RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA: 2011-2012

Start of the new decade
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TURNING OF THE NEW PAGE OF THE DECADE

During the twenty years of its independence Lithuania has achieved outstanding results in the area of science and research. Some Lithuanian researchers and their teams have gained recognition not only on the national level, but also globally. However, promotion of the development of international level research, enhancement of the impact of research activities upon national economy and the development of the national scientific culture remain among the most significant and continuous priorities and objectives of the State with secured funding by the Research Council of Lithuania.

The membership in the European Union (EU) sets the objectives of preservation of identity and enhancement of competition. Funding of research activities has been and remains among priority focuses of the EU. Though the EU objective to become the most competitive and the most rapidly developing region in the world has been criticised, there is no doubt that any progress in the 21st century may be achieved only by applying achievements of the modern research in practice. Research and development, education, and innovations are three basic pillars, and knowledge is the axis connecting all these elements. Every nation has to apply its country-specific measures for the development of its national research and science. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to carry out both fundamental and applied research, or, in other words – frontier research which is the combination of both research types.

Prof. Eugenijus Butkus
The Chairman of the Research Council of Lithuania
THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA

Funder

- Coordinates long-term national research programmes
- Administers joint research projects based on international programmes
- Provides financial support for the improvement of competences of researchers

Expert

- Acts as an advisory body to the Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on issues relating to research and training of researchers
- Organizes the assessment of research activities and provides suggestions for the enhancement of efficiency

ERA participant

- Coordinates and administers international interdisciplinary projects funded by the European Union
- Promotes competitive participation of Lithuanian scientists in international research programmes
- Develops institutional networking with similar institutions of foreign countries and organizations forming the European research policy
THE YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION

During the past several years a number of significant changes took place in the activities of the Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter – the Council). Established in 1991 the Council has been an expert institution on issues related to the development of research for many years. After the restructuring in 2007, the Council became the principal national institution providing funding for research activities in Lithuania. At present the annual budget of the Council for competitive funding of research activities amounts to LTL 100 m.

The period of 2011-2012 was of utmost importance for the establishment of a new model of funding granted by the Council. It took only two years for all ongoing measures designed for the competitive funding of the research and other scientific activities in Lithuania to achieve their rapid development. The 20th year of the activities of the Council was distinguished for the longest list of programmes of competitive research funding in the history of the institution. That was the period of an outstanding number of calls for proposals, diversity of submitted and evaluated proposals, and the number of projects under the Council’s administration.

Funding of research activities is undeniably one of the most significant factors motivating researchers to seek more risky research projects meeting global challenges, apply relevant modern topics, intensity their research efforts and stand competitive on the European and the global levels. Increasing funding for research has to be in compliance with the principle of programming and competitiveness. The Council endeavours to ensure the high quality and transparency of expertise carried out thereby by concluding agreements with counterpart Councils of Scandinavian and other countries, the European Science Foundation, also by involving active Lithuanian researchers with significant expertise of working in foreign countries.

The Council, as an advisory body to the legislative and executive authorities of Lithuania, has to encompass diverse research areas. The framing of a clear strategy of the development and funding of research activities, a thorough analysis of the situation in the research sector, and the ability to provide valuable advice concerning appropriate political decisions is one of the most significant objectives in the current activities of the Council.

**Implements the research policy of Lithuania**

The Council acts an advisory body to the Lithuanian Parliament and the Government on issues related to research activities and training of researchers. The Council advises on the formulation and implementation of science, education and R&D policy. The Council also takes active part in the programme-based competitive R&D funding, also promotes development of the Lithuanian research resources, fosters research activities of higher education and research institutions, and raises the prestige of science.

**Carries out evaluation, submits proposals**

The Council participates in the development of Lithuanian legislation on science and studies system, carries out expertise, and submits proposals concerning funding of state research programmes, qualification requirements for researchers and other issues.
The Council provides conclusions on the establishment of new and functioning of the existing higher education and research institutions as well as on the requests of the institutions to acquire the right to provide doctoral degree studies and award doctor’s degrees to graduates.

Since 2008, the Council has been compiling a database of experts including experienced researchers, practitioners and experts from foreign countries.

### Statistics of evaluations carried out by the Council*

Over 17,000 expertises per year:
- Evaluations of research works and works of art – 72%.
- Evaluations of research projects – 15%:
  - Proposals for competitive funding of research projects and other scientific activities – 12%.
  - Reports of research projects – 3%.
- Agreements and international projects – 12%.
- Other kind of expertise (institutional application for pursuing the authorisation for conducting doctoral studies, long-term institutional research programmes) – 1%.

* - based on the data of 2010-2012.

### Develops international relations

The Council participates in activities related to the European Research Area issues. Representatives of the Council also participate in the committees of the European Union’s 7th Framework Programme, the European Research Area Committee (ERAC, the former CREST), the Joint Research Centre (JRC) Board of Governors, and other working groups. The Council is a member of several ERA-NETs and represents Lithuania in the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) process.

The Council together with foreign counterpart institutions and project partners participates in the following international research development initiatives, associations and working groups:
- Science Europe
- European Science Foundation
- Joint Programming Initiatives
- Euraxess
- The EU FP7 project TARGET - Targeted R&D Policy, 2009-2011
- The EU FP7 project SPREE - Servicizing Policy for Resource Efficient Economy, 2012-2015
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING

The Council started conducting the programme based competitive R&D funding in 2009 focusing on financing high-level research projects. Half of the allocations for science in Lithuania are distributed via competitive funding programmes, with the other half remaining as the base funding.

Changing the system towards competitive funding – ratio of basic funding against competition funding: 70/30 in 2009, 60/40 in 2010, and 50/50 in 2011.

Allocations for the competitive research funding by the Council, LTL thous.**

The State budget competitive funding allocated by the Council for research projects and other scientific activities, LTL thous.

* - planned to apply based on the data of September 1, 2012
** - the Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme not included. The funding of these projects will start at the end of 2012.
The basic principles adhered to for funding of research projects:
- competitiveness
- external expertise
- publicity and transparency
- accountability
- the significance of the researchers initiatives
- integrity

In 2009, the Council initiated the implementation of the most state-of-the-art information system that in 2011 was processing almost all competitive funding programmes administered by the Council. The system is used to receive proposals and project reports, also for evaluation of other submissions.

Success rate of the proposals in the field of humanities and social sciences (%)* in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian Institute of History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilnius Academy of Arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian Social Research Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaunas University of Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian Cultural Research Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of the Lithuanian Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klaipėda University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Šiauliai University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian University of Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mykolas Romeris University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian Academy of Physical Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other institutions**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Success rate of the proposals in the field of physical, biomedical, technological and agricultural sciences (%)* in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Physical Sciences and Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian Energy Institute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Research Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleksandras Stulginskis University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaunas University of Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilnius Gediminas Technical University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klaipėda University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Oncology, Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian Academy of Physical Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State Research Institute Center of Innovative Medicine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other institutions**</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* - success rate is calculated by dividing the number of the awarded grants from the number of submitted project proposals (%)
** - other institutions are those that submitted less than 10 proposals in 2012
INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH

Ordinarily the duration of research programmes in different fields is 4-6 years. Funding of up to LTL 10-20 m is envisaged for the implementation of the objectives of every programme.

NATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS


The National Development Programme for Lithuanian Studies 2009-2015 (hereinafter – the Programme) was the first programme administered by the Council. The Programme enables Lithuanian and foreign scholars to develop Lithuanian studies, disseminate its results, identify and launch new research themes, and continue fundamental academic research. A special focus of the Programme is the promotion of innovative interdisciplinary research and the dissemination of its findings among the academic community and the society.

Projects carried out by researcher groups

Calls for proposals regarding projects implemented by researcher groups receive the greatest number of participants. The projects funding data for 2010-2011 show that on average one of four submitted proposals was granted funding. Eligible are the projects carried out by a researcher or by a group of researchers in any field of research: humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, biomedicine, technological and agricultural sciences. A researcher elaborates his project on his proposed topic. If the projects of the researchers’ teams meet the objectives of national research programmes, the evaluation panel recommends them to apply for the grant under the national research programmes.
National Research Programmes

- **Chronic Non-Infectious Diseases** (2010-2014). The programme analyzes the risks and impacts of chronic non-infectious diseases and develops the theoretical basis of the health care strategy of Lithuania.

- **Ecosystems in Lithuania: Climate Change and Human Impact** (2010-2014). This programme is aimed to study the conditions, development, and ways to protect natural ecosystems in the context of both the global climate change and the anthropogenic effects. The subject of the research is the recent and ancient natural and anthropogenic biological invasions along with species habitat change, which serves as a sensitive indicator of vulnerability and adaptation of Lithuania’s ecosystems and their compounds.

- **Future Energy** (2010-2014). The programme is aimed at solving the most important scientific problems of Lithuania’s energy security, increasing the energy efficiency, and improving the future energy generation and supply technologies and their optimal integration in the energy sector in Lithuania.

- **Healthy and Safe Food** (2011-2015). The programme is designed to comprehensively research the storage, transportation and processing of food products. The results of the research should become the basis for improving the biological value of food, developing new food products as well as supply of safe and wholesome food.

National Research Programmes: calls for proposals 2010-2012
- **Social Challenges to National Security** (2010-2013). The programme investigates the origin, contents, scope and tendencies of social phenomena posing threat to national security. It seeks to make strategic decisions and to foresee measures and recommendations to overcome threats to national security.

- **The State and the Nation: Heritage and Identity** (2010-2014). The aim 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 EU FUNDS FOR RESEARCH

**Global Grant**
The Global grant measure is implemented under the European Union Structural Funds programme designed to support world-class scientists and researchers’ projects. The grant can be awarded for research projects of 2-4 years in duration and is intended to cover all expenses related to the implementation of the project. Global Grant support is open to domestic and foreign scientists for implementation of their research projects in any field of science.

- In 2011 the Council awarded 33 grants of almost LTL 40 m.
- In 2012 the Council awarded 35 grants of almost LTL 42 m.

**Postdoctoral Fellowships in Lithuania**
Competitive funding of postdoctoral fellowships is implemented under the European Structural Funds project “Postdoctoral Fellowship Implementation in Lithuania”. The objective of the project is the development of the postdoctoral fellowship system, with a view to involving graduates of the 3rd cycle university studies (Ph.D.s) into the research activities and enabling them to pursue independent research, as well as training them for academic or pedagogical career.

- Since 2009, 3 calls for a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship period at the Lithuanian higher education and research institutions were announced.
- Young scientists from Lithuania, Czech Republic, Italy, Canada, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine took part in the competitions.
- By 2015, 150 young scientists will have accomplished postdoctoral fellowships.
- A postdoctoral fellow is awarded an annual grant in the amount of LTL 83 000.
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

In 2011, the Council began the implementation of the Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme “Research and Development”. It is a constituent part of the cooperation programme of the Republic of Lithuania and the Confederation of Switzerland, which aims to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union.

The programme is dedicated to implementing joint research or institutional partnership projects in the fields of environmental sciences and technologies, health (life) sciences and natural sciences. The Programme budget is CHF 9.7 m. The call for proposals of the research and institutional partnership projects based on the programme was launched in 2012. The projects will be implemented during 2013-2016.

- The Research Council of Lithuania administers 5 international partnership programmes for the funding of research and other scientific activities:
  - the Lithuanian–Belarus Partnership Programme for Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technologies.
  - the Joint Lithuanian–Latvian–Chinese (Taiwanese) Tripartite Cooperation Programme in the Fields of Science and Technologies.
  - the Lithuanian–Ukrainian Cooperation Programme in the Fields of Research and Technologies.
  - the Scientific Exchange Programme between the New Member States of the EU and Switzerland (Sciex-NMSch).

- In 2011, 39 research projects were funded with the total allocation of LTL 741 000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Funded projects (number)</th>
<th>Allocated funds (LTL 000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania-Belarus</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania-Latvia-Taiwan</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania-France (Gilibert)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania-Ukraine</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciex</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania-Switzerland</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* CHF thous.
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Council acts as a coordinator for over 10 programme measures which provide funding for other scientific activities.

**Support for academic associations**
The objective of the measure of support to academic associations is to foster activities dealing with objectives of science and studies and their participation in solving definite problems of the development of science and studies.

Statistics of 2011
- 60 proposals received, 39 grants awarded.
- Total allocations – LTL 140 767.

**Funding of research visits**
The objective of financial support to research visits is to encourage Lithuanian researchers to improve their research competences, increase researchers’ mobility in general and aid the dissemination of research results.

Statistics of 2011
- 578 proposals received, 393 grants for the research visits awarded.
- Total allocations – LTL 1 047 337.

**Funding of scientific events**
The financial support to scientific events is designed to facilitate research activities in Lithuania and the international research relations. To be supported by the Council the events have to be dedicated to the analysis of important scientific problems and geared to disseminate relevant research ideas, foster their practical application and contribute to the development of social culture.

Statistics of 2011
- 271 proposals received, 87 grants for scientific events awarded.
- Total allocations – LTL 947 140.
Promotional scholarships for doctoral candidates
The aim of the promotional scholarships is to foster scientific and artistic initiatives of doctoral candidates supporting their scientific and creative ideas and research and development activities.

Statistics of 2012
- 1 029 proposals received, 526 grants awarded.
- Total allocations – LTL 2.8 m.

Support for short-term visits of researchers
The support is allocated based on the project “The competitive funding of short-term researcher visits” under the EU structural support. Researchers are invited to visit Lithuanian higher education and research institutions for participating in doctoral process, to lecture or carry out their research work. Under this measure support is also granted to the participation of researchers with presentations at international scientific conferences.

Financial support of LTL 720 000 allocated in 2011-2012.

Support for the restoration of the researchers’ Competences
The Council participates as a partner in the project “Fostering of Gender Equality in Research” implemented by the Academy of Sciences of Lithuania. The Council provides financial support to the researchers’ returning from their maternal (paternal) leave helping them faster restore their research competences.

Over LTL 300 000 allocated in 2011-2012.

Support for students’ research activities
The support is allocated within the framework of the project “The Promotion of Students’ Research Activities”. Students are encouraged to participate in research projects in summertime or during their studies. Financial support is also provided for doctoral candidates enabling them to visit research centres abroad.

Over LTL 3 500 000 allocated in 2011-2012.

Other types of financial support
- Financial support for the publication of research results.
- Financial support for internships.
- Promotion of private and public partnership in the research sector.
ADMINISTRATION OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

In 2010, the Council took over the administration of the part of the EU FP7 and other intergovernmental programmes and initiatives from the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology.

**Participation in 7th Framework programme**

Four national contact points of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) are operational at the Council. The Council is responsible for the administration of the following parts of the FP7:

- Fields of “Environment (including climate change)” and „Socio-economic sciences and Humanities of the specific programme “Cooperation-Collaborative research“;
- Specific programme “People - Human Potential, Marie Curie actions”;
- Specific programme “Ideas - European Research Council”;
- The activities of the Joint Research Centre.

The Council acting in cooperation with the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology also acts as an administrator of the fields of “Health”, “Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology” of the FP7.

**The number of the Lithuanian institutions in FP7 projects by institution type, 2011**

![Pie chart showing the distribution of Lithuanian institutions involved in FP7 projects.](chart.png)
### Total Lithuanian participants in FP7 during 2007-2012 (*E-CORDA data on 19-06-2012*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Proposals eligible to evaluation</th>
<th>Fundable proposals</th>
<th>In implemented projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information and Communication Technologies</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment (including Climate Change)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport (including Aeronautics)</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-economic sciences and Humanities</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Space</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas (ERC)</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie-Curie Actions</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Infrastructures</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research for the Benefit of SMEs</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regions of Knowledge</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Potential</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science in Society</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coherent Development of Research Policies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Cooperation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fission Energy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear fission and Radiation Protection</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participation of Lithuania in COST Activities during 2000-2012 based on research areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Areas</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FA – Food and Agriculture</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP – Materials, Physics and Nanosciences</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP – Forests, their Products and Services</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM – Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES – Earth System Sciences and Environmental Management</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS – Individuals, Society, Culture and Health</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TU – Transport and Urban Development</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC – Information and Communication Technologies</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BM – Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD – Trans-Domain Proposal</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Research Council of Lithuania together with partner countries administers six more international programmes and takes part in the initiatives of research and development:
- Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS)
- ERA-NET action „BiodivERsA2”
- ERA-NET action „EuroNanoMed”
- ERA-NET action „M-era.NET”
- HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) Network Programme on Cultural Encounters
- LILAN (Nordic Baltic Programme on Living Labs)
The Research Council of Lithuania is composed of the Board, two expert committees, and the Research Foundation that carries on the administration duties.

The Council is composed of the total of 29 members. The Board has nine members, of whom there is an appointed representative of the Parliament Committee on Education, Science and Culture, a representative of the Government, of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Finance and of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.
Sciences. Every expert committee has 10 members – well known researchers. There are two expert committees operating in the Council: the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences.

- Every year the Council convenes at least 4 plenary meetings. In 2008-2012, over 40 meetings were held.
- In 2011, the Committee held 60 meetings.

**Personnel**

The Research Foundation is a structural part of the Council and is responsible for the organisation of the daily activities of the Council. The Research Foundation draws up draft legal acts, other documents and regulations and procedures related to competitive research funding, administers calls for proposals, implements decisions adopted by the Council.

In view of the increasing scope of responsibilities assigned to the Council the number of employees at the Research Foundation was gradually increasing:

- In 2008 – 18 employees
- In 2009-2010 – 44 employees
- In 2011 – 50 employees
- In 2012 – 77 employees

**Personnel according to age groups in 2012**

- over 51
- 41-50
- 31-40
- 18-30