8,024.35	27,975.65
1.12.	Non-current assets	55.00	46.90	8.10
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>91,163.00</b>	<b>61,077.40</b>	<b>-30,085.60</b>

The largest share of the unspent funds (LTL 27,975.60) is represented by the funds allocated to the programme 01.101 “Development of the national higher education and research system (European Union funds)”. The funds granted to the programme were not fully absorbed, since according to the original plan the second call under the Global grant was to be launched in 2011 followed by financing of successful proposals, simultaneously continuing funding of successful proposals under the first call. However, the second call was launched in December 2012 only, therefore the funds allocated for the call were not started to be used. Part of the unused funds is accounted for by delayed procurements by project teams that were postponed to 2012. The Council notified the Ministry of Finance of a possible failure to absorb the funds allocated for the programme by its Letter of 21 July 2011, in response to Letter No. (24.22-06)-6K-1107692 of 18 July 2011 of the Ministry of Finance.

The funds allocated for technical assistance were absorbed by 55%. The grant funds were not completely absorbed having not used the funds earmarked to expert evaluation of proposals (fees according to copyright agreements, expert travel and accommodation expenses). No expert evaluation under the programme was carried out in 2011, since the second call of the Global

grant measure funded under the programme 01.101 “Development of the national higher education and research system (the European Union funds) was published in December 2011. Therefore the expert evaluation process was postponed to March-April 2012.

The funds of the programme 01.70 “Development of the national higher education and research system (Switzerland funds)” were not fully absorbed, since in view on insufficient cooperation of other institutions the agreement on the implementation of the project under the Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme (hereinafter – LSCP) “Research and Development” seeking to alleviate economic and social disparities in the enlarged European Union between the Ministry of Education and Science, the PE Central Project Management Agency and the Council was signed on 5 November 2011, rather than at the beginning of the year.

The funds of the programme 01.301 “Development of the national higher education and research system (State budget funds)” were absorbed by 97.1%. The major part of the funds that were not withdrawn was represented by the funds granted to institutions for the implementation of research projects. Failure to absorb the funds by 2.9% is acceptable in research projects. One of the main reasons for the failure to absorb the funds to the full extent is the public procurement procedures, in case of delay of which the project fails to absorb not only the funds earmarked for the procurement of capital equipment, but also those provided for the procurement of goods and services.

On 14 June 2010 – 31 May 2011, the National Audit Office was carrying the financial (legality) audit at the Research Council of Lithuania, and submitted the audit report and its conclusions. In response to the press release disseminated by the National Audit Office the Council pointed out that the information on the findings of the financial (legality) audit contained some errors and inaccuracies, and any statements concerning possible misappropriation of assets and abuse are ungrounded and untruthful. A reason for such conclusions by auditors could be related the new procedure of competitive funding of science implemented in accordance with the Law on Higher Education and Research that was enacted in 2009. The implementation of the procedure requires not only special administrative preparedness of the Council, but also respective experience and expertise on the part of the auditors.

## **10. Use of other funds**

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The funds transferred to the Council by the Lithuanian Business Support Agency were used for expert evaluation, and payment of copyright fees to experts for evaluation of proposals.

## **11. Balance of budget appropriations and other funds at the end of the reporting period**

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The balance of State budget appropriations in the account of the Council at the end of the reporting period is LTL 0.00.

The balance of funds at the end of the reporting period was LTL 2,700.

The Council does not have any funds administered under special programmes.

Chairman of the Council

Prof. Eugenijus Butkus

29 February 2012