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Abbreviations:

FP7 – the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities
ASU – Aleksandras Stulginskis University
BPTI – Baltic Institute of Advanced Technology
CLARIN – Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
EU – European Union
ERF – European Research Foundation
GTC – Nature Research Centre
NTS – natural and technical sciences
H2020 – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020
HSS – humanities and social sciences
IMC – Innovative Medicine Centre
Institutions – universities and research institutes of Lithuania
ISM – University of Management and Economics
KTU – Kaunas University of Technology
KU – Klaipėda University
LAEI – Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics
LAMMMC – Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry
LEI – Lithuanian Energy Institute
LEU – Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences
LII – Lithuanian Institute of History
LIT – the National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015
LKA – Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania
LKI – Institute of the Lithuanian Language
LLTI – Institute of the Lithuanian Literature and Folklore
LMTA – Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre
LR – Republic of Lithuania
LSMU – Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
LSTC – Lithuanian Social Research Institute
LSU – Lithuanian Sports University
LTI – Law Institute of Lithuania
MIP – projects of researcher groups
MITA – Agency for Science, Innovations and Technologies
Research Foundation – the Research Foundation of the Research Council of Lithuania
MRU – Mykolas Romeris University
LHER – Law on Higher Education and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania
R&D – research and (social and cultural) development
RI – research infrastructure
NRP – national research programmes
NCI – National Cancer Institute
VAT – value added tax
SHARE ERIC – Survey of health, ageing and retirement in Europe (SHARE) of the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)
ŠU – Šiauliai University
Council – Research Council of Lithuania
VDA – Vilnius Academy of Arts
VDU – Vytautas Magnus University
Evaluation methodology – a methodology for the evaluation of research (art) works of research and studies institutions
Evaluation regulation – regulation for the evaluation of research (art) works of research and studies institutions
VGTU – Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
VMTI FTMC – State Research Institute Centre of Physical Sciences and Technology
VMTI GTC – State Research Institute Nature Research Centre
VU – Vilnius University
VU TVM – International Business School at Vilnius University
1. Basis for the activities of the Research Council of Lithuania and quality assurance

1.1. Principal documents governing the activities of the Research Council of Lithuania

The founder of the Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter – the Council) is the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – the Seimas of the RL).

The Chairman of the Council in the period 01 January 2015–31 December 2015, was Prof. Dr. DAINIUS HAROLDAS PAUŽA.

The basis for the activities of the Council is the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – LHER), whereby the Council was designated to act as an advisory body for the Seimas of the RL and the Government of the RL on the research and training of researchers, participate in promoting research and development (social, cultural) programmes, implement the programme and competitive funding of research and development (social, cultural), and organise the assessment of research activities carried out in Lithuania.

The Council consists of the Board, the Research Foundation and two expert committees: the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences (hereinafter – CHSS), and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences (hereinafter – CNTS). The Council consists of 29 members who according to the Regulations of the Council are appointed for a term of office of five years (maximum two consecutive terms). Half of the Members of the Council are replaced at the half way stage of a five-year term of office.

In 2015, Prof. Konstantinas Pileckas, Chairman of the CNTS, Deputy Chairman of the Council and the Scientific Secretary Brigita Serafinavičiūtė resigned from their positions. With the term of office of the members of the Council appointed by the Seimas in June 2013 nearing the expiry, in August–September 2015, the Council rotated its members of the VIII term of office. The new Deputy Chairman of the Council and the Scientific Secretary were selected by the Minister for Education and Science from applications proposed by the academic community. On 7 August 2015, the selection groups set up by the Prime Minister for the RL proposed 20 candidates to the Minister for Education and Science for positions on the CHSS and the CNTC of the Council; the candidates were selected from a long list compiled by researchers, research organisations, research and studies institutions as well as public authorities (a total 88 candidates were proposed). Out of the total number of proposed candidates the Minister for Education and Science proposed five candidates to the CNTS, and four candidates to the CHSS; the proposed candidates were submitted for public consideration. According to a proposal of the Government of the RL the list of the Council members was approved by Resolution No. XII-2249 of 23 December 2015 of the Seimas of the RL.

After the Resolution of the Seimas of the RL came into effect, two new members of the Board of the Council took up their positions: Prof. Habil. Dr. Jūras Banys, Head of the Department of Radiophysics of the Faculty of Physics of the University of Vilnius (hereinafter – VU) (Deputy Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the CNTS), and Dr. Reda Cimmperman, Junior Researcher of the Laboratory of Aquatic Toxicology of the Institute of Botany of the Nature Research Institute (Scientific Secretary of the Council).

As of 30 December 2015, CNTS of the VIII term of the Council welcomed three new members: Prof. Dr. Albertas Bitinas, Chief Researcher of the Marine Ecosystem Laboratory at the Open Access Centre for Marine Research of the University of Klaipėda (hereinafter – KU), Prof. Habil. Dr. Pranas Šerpytis of the Vascular Disease Clinics of the Faculty of Medicine of the VU, Prof. Habil. Dr. Gediminas Valkiūnas, Head of...
the P. B. Šivickis Parasitology Laboratory of the Institute of Ecology of the VMTI GTI. Two members of the CNTS were appointed for a second term of office: Prof. Habil. Dr. Pavelas Duchovskis, Head of the Laboratory of Plant Physiology of the Institute of Horticulture of the Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, and Limas Kupčinskas, Head of the Digestive Research Institute of the Faculty of Medicine of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences.

Four new members were appointed to the CHSS: Prof. Darijus Beinoravičius, Head of the Department of Philosophy of Law and Legal History of Mykolas Romeris University (hereinafter – MRU), Assoc. Prof. Liutauras Kraniauskas, Head of the Centre for Studies of Social Change at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Social Sciences of Klaipėda University, Dr. Saulius Pivoras, Assoc. Prof. at the Public Administration Department at the Faculty of Political Sciences and Diplomacy at Vytautas Magnus University (hereinafter – VGU), and Dr. Mikas Vaicekauskas, Head of the Textology division of the Institute of the Lithuanian Literature and Folklore (hereinafter – LLTI).

The establishment of this new Council ensured the continuity of its operations, the continued implementation of the objectives set forth in the strategic operation plan and the achievement of the intended results.

1.2. Discussions regarding improvement of the Regulations of the Council

Discussions regarding improvement of the Regulations of the Council were ongoing throughout 2015. In response to the Resolution regarding Item 5 (Minutes No. 106-P-19) of the meeting of 10 June 2015 of the Committee on Education, Science and Culture of the Seimas of the RL communicated by Letter No. 23-2115 on 16 June 2015, the Council by its Letter No. 4S-956 of 27 July 2015 Regarding the implementation of the findings and the recommendations of the comparative and other studies of research activities indicated that certain aspects of the Regulations of the Research Council of Lithuania approved by Resolution No. XI-625 of 22 December 2009 of the Government of the RL (hereinafter – Regulations of the Council) had to be improved. The discussions of the Board and the Committees of the Council regarding any potential improvements of the Regulations of the Council were summarised at a plenary meeting of the Council on October 12. The meeting proposed to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the Regulations specifically identifying the provisions preventing efficient performance of the Council. Members of the Council noted that the most important task was to pool competences in order to address efficiency issues of the entire research and studies system, i.e. optimising the network of institutions engaged in research, eliminating fragmentation and duplication, because the ongoing deliberations of the draft amendments of the LHER create conditions for systemic decisions. The Council held that under the circumstances it was considerably more important than improving the Regulations of a single institution. The Council expressed its opinion regarding a possible model of the Council’s activity to the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Seimas of the RL by its Letter No. 4S-1280 of 13 October 2015 Regarding the Draft Law on the Amendment of the Law on Higher Education and Research No. XI-242 (see Sub-Section 1.1.1 of the Report). Having regard to the circumstances, the Council was of the opinion that the issue of improvement of the Regulations of the Council should be considered only after adoption of the amended LHER.

2. Principal activities of the Council

For the purpose of implementing Lithuanian science policy the Council carries out experimental activities, evaluation of scientific activities, and also ensures that Lithuanian research and development issues are represented in the working groups of the European Union (hereinafter – the EU) and international organisations.

The functions and the tasks of the Council as set forth in the LHER and the Regulations of the Council can be broken down into three key groups: expert activity, programme-based competitive funding of research and other activities, and participation in the creation of the international research area.
2.1. Expert activities of the Council

The Council is obliged to provide advice to the Seimas on issues related to research and training of researchers. It also organises evaluation of research activities, examines and submits proposals concerning the efficiency of research activities and their coherence with the needs of the State. The documents produced by the Council and their drafts are introduced to the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL, research and studies institutions. The internet website of the Council www.lmt.lt publishes Resolutions of the Council, and information on forthcoming open plenary meetings of the Council. Proposals and recommendations drafted by the Council are communicated to the Seimas, the Government, the Ministry of Education and Science and other public authorities of the RL. The Council cooperates with the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Seimas of the RL, the Ministry of Education and Science on an ongoing basis.

2.1.1 Consideration of the draft Law on Higher Education and Research

Consideration of the draft LHER began in 2015 at the Seimas. The first hearing of the draft Law at the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Seimas was held on 14 October 2015. Having examined the draft Law on amendment of the LHER of the RL No. IX-242 of 3 July 2015 drawn up by the Ministry of Education and Science (hereinafter – the Draft) the Council delivered its comments and proposals.

The Council noted that:

1. Section III of the Draft law lacked consistency in defining the institutions forming and implementing the research and studies policies; the network of expert and advisory institutions was formed in a somewhat eclectic manner.

2. In the Draft law studies and research activities are regulated to a different degree of detail, as the provisions regulating studies are excessively detailed, and are more appropriate for secondary legislation than the LHER.

3. The Draft law does not address systemic issues, and in particular those related to the principles of funding of the entire research and studies system, the Draft has failed to build a clear research activities assessment system, and its explicit links with budgetary appropriations.

4. The Draft law also failed to clearly define the possibilities for innovative forms of doctoral studies (Article 77(10)), as this is considered important for anticipating ways to implement the expertise of the other EU States for the purpose of legitimising the industrial doctoral training that would undoubtedly contribute to an actual cooperation between science and research.

The Council also voiced its views concerning the establishment of a Centre for Research of Lithuanian Economic Policy, since the main reason for establishing such a centre is the need for applied research. The Council noted that such research could be carried out through the Council at the initiative of economic entities, or such research could be commissioned directly by ministries, rather than by the establishment of a new institution.

The Council submitted 15 specific proposals regarding the Draft with commentaries. One of the proposals concerned regulation of the structure and the activities of the Council (Article 14 of the Draft). It was noted that the Council is a budgetary institution incorporated by the Seimas of the RL, therefore its heads, in the same manner as the heads of all other institutions are subordinate to the Seimas of the RL, and should therefore be appointed by the Seimas, thus granting to the incorporator extended possibilities to directly supervise the activities of the institution it founded. The Draft proposed to define more clearly the single person and the collegial body of the Council, and to define detailed procedures for the selection and appointment of members of the committees in the Regulations of the Council, rather than in the Draft law. Another proposal concerned an obligation of the Council as an expert institution to participate in discussing any issues related to the research and studies system, thus at least partly taking into account the recommendations offered by external experts to strengthen this area of the Council’s activity, and a suggestion to enhance the diversity of internal structures which could be formed internally within the Council.
All the proposals of the Council were submitted to the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Seimas by Letter No. 4S-1280 Regarding the Draft Law on Higher Education and Research No. XU-242 of the Republic of Lithuania of 13 October 2015.

2.1.2. Drafting of new national research programmes

In order to ensure funding for highly competent research and thus promote the competitiveness of Lithuanian science, early in 2015 the Council completed drawing up five new national research programmes (hereinafter – NRP). Those NRP were originally developed early in 2014, and published for the first time in June 2014 (presented to the ministries concerned, and research community, submitted to Lithuanian and foreign experts). In July 2014, the projects were presented to the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL, between September and November the projects were adjusted according to the proposals submitted by the Ministry, and in January 2015, the projects were once again submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL. The NRPs *Sustainability of agro-, forest and water ecosystems* was approved in February 2015 (Order No. V-81 of 5 February 2015 of the Minister for Education and Science), as well as *Healthy ageing* (Order No V-82 of 5 February 2015), followed by the approval of the NRP *Well-being society* (Order No. V-166 of 2 March 2015 of the Minister for Education and Science) in March, and the NRP *Towards future technologies* in May (Order No. V-480 of 8 May 2015 of the Minister for Education and Science of the RL).

The draft of a NRP *Modernity in Lithuania* was returned by the Ministry of Education and Science for further correction. The objectives, tasks and the instruments for the implementation were specified and narrowed down according to the comments and suggestions of the experts engaged by the Ministry, and the expected results were specified so that humanities and social sciences are oriented towards relevant, innovative and international research activities able to bring science closer to the specific needs of society and the state. Once the Ministry of Education and Science approves the NRP *Modernity in Lithuania* the Council intends to publish the first call for proposals under the programme in H1, 2016.

2.1.3. Preparation of the project Development of the Lituanistika database

In 2015, Resolution No. 1372 of 14 November 2012 of the Government of the RL *On the approval of areas for the development of Lithuanian studies in 2012-2020* and Order No. V-395 of 10 May 2013 of the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL *On the Approval of the Plan for Implementing Measures for the Development of Lithuanian Studies in 2012-2020* formulated the need for the ongoing project *Development of the Lituanistika database* to be implemented through cooperation of the Council with Lithuanian research and higher education institutions and libraries. The documents concerned noted that one of the most important factors for improving the quality of Lithuanian studies was an efficient research output evaluation system, i.e. specification of evaluation criteria, highly qualified experts, and extensive inclusion of young researchers. *Inter alia*, the documents specifically underlined the importance of modern infrastructure, i.e. data dissemination by modern means, smoothly functioning open access databases that will facilitate communicating the results of Lithuanian studies to the national and the international academic area making the relevant authors visible not only in Lithuania, but also abroad. The *Development of the Lituanistika database* project provides for a range of activities to address the issues raised in the documents referred to above:

1. continue storage and preservation of publications in the area of Lithuanian studies dispersed in different Lithuanian and global formation resources;
2. engage experts for selecting the best publications in Lithuanian studies, collect and store the data and the results of peer review;
3. draw up and disseminate overviews of peer-review studies of publications in Lithuanian studies;
4. increase the accessibility and openness of Lithuanian studies publications;
5. maintain and develop a modern infrastructure for the results and the dissemination of Lithuanian studies.
The intended project implementation period is 2016–2018.

2.1.4. Promotion of innovations

During 2015, the Council continued discussions regarding the promotion of research and (social and cultural) development (hereinafter – R&D). The Council presented its opinion regarding the promotion of R&D to the Government of the RL, the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL, and participated at meetings of the Strategic Council of the RL. In the opinion of the Council, the current possibilities and potential of the Council, the other Ministries, as well as of the Agency for Science, Innovations and Technologies (MITA) are not yet fully realised in seeking a material breakthrough in the area of R&D and innovations, therefore no new institutions or structures should be established as that would be followed by a time-taking and complicated process of a division of activity areas. In the opinion of the Council, the most important task at the moment is to seek further improvement of the culture of research and business communities, while the innovation activity promotion methods should be analysed on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the global innovations context, rather than on the basis of several states.

The Council submitted its proposals regarding promotion of the innovations and technology development policy and the drafting of related legal acts to the working group set up by Order No. 254 of 22 December 2014 of the Prime Minister for the RL.

The Council suggested that the research and development competitions organised by it should support R&D projects related to innovations and development and whose implementers intend to reach at least Stage 5 of the R&D (i.e. undertaking to verify a model by simulating actual conditions, or introduce to the public in the case of an art object project), and a no higher than Stage 6 of the R&D (i.e. undertake to develop a prototype or a pilot version). The achievement of Stage 5 or Stage 6 of the R&D cycle should be related to new knowledge that could also be equally acquired outside the R&D project concerned: this would ensure that the innovations and technological development required for addressing technological problems in the public and private sector are based on high level research.

The Council noted that ensuring continuity of funding for projects selected as winners of research and development competitions, and for the smooth conversion of such projects into innovations requires close cooperation between the Council and the MITA for the purpose of developing and implementing integrated and complementary R&D project funding schemes. Continuity could be ensured by the MITA undertaking to continue the funding of research and development projects funded by the Council and that have achieved Stage 5 and Stage 6 of R&D, so that future implementers of the project could even reach Stage 9 of the R&D (i.e. the consumer and/or the customer could evaluate a new project), or the projects developed as a result of the project could be introduced to the market. The Council proposed an arrangement under which if the applicants of the projects funded by it are research and studies institutions, then in case of the further funding of the projects by the MITA the applicants should be business entities together with research and studies institutions.

The Council proposed that the term 'a Stage of R&D' used in Resolution No. 650 of 6 June 2012 of the Government of the RL be replaced by the term 'level of technological preparedness'.

2.1.4.1. Technology Development Commission of the Council

The most important activity of the Technology Development Commission of the Council is to submit proposals regarding the provision of more advantageous conditions for the technological development of Lithuania, i.e. research able to promote the productive innovations required for resolving technological challenges in the private and the public sector. The conditions also established a provision that the problems may and must be resolved through carrying out high-level research activities. The Technology Development Commission drew up essential guidelines for the competition conditions of technology development projects; the guidelines are designed to pool the resources available to project implementers and channel them to implement the projects thus facilitating closer cooperation between the researchers and business partners and an appropriate use of the funds allocated to the projects; the guidelines provide
for a possibility to allocate larger weight to the adaptability and the technological development of a research, and obligate project partners to contribute at least 10% of the funds allocated by the Council for the implementation of the project.

The Technology Development Commission also submitted proposals and comments regarding the updating the Operational plan for 2014–2017 for the implementation of the Lithuanian Innovation Development Programme for 2014–2020.

2.1.4.2. Implementation of the Lithuanian Innovation Development Programme for 2014–2020

During 2015, the Council was an active participant in activities stipulated in the Operational plan for 2014–2017 for the implementation of the Lithuanian Innovation Development Programme for 2014–2020. Such activities included promoting innovations and providing counselling and information assistance to economic entities, thus promoting the development of innovative, cost-efficient, environmentally friendly and socially acceptable production and related technologies, creating preconditions for building business based on such technologies in regions, and supporting the participation of Lithuanian institutions in the Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme BONUS. Some of the projects under the Lithuanian Innovation Development programme 2014–2020 are implemented within the framework of the two NRP that were first launched in 2015 – Towards future technologies, and Sustainability of agro-, forest and water ecosystems. The Council was providing funding to projects implemented by institutions and developing the framework for the application of electronic solutions in the public sector.

2.1.4.3. Other actions promoting innovation

The Chairman of the Council was participating in the Strategic Council for Research, Development and Innovations headed by the Prime Minister for Lithuania, and the Group for the Coordination of Implementation of the Research and (Socio-Cultural) Development and Innovation Priorities that consider innovation issues on a regular basis.

The Chairman of the Council was included in the working group set up by the Chancellor's Office of the Government of the RL, which was tasked with promoting innovations and which drew up the concept of the Law on Promotion of Innovations in 2015. The Chairman of the Council is a member of the Innovative Economy Council under the Ministry of Economy (Order No. 4-549 of 13 August 2014 of the Minister for Economy of the RL).

2.1.5. Development of research infrastructures

European Research Infrastructure Consortia (hereinafter – ERIC) are established with the aim to pool and consolidate the resources of all countries of the European Community in view of the rapid growth of the demand for research facilities and the increasing complexity of research infrastructures (hereinafter – RIs), as well as the costs related to the development, upgrading and operation of RIs. International RIs are a prerequisite for the efficient implementation of European research and development programmes, and achieving world level and competitiveness of research.

Research communities of the member countries of RIs (ERIC) may effectively use and benefit from shared infrastructures. The participation and membership in international RIs are very relevant for ensuring the competitiveness of national R&D and innovations.

It is essential for Lithuania to identify its interests and the ERIC or other international RIs that it wants to participate in as a member or a partner while assuming the respective financial obligations that such participation involves. To that end in 2015 the RI Commission of the Council (approved by Resolution No. VII-13 of 16 December 2013 of the Council) updated the national Roadmap of RI (hereinafter – the Roadmap) originally drafted in 2014. The Roadmap presents, and assesses information about the infrastructures of national importance, discusses the development and the strategy of the RI, and analyses the interfaces with the infrastructures of the Roadmap of the European Strategy Forum Research Infrastructures, and other RIs.
Acting in accordance with the relevant provisions of Council regulation (EC) No. 723/2009 On the Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) (OJ 2009 L 206), the LHER, and the Description of the procedure for participation at international RIs approved by Order No. V-1068 of 2 July 2012 of the Minister for Education and Science, and the Description of the procedure for the participation of Lithuanian institutions in international RIs approved by Order No. V-1068 of 2 July 2012 of the Minister for Education and Science, and the Description of the procedure for the initiation of the participation of Lithuanian institutions in international RIs approved by Order No. VII-127 of 17 December 2012 of the Council, the RI Commission of the Council examined the plans on participation in international RI infrastructures submitted by research and studies institutions and their consortia.

The RI Commission of the Council evaluated the proposal of VU regarding the accession of Lithuania to the Infrastructure of the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, SHARE ERIC. The conclusions of the RI Commission, following approval by the Council, were submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science. The conclusions included a recommendation that the Lithuanian RI Human well-being and development, HUMRE become a member of the international RI. The RI Commission of the Council examined the application submitted by VU regarding the accession of the Heritage and history research infrastructure Aruodai (PITI Aruodai) to The Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities, DARIAH ERIC, and submitted some findings and recommendations regarding possible improvement of the membership plan.

In 2015, the RI Commission of the Council reviewed the Activity report for 2015 on the membership of Lithuania in an international RI the European Social Survey, ESS ERIC that Lithuania acceded to in 2014, when the Council concluded a contract with KTU on 7 May on the implementation of a membership plan. During 2015, as part of the implementation of the plan of the Lithuanian membership in the RI ESS ERIC, the Council archived the data and the meta data of Lithuania on the 7th wave of the ESS ensuring, as required by international standards, an open access, hosted two methodological seminars on the ESS data analysis which became a forum for fostering the analytical competences of social sciences and other researchers, and published two articles interpreting the data of the research undertakings concerned. Having evaluated the Report, the RI Commission concluded that the membership plan is implemented properly.

On 28 October 2014, Lithuania was admitted to the Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure, CLARIN that has the status of ERIC of the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures. On 26 May 2015, a national consortium consisting of three universities (VDU acting as the coordinator, VU and KTU) signed a contract with CLARIN. The activity plan of the consortium was approved by Order No. V-612 of 16 June 2015 of the Minister for Education and Science of the RL, and the contract on the implementation of the plan for 2015–2016 was concluded with the Council on 25 June 2015. According to the contract, the Consortium undertook to establish a national centre for technologies of the Lithuanian language, assigned to the category of CLARIN B type centres, to develop and improve language resources and technologies, and to provide consultancy to its consumers, i.e. to the entire Lithuanian academic community. Prof. Rūta Petrauskaitė was appointed the national coordinator of the activity and the representative of Lithuania at the Council of CLARIN ERIC. Prof. Rūta Petrauskaitė attended the meetings of the national representatives in Amsterdam (31 August–1 September 2015), Copenhagen (19 November 2015), and the annual report seminar held on 17 December 2015 at VDU.

2.1.6. Evaluation of research (art) performance

2.1.6.1. Organisation of the evaluation

The evaluation of the performance of Lithuanian institutions in 2012–2014 was carried out in accordance with the Methodology for the evaluation of research (art) works of research and studies institutions approved by Order No. V-1128 of 10 July 2010 (version of Order No. V-79 of 5 February 2015) of the Minister for Education and Science (hereinafter – Evaluation Methodology), and the Regulations on Peer Review approved by Order No. V-85 of 17 April 2015 of the Chairman of the Council (hereinafter – Peer Review Regulation). The Council set up four expert panels according to research areas or groups. The
first expert panel was evaluating the performance in humanities (hereinafter – H), the second panel was responsible for the evaluation of social sciences (hereinafter – S), the third panel was evaluating physical sciences (hereinafter – P), agriculture (hereinafter – A), biomedical (hereinafter – B), technology (hereinafter – T), and the fourth panel was evaluating performance in the area of arts (art activities, hereinafter – M). Altogether 30 institutions submitted papers for evaluation, of which there were 14 public and 3 private universities, and 13 public research institutions. A total of nearly 24,000 units were submitted for formal evaluation, of which close to 19,500 were research papers, over 1,300 international projects, and over 3,200 orders from economic entities. Nearly 4,500 research and art papers were submitted for peer review.

Research (art) papers of Level 1 were peer-reviewed in accordance with the Evaluation methodology, and Level 2 research (art) papers were evaluated in the formal procedure. The expert panels also evaluated projects and contracts submitted by the relevant institution, and recognised (if appropriate) the funds that the institutions obtained through participation in international research projects, or by executing orders of economic entities for conducting R&D assignments as R&D funds.

The institutions could submit for peer review (of Level 1 works) best works and papers; the number of works and papers, according to Item 7.2 of the Evaluation Methodology, was related to the number of researchers working at the institutions (estimated in terms of full-time equivalents). With respect to a single year, five researchers in the H and D areas were allowed to submit three papers, researchers in the PABT areas could submit one paper, and nine papers in the M area. Many more papers were submitted for the formal evaluation (of Level 2 papers) (including also Level 1 papers), because 15 researchers were allowed to submit 15 papers in each area H and S, as well as 30 papers in the M area. There were no limitations as to the number of PABT papers that could be submitted for evaluation, as long as the papers could be assigned to one of the types indicated in the Evaluation Methodology.

For the purpose of evaluating Level 2 PABT articles the experts considered the compliance with the requirements defined in the Evaluation methodology, i.e. 1) the articles are published in scientific journals where the Impact Factor is 20% higher than the aggregate impact factor established for a specific research category in the Thomson Reuters Database; and 2) the journals are not included in the list of journals annually published by the Council and whose impact factor was artificially inflated (due to excessive self-citation or otherwise) (hereinafter – the List). In 2012, due to the artificially inflated impact factor, 30 journals were included in the List, with the number being 27 and 22, respectively in 2013 and 2014. Due to the two reasons referred to above the Council disregarded articles in 58 journals published in 48 States. Altogether 570 articles published in such journals were disregarded.

The R&D funds obtained by institutions through a participation in projects under international research programmes, or while executing orders of economic entities for R&D works, were considered eligible or ineligible following the provisions of the Frascati Manual, i.e. a globally applied proposed standard practice for surveys on research and experimental development. As a result, not all the funds generated from contracts or projects recognised as R&D works were considered eligible, thus the proceeds from the contracts or projects were funded by the Ministry of Education and Science, the European Social Fund Agency, the Council, MITA (except the cases where the project was co-funded with the economic entity concerned by the MITA, or where a MITA-funded project was international) were not considered eligible.

2.1.6.2. Evaluation results according to research areas

The results of the research (art) activities of the institutions are published on the internet site of the Council (http://www.lmt.lt/lt/veikla/mvv/2012-2014.html). The results are interpreted below. The research (art) activity of each institution was evaluated according to four parameters:

a. total score assigned by the peer review \(\sum EVV\),
b. total score assigned by the formal review \(\sum AIV\),
c. total funds in LTL’000 obtained through participation in projects of international research programmes, and the share of the proceeds considered eligible \(S_{\text{TPP}}\).
The next step was adding up the results of each institution for three years according to seven research (art) areas, and to select the five best performing institutions according to each of four parameters. The results of an institution that was recognised as one of the top five institutions in the area according to at least one of the four parameters with respect to a specific research (art) area, are further specified according to the remaining three parameters. The results of the institutions that were not included in any of the top five categories, were aggregated and presented as the results of other institutions, i.e. they are not specified. From six (T and M areas) to eleven (H area) institutions may be indicated with respect to a single area.

Such interpretation of the results identifies the institutions with the highest research potential in a specific area; however, they do not in all cases accurately represent the quality of an institution’s performance (e.g. an institution may have just several researchers, but its output may be of very high quality, while another institution with many researchers may produce very mediocre output).

**Humanities.** In the area of humanities, a distinguished position is taken by VU both in terms of the peer review and the formal evaluation outputs. It should be noted that according to the results of the peer and formal review three research institutions were selected among the best performers – the Lithuanian Institute of History (hereinafter – LIH), LLTI, the Institute of the Lithuanian Language (hereinafter – LKI), and VDU.

The performance of other institutions (not included among those specified in Fig. 1 in the area of humanities evidences the institutional distribution of the relevant research potential.

The leading institutions in terms of proceeds earned from the execution of orders of economic entities were KU, and the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (hereinafter – LMTA), although in terms of papers in the H area the institutions were not included in the top five institutions. This disproportion between funds earned and the points scored for research papers originated when the funds earned from art projects were indicated as assigned to the H area (the Evaluation methodology does not provide for the evaluation of art projects). A similar situation has evolved in relation to the funds earned by Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (hereinafter – VGTU). VGTU is the leading institution in terms of income obtained through participation in projects of international research programmes (most of which are projects in architecture).

Vilnius University considered as eligible the fund amounts earned through executing orders of economic entities in amounts similar to that of the LKI, while in terms of the funds received through participation in projects under international research programmes, VU is not one of the top five. A similar situation was noted for LLI, LTI, LKI and VDU with respect to the funds earned through participation in projects or contracts: the institutions earned no funds from projects under international research programmes, while only LKI is included in the top five according to the indicator of income from orders of economic entities. It may be therefore concluded that the links between the institutions that are the strongest in terms of research publications, and the institutions that have obtained most funds through participation in programmes under international research programmes, and orders of economic entities, are very weak.
Fig. 1. Results of the evaluation of the performance in the area of humanities in 2012–2014

**Social sciences (S).** The leading institution according to the results of Level 1 research papers in the area of S sciences is VU. According to the results of the evaluation of Level 2 research papers VU lags significantly behind MRU. According to the evaluation of both Level 1 and Level 2 research papers the top five includes VDU, Kaunas University of Technology (hereinafter – KTU), and the Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences (hereinafter – LEU). The contribution of the research institutions in terms of papers in social sciences is less significant than the contribution in humanities.

The performance of other institutions (not indicated in Fig. 2) according to the evaluation of the research papers in S were similarly outstanding, and, equally as in H area, testified to the institutional distribution of the scientific potential in the area.

In terms of the income generated by executing orders of economic entities, the leading institution is VU and Šiauliai University (hereinafter – ŠU) were noted as generating most funds by participating in projects under international research programmes. The achievements of VU when participating in projects of international research projects were equally good, as in the area the institution generated amounts nearly totalling the proceeds from orders of economic entities. During 2015, ŠU did not generate any income from executing R&D orders commissioned by economic entities.

The Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics (hereinafter – LAEI) holds a strong position (ranked second) in terms of income earned by participating in projects under international research programmes, and from orders of economic entities. The Lithuanian Social Research Institute (hereinafter – LSTC) earned nearly less than half that earned by LAEI from economic entities by executing their R &D, however, it ranked third among the best performing institutions by funds earned through participation in projects under international research programmes. Therefore, it could be concluded that such institutions make efforts to carry out surveys in social sciences using not only budgetary funds.
It should be noted that MRU, which holds a leading position according to the results of the evaluation of research papers, and VDU and LEU that also perform fairly well, are not very active in seeking funding for studies in social sciences from international research programmes and orders from economic entities.

**Fig. 2.** Results of the evaluation of the performance in social sciences 2012–2014

**Physical sciences (P).** The leaders in terms of all indicators of the evaluation of research activities were VU and the Centre for Physical Sciences and Technology (hereinafter – FTMC, Fig. 3). FTMC is second after VU in terms of the results of the evaluation of the research papers, however, it equals VU in terms of income generated from executing orders of economic entities and participating in international research projects. This evidences that the FTMC is as active in international research activities as VU, and seeks to carry out its research activities not only from budgetary resources.

It should be noted that although some universities (e.g. VGTU, VDU) have achieved fairly good results in terms of peer and formal review of their research papers, they are not sufficiently active in executing orders from economic entities or participating in international projects under research programmes (e.g. VGTU had no income from these sources, and VDU’s income from orders of economic entities was insignificant). The same trend can be noted with regards to institutions other than the seven institutions indicated in Fig. 3, i.e. they have not earned any funds that could be considered as eligible for the purpose of the evaluation.

The research potential in physical sciences is essentially concentrated in five major universities and two research institutes.
Agriculture science area (A). In the agriculture science area LAMMC is particularly distinguished, being the first according to three parameters, and ranked third according to one parameter (funds earned through participation in projects under international research programmes).

In terms of the points collected according to Level 1 research papers LMSU, which is ranked second, lags significantly behind LAMMC, while in terms of the points collected for Level 2 research papers and Aleksandras Stulginskis University (hereinafter – ASU) and LSMU, ranking, respectively, second and third, are lagging behind LAMMC by more than two thirds (Fig. 4).

In terms of funds earned through international research projects LAMMC concedes the lead to LSMU and ASU, evidencing that the latter two universities are more active participants of such projects. LSMU earned more from orders of economic entities, while ASU was more active in projects under international programmes.

Although research papers in agriculture were declared by two more universities, namely, VU and ŠU, the key potential in this area of research is concentrated in three institutions – LAMMC, LSMU and ASU.
Biomedical science area (B). The leading institution in terms of the results of evaluation of research papers (see Fig. 5) in the area is LSMU, followed by VU that collected about a quarter less points than LSMU. In terms of the peer and formal review of the papers GTC holds fairly strong positions, while the results of other institutions are significantly lower.

In terms of funds generated through participation in projects under international research programmes the leading institutions are LSMU and VU, and GTC is leading in income generated by executing orders from economic entities. Nevertheless, in terms of funds earned through participation in international research projects, GTC ranks sixth only (exceeded not only by universities, but also by the Innovative Medicine Centre (hereinafter – IMC).

Second in terms of all parameters is VU. It should be noted that VU generates three times more from participation in projects of international research programmes than from orders of economic entities, which evidences its strong focus on the international dimension.

In addition to the eight institutions indicated in Fig. 5 there are seven more institutions carrying out research in the area of biomedicine, but they are more focused on drafting research papers, rather than international research projects or orders from economic entities.
Technology sciences area (T). In the technology sciences area KTU and VGTU were particularly outstanding. KTU was the leader in terms of three parameters (Fig. 6), and VGTU (leading according to the points assigned by experts for Level 1 publications).

According to the results of the review of Level 1 research papers the Lithuanian Energy Institute (hereinafter – LEI) lags behind KTU and VGTU by more than one third.

Following the clear leader KTU in terms of the funds generated from contracts with economic entities the second and third places were assigned to VGTU and FTMC respectively; FTMC and LEI ranked second and third in terms of income from participation in projects under international research programmes.

The entire research potential in technologies is essentially concentrated in the six institutions specified in Fig. 6.

Fig. 5. Results of the evaluation of the performance in the field of biomedicine in 2012–2014
Arts area (M). LMTA is the clear leader in this area, with Vilnius Academy of Arts (hereinafter – VDA) holding a solid second place (Fig. 7).

VDU is slightly behind LMTA by points assigned to Level 2 art works, and collected by one third less points for its Level 1 art works. In terms of the points awarded VDU and KU shared third and fourth places.

There is a clear institutional dispersal of the potential in the area of art.

Fig. 6. Results of the evaluation of the performance in technologies in 2012–2014

Fig. 7. Results of the evaluation of the performance in arts in 2012–2014
2.1.6.3. Evaluation results according to research fields

According to Item 7.2.4. of the Evaluation Methodology Level 1 research papers were submitted and reviewed according to research fields approved by Order No. V-1457 of 16 October 2012 On the Approval of Research Fields. At least one Level 1 research paper was required to be submitted in the fields of research conducting (or intending to conduct) third cycle (doctoral) studies.

According to Item 21 of the Evaluation Methodology, each Level 1 research (art) paper was given a score of from 0 to 5 points.

According to Item 22 of the Evaluation Methodology, the peer review aggregated estimate in a field \( (E_K) \) was estimated by adding up the expert evaluation scores of Level 1 papers submitted by a specific institution in a certain research field within one year, and dividing the resulting total by the number of papers in the relevant field \( (d_{K_i}) \). The Report presents the peer review aggregated estimates (hereinafter – PRAE) of institutions for the past three years; the PRAE was estimated by dividing the total points (assigned to the institution by the experts who evaluated the Level 1 papers in a specific area for 2012–2014) by the total Level 1 papers in the specific area for 2012–2014.

The present Report opted to use the peer review scale of 0.00 to 5.00 as defined in the Evaluation Methodology; the range of PRAE in a specific field obtained by each institution within three years is represented by a respective colour (from light grey to dark green). The squares represent the number of research papers submitted for review; a small square indicates that from 1 to 3 papers were submitted in the course of the past three years, a medium size square represents from four to six papers, and a large square is representative of seven or more papers submitted for review (Tables 1 and 4).

In the area of humanities (H), the experts evaluated papers in all six fields (Table 2); two universities (KU and VDU) submitted papers in all fields of research.

Papers in the philosophy field (01H) were submitted by ten institutions. The highest scores were assigned to the papers of two universities – VU and the European Humanities University (respectively, 2.23 and 2.13 points), followed by papers from VDU, LEU and LKTI (with scores of 1.25, 1.21 and 1.06 respectively). It also evidences a certain degree of distribution in institutional resources, as three universities (KTU, KU and ŠU) each submitted fewer than four papers.

Papers in the field of theology (02H) were submitted by four institutions, and two of them – VDU and KU – submitted ten and four papers respectively. KU was assigned an aggregated estimate of 1.25, and VDU 0.5.

In the art area (03H) within the past three years 13 institutions each submitted at least one paper; six of them (VDU, VDU, LMTA, KTU, LKTI and VGTU) submitted more than seven papers each. The highest score was assigned to the papers submitted by VDU (PRAE – 1.90), the score assigned to other institutions also fell within the 1.01–2.00 points range (VDA – 1.76, LMTA – 1.54, KTU – 1.45, LKTI – 1.25).

Papers in the philology field (04H) were submitted by 16 institutions, and seven of them produced more than seven papers, with VU, LLI and LI being in that respect (from 104 to 79). The highest scores were assigned to the papers of VDU (26 submissions) and VU (PRAE, respectively, 2.00 and 1.84 points), and slightly lower points assigned to LITI (PRAE – 1.75 points), and LKI (PRAE – 1.52 points), KU (9 papers, PRAE – 1.50 points), and ŠU (14 papers, PRAE – 1.29 points).

In the field of history (05H), research papers were submitted by eleven institutions, with six of them submitting seven or more papers. Highest scores were assigned to the papers of VU and LI (PRAE – 2.41 and 2.32 respectively). The papers submitted by VDU and KU were given lower scores, their PRAEs were 1.54 (23 papers submitted) and 1.53 (34 papers submitted) respectively.
In the field of ethnology (07H) five institutions submitted papers, of which three (LII, KU and VDU) submitted seven and more papers; the PRAEs were 1.56, 1.28 and 0.79 respectively. For the past three years VU submitted five papers only, and they were assessed as fairly good (PRAE 1.70).

In the area of social sciences (S) the experts reviewed the papers submitted by three universities (MRU, VDU and VU) that were submitted in eight fields of research (Table 2).

Table 2. Results of peer review of research papers of Lithuanian institutions in humanities and social sciences in 2012-2014 by research fields.

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1. 01H – philosophy, 02H – theology, 03H – art criticism, 04H – philology, 05H – history, 07H – ethnology.
2. 01S – law, 02S – political sciences, 03S – management and administration, 04S – economics, 05S – sociology, 06S – psychology, 07S – educology, 08S – communication and information.

Altogether eight institutions submitted papers in the area of law (01S), and three of them, i.e. MRU, VU and LTI, submitted more than 15 papers. The highest scores were assigned to the papers submitted by VU (PRAE – 2.12), slightly lower scores were assigned to LTI and MRU (1.95 and 1.69 respectively). Although
the papers of VDU were assessed fairly highly (PRAE – 12.05 points), however, it should be noted that only five papers were submitted in three years.

Papers in the field of politics (02S) were submitted by ten universities, of which five universities (VDU, VU, MRU, KTU and KU) submitted more than seven papers. Highest scores were assigned to the papers of VU and VDU (PRAE – 2.75 and 2.34 respectively). The highest scores were assigned to the papers of VU and VDU (PRAE – 1.75 and 1.53 respectively).

Papers in the management and administration field (03S) were submitted by 15 institutions, of which seven institutions (ISM, VU, VGTU, MRU, ŠU, VDU, KTU) each submitted ten or more papers that were scored at more than 1.00 point. The highest scores were given to the papers submitted by ISM (PRAE was 2.58). Slightly lower scores were assigned to the papers of VU, VGTU and MRU (PRAE, respectively, were 1.80, 1.65 and 1.63).

Papers in the field of economics (04S) were submitted by 16 institutions, and ten of them submitted seven or more papers. Highest scores were assigned to the papers of LAEI and VDU (PRAE – 2.21 and 2.18, respectively). Lower scores were assigned to the papers of LEI, VGTU, KTU and VU (PRAE were 1.93, 1.74, 1.64 and 1.63, respectively).

Papers in the field of sociology (05S) were submitted by 13 institutions, and seven of them – LSTC, VDU, VU, KU, MRU, EHU and KTU – submitted seven and more papers. The highest scores were given to the papers submitted by LSTC (PRAE of each – 1.96). Lower scores were assigned to the papers of VDU, KTU and KU (PRAE were 1.66, 1.44 and 1.36, respectively).

In the field of psychology (06S) papers were submitted by nine institutions, of which four (MRU, VU, KU and VDU) submitted seven or more papers with scores of more than 2.00 points. The papers in the field of social sciences were given the highest scores by the experts. The highest scores were given to MRU and VU (PRAE, 2.80 and 2.66, respectively), followed by KU and VDU (PRAE 2.07 and 2.02, respectively).

In the field of educology (07S) papers were submitted by 14 institutions, of which even institutions, i.e. LSU, VU, VDU, LEU, MRU, KTU and KU each submitted more than seven papers scored at more than 1.00 point. More than 1.50 points were given to the papers of three universities, i.e. LSU, VU and VDU – (PRAE was 1.96, 1.78 and 1.65, respectively).

Six institutions submitted papers in the field of communications and information (08S); VU was the only institution that submitted more than seven papers assessed at 1.36 points.

In the field of art, eight institutions submitted papers for the review.

The LMTA papers received the highest scores (300 papers, PRAE – 3.54 points), followed by VDU (86 papers submitted, PRAE – 3.28 points). In terms of the quality of the papers, the best performing institutions were VGTU, KU, KTU and VDA (PRAE were 2.94, 2.47, 2.26 and 2.25, respectively (Table 3)).

In the area of physical sciences, the experts reviewed papers in eight fields (no papers in paleonthology (07P) were submitted). VU was the only institution that submitted papers in all fields (Table 5).

In the field of mathematics (01P) papers were submitted by nine institutions; three universities (VU, ŠU and MRU) led in terms of the number of papers, having submitted, 25, 11 and 7 papers respectively. VU was distinguished for the quality of the papers, which received a score of 3.80 points. Significantly lower scores were awarded to the papers submitted by ŠU and MRU (PRAE was 2.32 ad 1.29). Although the quality of the papers submitted by VGTU and KTU was assessed as high (PRAE was 3.50 and 3.33), the papers, however, were very few in

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Table 3. Results of the peer review of the art papers submitted by Lithuanian institutions for 2012–2014

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<tr>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>KTU</th>
<th>KU</th>
<th>LEU</th>
<th>LMTA</th>
<th>ŠU</th>
<th>VDA</th>
<th>VDU</th>
<th>VGTU</th>
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Table 4. Graphic representation of a peer review aggregated estimate (PRAR) of Level 1 in the areas of humanities, social sciences and art depending on the estimate value and the number of the submissions.

<table>
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<th>Total research papers</th>
<th>Estimate ranges</th>
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<th>4 – 6</th>
<th>1 – 3</th>
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number (three papers by each of the institutions submitted in three years).

Papers in the field of physics (02P) were submitted by eight institutions. The highest scores were awarded to the papers of VU and FTMC (VU submitted 68 papers (PRAE – 4.08 points), FTMC submitted 88 papers (PRAE – 3.72 points). KTU and LEU were also fairly highly assessed (submitted, 8 and 12 papers respectively, and had PRAE of 3.19 and 3.04).

In the field of chemistry (03P) papers were submitted by seven institutions, and three of them, i.e. FTMC, VU and KTU submitted more than seven papers, i.e. 42, 22 and 12 papers, respectively. In terms of quality the best papers were those of VU (PRAE – 4.20 points), KTU and FTMC (PRAE 3.92 and 3.75 points, respectively). The other institutions submitted two or fewer papers.

Papers in the field of physics (02P) were submitted by eight institutions. The highest scores were awarded to the papers of VU (VU submitted 22 papers (PRAE – 4.09 points), LSMU submitted 12 papers (PRAE – 3.46 points). Fairly high scores were assigned to the papers submitted by VGTU (PRAE – 3.63); however, there were only four of them. The remaining institutions each submitted one paper for the review.

Table 5. Results of peer review of research papers of Lithuanian institutions in physical and agricultural sciences in 2012-2014 by research fields.

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<tr>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Physical sciences</th>
<th>Agricultural sciences</th>
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<td>01P</td>
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<td>VGTU</td>
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<td>FTMC</td>
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<td>LAMMC</td>
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Four institutions submitted papers in the area of geology (05P). The highest scores were awarded to the papers of GTC (15 papers (PRAE – 3.23 points) and VU submitted 7 papers (PRAE – 3.07 points). The
papers of the two other universities (KU and MRU) were assessed as very good; however, in this area the institutions each submitted only one paper.

Papers in the field of physical geography (06P) were submitted by four institutions. MRU submitted six papers, KU and VU each submitted five papers, and the PRAE were, 3.33, 2.70 and 2.40 respectively. Although the PRAE of the papers submitted by GTC was fairly high (3.00 points), there were only two such papers.

Papers in the field of astronomy (08P) were submitted by VU only (10 papers, with an RPAP of 3.80).

Seven institutions submitted papers in the field of informatics (05P). The highest scores were assigned to VU (13 papers, RPAP – 3.85 points). The KTU papers were assigned RPAP of 3.50 points (submitted 6 papers), and VDU (RPAP – 2.50 points, 7 papers submitted). Other institutions only submitted 1-2 papers for review.

In the area of agricultural sciences (A) the experts reviewed the research papers in four fields (Table 5). In Lithuania the main research in this area is concentrated in three institutions – ASU, LSMU and LAMMC. Papers in the field of agricultural sciences (01A) were submitted by three institutions. The highest scores were assigned to LAMMC (44 papers submitted, PRAE – 4.15 points), ASU demonstrated slightly poorer performance (11 papers submitted, RPAP – 2.36 points).

LSMU was the only institution that submitted research papers in the veterinary field (12 papers, PRAE was 3.00 points).

Papers in the field of agricultural sciences (03A) were submitted by three institutions. The highest scores were assigned to the papers of LSMU; altogether 44 papers were submitted and assessed at 3.19 points. ŠU submitted eight papers, the PRAE of which was as low as 0.81 points.

Two institutions submitted papers in the area of forest research (04A), where the papers of LAMMC were recognised as the best (10 papers, PRAE – 3.05 points). ASU submitted four papers, the PRAE of which was as low as 2.50 points.

In the area of biomedical sciences (B) experts reviewed papers in all ten fields (Table 6). In terms of the fields, two institutions submitted the widest variety of papers: VU (submitted papers in 8 fields), and LSMU (seven fields).

In the area of biology (01B) eight institutions submitted papers, of which five institutions – VU, LSMU, LSU, GTC and IMC submitted seven and more papers. The highest scores were awarded to the papers of VU (VU submitted 22 papers (PRAE – 3.82 points), GTC submitted 10 papers (PRAE – 3.80 points). LSU and LSMU each submitted 14 papers, which were assessed at 3.39 and 3.32 points respectively. Nine papers in the area were submitted by IMC (PRAE – 3.33 points).

Papers in the field of biophysics (02B) were submitted by seven institutions. The largest number of papers was submitted by LSMU (9 papers, PRAE – 3.50 points), KTU submitted 10 papers (PRAE – 2.50 points). VU was awarded the highest scores (PRAE – 4.00), however, the institution submitted only five papers. The remaining institutions submitted papers that were assessed rather positively, however, they were few in number.

Papers in the areas of ecology and environmental research (03B) were submitted by nine institutions, six of them – GTC, ASU, KU, LAMMC, VDU and ŠU – submitted seven papers and more. The highest scores were awarded to VDU (9 papers, PRAE – 3.89 points), ŠU (7 papers, PRAE – 3.79 points), GTC (34 papers, PRAE – 3.53 points), and KU (12 papers, PRAE – 3.25 points). The PRAE of the papers submitted by other institutions was lower than 3.00 points.

Papers in the field of botany (04B) were submitted by five institutions. The highest score was awarded to GTC (6 papers, PRAE – 3.76 points). Other institutions submitted only 1-2 papers each for review.

Papers in the area of medicine (06B) were submitted by six institutions; seven or more papers were submitted by LSMU (64 papers, PRAE – 3.80), VU (51 papers, PRAE – 3.78 points), National Cancer Institute (hereinafter – NCI, 14 papers, PRAE – 3.75 points), and IMC (8 papers, PRAE – 3.31 points). The other institutions submitted only 1 paper each for review.

In the area of ontology (07B) papers were submitted by VU (5 papers, PRAE – 3.80 points), and LSMU (6 papers, PRAE – 3.58 points).
LSMU was the only institution that submitted research papers in the field of pharmaceutics (8 papers, PRAE was 3.81 points). Papers in the field of public health (09B) were submitted by seven institutions. The highest score was awarded to LSMU (25 papers, PRAE – 3.52 points). VU and LSMU each submitted 4 papers, which were assessed at 3.00 and 2.00 points respectively.

In the field of nursing (10B) LSMU (PRAE – 3.50 points) and KU (PRAE – 3.25 points) each submitted two papers.

In the area of technology (T) experts reviewed papers in all ten fields (Table 7). KTU and VGTU submitted papers in all fields.

Table 6. Results of peer review of research papers of Lithuanian institutions in biomedical sciences in 2012-2014 by research fields.

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<th>Institutions</th>
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<th>02B</th>
<th>04B</th>
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1 01B – biology, 02B – biophysics, 03B – ecology and environmental research, 04B – botany, 05B – zoology, 06B – medicine, 07B – odontology, 08B – pharmaceutics, 09B – public health, 10B – nursing
Four universities submitted papers in the area of electricity and electronic engineering (01T). The highest scores were awarded to the papers of VGTU (14 papers, PRAE – 3.18 points) and KTU (7 papers, PRAE 2.71 points).

Three universities submitted papers in the area of construction engineering (02T). The highest scores were awarded to the papers of VGTU (26 papers, PRAE – 2.75 points) and KTU (12 papers, PRAE – 1.96 points).

Papers in the field of transport engineering (03T) were submitted by five institutions. Fairly high scores were awarded to the papers of VGTU (9 papers, PRAE – 2.44 points) and KTU (7 papers, PRAE – 1.57 points). KTU submitted six papers only, however, their RPAP was the highest – 3.17; this was the same score as ASU which submitted as few as three papers.

Papers in the field of environmental engineering (04T) were submitted by six institutions. Fairly high scores were awarded to the institutions that submitted seven and more papers; these were KTU (PRAE 3.06), VGTU (PRAE 2.54) and ASU (PRAE 2.32). LEI submitted five papers only, however, their PRAE was the highest – 3.50; this was the same score as FTMC which submitted one paper only.

Papers in the field of chemical engineering (05T) were submitted by six institutions. Fairly high scores were awarded to KTU (PRAE 3.92) and VDU (PRAE 3.36), each of which submitted seven and more research papers. VU was awarded the highest scores (PRAE – 5.00); however, the institution submitted only three papers. High scores were also awarded to three papers submitted by FTMC (PRAE – 3.83 points).
Four institutions submitted research papers in the field of energetics and thermal engineering (06T). Fairly high scores were awarded to KTU (PRAE 3.94 points) and LEI (PRAE 3.45 points). VDU was awarded the highest scores (PRAE – 4.00); however, the institution submitted as few as two research papers.

Papers in the field of chemical engineering (05T) were submitted by eight institutions. VGTU submitted eight research papers, the largest number among all other institutions; the papers were awarded a PRAE of 3.06. KTU, VU, KU and ŠU each submitted 4–6 research papers, the PRAEs awarded were, 3.33, 3.00, 2.38 and 2.00 points, respectively.

Papers in the field of materials engineering (08T) were submitted by four institutions. The highest scores were awarded to the papers of VU (7 papers, PRAE – 4.14 points) and FTMC (23 research papers, PRAE – 3.67 points). KU submitted 16 research papers, PRAE – 3.06, and VGTU submitted 18 research papers (PRAE – 2.17 points).

Papers in the field of mechanical engineering (09T) were submitted by seven institutions. The highest scores were awarded to the papers of VGTU (12 papers, PRAE – 2.75 points) and KTU (10 papers, PRAE – 1.95 points).

Papers in the field of measurement engineering (10T) research papers were submitted by KTU and VGTU. Fairly high scores were awarded to the research papers submitted by VGTU (PRAE 2.50); however, the institution submitted five papers only. The nine papers submitted by KTU were awarded 2.44 points.

### 2.1.7. Open Access

According to the Commission Recommendation of 17 July 2012 on access to and preservation of scientific information (2012/417/EU) Member States must pursue an active policy with regards to Open Access issues. Every two years Member States must inform the Commission of the actions taken in response to the different elements of the Recommendation.

Open Access is a modern direction of the development of science that has evolved in response to constantly rising publication and subscription prices, delayed accesses to scientific results and the intensifying moral belief that the results of publicly-funded research must be freely accessible not only to researchers, but to the public at large. According to the data of the Registry of Open Access Repository Mandates and Policies (ROARMAP) globally there are 651 registered policies prescribing the procedure for accessing research output (publications or data) according to the proposal of the submitting states or their institutions. The largest number of policies (365) was registered in Europe, followed by 146 in the North America, 65 in Asia, 38 in Oceania and 11 in Africa. The issues were of particular focus during the Netherlands EU Presidency (H1, 2016).

During 2015, the Council was actively inviting the community and the representatives of a range of public authorities engaged in politics to discuss the progress in building the Lithuanian Open Access policy, and on 8 July hosted a seminar Policies on Open Access to Scientific Results: Present Day Situation and Future Goals. In addition to other speakers, presentations were made by Dr. Hans Pfeiffenberger, the Chair of the Science Europe Research Data Working Group, the representative of PASTEUR4OA project and coordinator of Open Access Knowledge-Net in Eastern Europe Iryna Kuchma, the Open Access programme manager for the global electronic information for libraries system eIFL.net.

During 2015, the Council was a partner in hosting a cycle of four seminars Promoting Open Science among Young Researchers: Challenges and opportunities (coordinator – KTU), – project supported by FOSTER.

Representatives of the Council, the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as of Lithuanian University attended a special seminar for the Eastern European region held in Budapest (29–30 October 2015); the key purpose of the seminar was to encourage countries of the Eastern European region to draw up provisions for their open access policies, or update those already in effect in order to harmonise the requirements of different institutions and countries bringing them in line with the requirements of the EC, as this will facilitate research by interdisciplinary or international research groups and dissemination of results. It was with this in mind that it was noted that the objective of the EC was to streamline the impact of the research funded from public resources, where open access is one of the means to achieve the objective. One of the requirements of the Horizon 2020 programme is to submit open access publications.
to data repositories or archives. Regarding the opening of research data, the EC has been holding a reserved position, as this complex problem will undoubtedly have to be addressed in the future. Currently the need and the necessity of open access is no longer a subject for discussion, the biggest concern being the methods required for technical solutions for such access.

The last plenary meeting of the Council of 2015 launched a discussion on the possible policy of the Council regarding open access to research results. The agenda of the meeting also included an overview of the start of the open access movement, the situation in Europe and globally, and of the project sketching the possible objectives of the Council’s open access policy. The draft document will be submitted for public discussion to the Lithuanian academic community in early 2016.

The Council acts as the coordinator of open access activities in Lithuania. The decision was taken following a proposal of the Ministry of Education and Science, and in response to an appeal of the Secretariat of the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO of 2013 regarding the appointment of an institution to be responsible for open access to research information. During 2015, the Council continued constructing a section of its internet website accumulating and presenting all the issues and material related to open access – http://www.lmt.lt/lt/atviroji_prieiga.html.

At European Union level political issues related to open access are also considered within the framework of the project Open Access Policy Alignment Strategies For European Union Research, PASTEUR4OA, in which the Council is one of the participants. The project is intended to facilitate the coordinated formation of a policy on open access issues (see Section 2.4.2 of the Report).

### 2.1.8. Long-term institutional R&D programmes

The Council carries out evaluation of R&D reports of public research institutions. In this area the Council is guided by the provisions of the Description of the Procedure for the Initiation, Approval, Implementation and Evaluation of Long-term Institutional Research and Development (Social, Cultural) Programmes approved by Order No. V-153 of 31 January 2011 of the Minister for Education and Science.

In the course of 2015, experts of the Council evaluated 50 reports of R&D programmes implemented by public research institutions during 2014. The areas to be evaluated included the assignments and the results accomplished and achieved under each R&D programme (including the published research output), and the dissemination of such results, the conclusions on the course of the implementation of the programme, and proposals regarding further implementation of the programmes in 2015 were submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science.

Six institutions in the areas of humanities and social sciences submitted reports on the 22 R&D programmes they were implementing.

Of these, four institutes submitted reports on 17 R&D programmes in the area of humanities (LKI – 4 programmes, that in 2014 were allocated 41.46 normative positions and EUR 381,920, LLI – respectively, 5 programmes, 31.32 normative positions, EUR 283,520, LII – 4 programmes, 35.17 normative positions and EUR 323,870, LKTI – 4 programmes, 29.75 normative positions and EUR 274,050).

Two institutes in social sciences submitted reports for 5 R&D programmes (the Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics – 2 R&D programmes, 13.65 normative positions, and EUR 125,710 allocated in the programme in 2014; LSTC – 3 R&D programmes, 17.71 normative positions and EUR 163,080.

The reports for 2014 of four R&D programmes of institutes working in the area of humanities and social sciences were returned with a request to clarify them by distinguishing the accomplishments in 2014 using the funds allocated to an R&D programme, and the tasks performed having obtained additional funding. To this end, they were requested to specify the interrelation of individual research with the R&D programme, the contribution of the R&D programme implementers to the execution of scheduled works, publication and dissemination of research results.

By referring to the results of the research as specified in the R&D programme reports (also those subject to clarification), the experts concluded that the R&D programmes at the HSS institutes were implemented successfully and in a consistent manner: the tasks assigned were essentially accomplished, the results achieved correspond to the plan, the scientific production obtained through the implementation of R&D programmes is valuable both from theoretical and practical viewpoints, the dissemination and the
promotion of such results were adequate. The experts noted, however, that some of the R&D programmes had deviated from approved plans, the dissemination of some of the results is specifically designed for a target audience only, rather than the general public. It was suggested to the R&D programme implementers that they diversify the forms of dissemination, i.e. engage in interviews, discussions, participate in radio and television programmes; it was also suggested that they consider and discuss possibilities for the publication of papers in electronic media, and especially when starting to publish new continued works. The experts also noted that the reports submitted for 2015 should take into account the comments of the reports for 2014.

Five institutes in the area of PABT submitted reports on 28 R&D programmes (GTC – 5 programmes, which were allocated 94.45 normative positions and EUR 966,020 in 2014, LAMMC – respectively, 6 programmes, 73.75 normative positions, EUR 780,670, LEI – 6 programmes, 99.82 normative positions and EUR 919,350, IMC – 3 programmes, 27.47 normative positions and EUR 252,990, FTMC – 8 programmes, 84 normative positions and EUR 1,188,080). On the basis of the research results specified in the reports of the R&D programmes the experts concluded that the R&D programmes of the PABT institutes were implemented in accordance with the objectives and tasks of the programmes, the tasks were fully accomplished, the research production obtained is valuable, dissemination of such production is adequate, although it was suggested to the implementers of several R&D programmes that they intensify the publication and dissemination of their research results, and select higher level international journals in which to publish their research papers. The experts noted that the research indicators of several R&D programmes were achieved despite the reduced number of normative positions allocated for the programmes. The experts also noted that the implementers of some of the R&D programmes drew up particularly valuable publications, and achieved outstanding dissemination results, while some programmes were only implemented to a satisfactory level, even though all the programmes were implemented by the same institute. The programme implementers took due account of the comments offered by the experts in relation to the evaluation of R&D programmes for 2013.

Having considered the proposals submitted by the experts of the Council the Minister for Education and Science decided to continue implementing the programmes.

In 2015, experts of the Council evaluated the drafts of two long-term institutional R&D programmes of LTI. Having regard to the findings and conclusions of the experts, by his Order No. V-882 of 7 August 2015 the Minister for Education and Science approved the programmes. In 2015, experts of the Council evaluated the themes for the long-term institutional R&D programmes of NCI. The conclusions of the peer examination were submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science.

2.1.9. Commission on ethics of research activities

The Commission on ethics of research activities examines infringement of ethics principles in research activities related to projects financed by the Council, to evaluation and publication of research results, expert activities of researchers, organisation of research work, dissemination of research knowledge in the society and other activities of the Council. The Commission adheres to the principles of research ethics in activities of the Research Council of Lithuania and the provisions for ethical behaviour of researchers approved by Resolution No. VII-102 of 7 May 2012 of the Council, and the Description of the Procedure for the Examination of Notifications Related to Infringements of Ethics of Research Activities at the Research Council approved by Resolution No. VII-126 of 17 December 2012 of the Council.

In 2015, the Commission examined several applications to examine alleged violations of ethical behaviour in research activities.

2.1.10. Supervision of the quality of doctoral studies

Evaluation of doctoral studies in progress. Legal acts of the RL provide for the evaluation of doctoral studies in science and arts governed by two legal acts – the Regulations on Doctoral Studies in Science and the Regulations on Doctoral Studies in Arts. The evaluation of doctoral studies in arts was first launched in 2014, in accordance with the Regulations on Doctoral Studies in Science, and the Description of the
Procedure of Doctoral Studies in Science. It is intended to commence the evaluation of doctoral studies in arts in 2017 in accordance with the Regulations on doctoral studies in arts.

During 2015, the Council continued evaluating doctoral studies in science according to the schedule agreed with the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL. Self-evaluation reports of doctoral studies in 14 fields of science (Table 8) were submitted to the experts of the Council. Having examined the reports, the experts drew up summary findings together with recommendations and submitted proposals regarding the further implementation of doctoral studies. The quality and the efficiency of all the 27 doctoral studies programmes were evaluated positively, the studies were recommended for further continuation.

Table 8. Doctoral studies in science evaluated in 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Area of doctoral studies</th>
<th>University authorised to conduct doctoral studies in the area</th>
<th>Institutions authorised to conduct doctoral studies together with the University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humanities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Philology</td>
<td>Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences</td>
<td>Mykolas Romeris University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
<td>Klaipėda University, Šiauliai University, Institute of the Lithuanian language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td>Institute of the Lithuanian Literature and Folklore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social sciences</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Communication and information</td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Political sciences</td>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
<td>Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania, Kaunas University of Technology, Klaipėda University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
<td>Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Kaunas University of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Mykolas Romeris University</td>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical sciences</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biomedical sciences</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lithuanian Sports University</td>
<td>Tartu University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
<td>Nature Research Centre, Innovative Medicine Centre, Adger University, University of Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Biophysics</td>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</td>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Ecology and environmental research</td>
<td>Klaipėda University</td>
<td>Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Odontology</td>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Pharmaceuticals</td>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Public health</td>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Having evaluated the doctoral studies in progress, most of the expert recommendations related to the international mobility of doctoral students (the experts recommended that internship placements at foreign research centres be promoted); recommendations also concerned the activity of researchers and the internationality of publications. The experts recommended that funding for mobility and research activities be increased. The implementers of some doctoral studies were recommended to review the stock of disciplines of doctoral studies (in terms of their compliance with the field of doctoral studies), and to specify the descriptions of the disciplines. Another recommendation concerned monitoring the career path of doctoral studies’ graduates.

**Authorisation to conduct doctoral studies.** Institutions wishing to acquire the right to carry out doctoral studies act in accordance with the *Regulations on Doctoral Studies in Science*, submit documents to the Ministry of Education and Science which then applies to the Council with a request to assess them. Evaluation of the documents submitted by experts of the Council is carried out according to the *Description of the Procedure for the Evaluation of Applications for the Right to Conduct Doctoral Studies*. The findings of the expert panel are approved by the Council and then submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science.

In 2015, the Council examined two applications to acquire the right to conduct doctoral studies (odontology at VU, and zoology studies at VU in cooperation with GTC), and recommended to the Ministry of Education and Science that it grant the right to conduct doctoral studies.

As of today, 87 authorisations to carry out doctoral studies have been granted to Lithuanian institutions, and three of them are in the area of arts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Total fields of doctoral studies by research (arts) areas</th>
<th>Total at the University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleksandras Stulginskis University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaunas University of Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klaipėda University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian Sports University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mykolas Romeris University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilnius Academy of Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vytautas Magnus University</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilnius Gediminas Technical University</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilnius University</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISM University of Management and Economics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total in the area</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 universities carrying out doctoral studies in areas of science independently or in cooperation with other Lithuanian or foreign research and studies institutions (act as coordinators of such joint doctoral studies).

Resolution No. VIII-38 of 2 March 2015 of the Council supplemented the *Description of the Procedure for Evaluation of Applications for the Right to Conduct Doctoral Studies in Science*; the Resolution established the requirements underlying the examination of applications to grant the right to conduct doctoral studies to one or several institutions that would conduct studies jointly with the principal institution already authorised to conduct doctoral studies. One application was found ineligible, because the applicant institution did not have adequate scientific potential in the relevant field of doctoral studies. When evaluating the application, the experts of the Council noted that the effective legislation fails to clearly define the procedure for granting the right to another institution, therefore the Council envisages submitting proposals to amend the legal acts governing the issue.
Changing the members of the committees or the regulations on doctoral studies. According to the Regulations on Doctoral Studies in Science, institutions intending to change the composition or the regulations on doctoral studies are required to coordinate their intentions with the Council.

In 2015, seven universities applied to the Council notifying of their intentions to change the composition of their doctoral studies committees. Altogether 30 applications were submitted, and only one application was considered partly ineligible. Altogether 46 members of the doctoral studies committees were changed. It was noted that the applicant institutions applied not only to change members of the committees, but also to supplement the composition of the committees in order to ensure that the members of the committees represent the different branches in individual research fields proportionally. However, requesting to replace 3 or 4 members of some doctoral studies committees at a time should be viewed as a negative trend, as that materially changes the competence of the doctoral studies committees. Generally applications regarding changes in the composition of doctoral committees are filed immediately before a scheduled evaluation of doctoral studies, for instance, applications to replace members of the committees on doctoral studies in construction, mechanics, materials studies and transport engineering were submitted before a scheduled evaluation of doctoral studies in technologies in 2016. It might be concluded that regular evaluation of doctoral studies promoted the institutions to assess the scientific level of members of the committees.

In 2015, the Council approved an amendment to the regulation of doctoral studies in biology conducted by Tartu University in cooperation with the LSU.

2.1.11. Recognition of doctoral degrees in research (art) acquired abroad

The Council continued its work regarding the academic recognition of doctoral degrees in research (art) acquired abroad. In 2015, 22 individuals applied to the Council with a request to recognise doctoral degrees in research (art) awarded to them by foreign research and education institutions. Such applications are mostly submitted for three reasons, i.e. wishing to have the status of the doctoral degree approved in Lithuania, allocation of the researcher’s pension, or looking for a job.

In 2015, the number of applicants was nearly the same as in 2014 (23), however, the figure has doubled since 2013.

In 2015, the Council received applications regarding the evaluation of qualifications certified by diplomas issued in Belarus, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Great Britain, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine. The largest number of applications were for diplomas obtained in the Russian Federation (6); in general, the number of applicants from the Russian Federation is increasing (3 applications in 2014, and 2 applications in 2013). The breakdown of applications in terms of countries that issued diplomas remains unchanged, i.e. 1-2 applicants from EU Member States, Ukraine and Belarus.

Altogether 13 applications were filed for recognition of qualifications in HSS areas (mostly in the fields of economics and sociology), and nine applications in PABT areas (mostly, medicine, physics, mathematics, and chemistry).

The respective commission of the Council recognised all the qualifications obtained at foreign research and studies institutions to be equivalent to the doctoral degree in science (arts) awarded in Lithuania.

2.1.12. Other advisory activities of the Council

Further to those discussed earlier the Council was carrying out a number of other activities in 2015. With a view to maintaining the classification of research fields and branches permanently updated in 2015, the Council proposed to the Ministry of Education and Science to amend the classification of research fields approved by Order No. V-1457 of 16 October 2012 of the Minister of Education and Science Regarding the Approval of Research Fields. As the development of science is particularly fast, with constantly appearing new, very relevant and very intensively developed research, with the scope of research in selected fields at the same time decreasing, the academic community started considering the existing classification of science fields and branches to constitute an obstacle for the development of the
modern science. The amendments to the classification of research fields were developed having considered the proposals submitted by Lithuanian research and studies institutions, academic associations and individual researchers; the most recent trends for classifying research in foreign states and offered by international organisations were also followed.

At the request of the Ministry of Education and Science the HSS Committee of the Council submitted an expert conclusion regarding the compliance of the activities of the Eastern Europe Studies Centre and the Institute of Public Policy and Administration (hereinafter – the Centre) with research and development (social, cultural). It was concluded that:

1. the Centre is engaged in studies of political sciences (international relations, geopolitics and region); the research projects implemented by the Centre are related to political studies of Eastern Europe, Russia, Euro-Asia, with specific focus on the EU’s Eastern Partnership, cases of the Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, and public events of the Centre attended not only by Lithuanian experts, but also by politicians are important tools in popularisation and publicity of research;

2. the Institute of Public Policy and Administration is engaged in an analysis of modern public policy, and the key areas of research and the expertise are public administration, innovation, education, employment and social affairs, migration, health care, regional development; a large portion of research is of applied nature able to adapt the instruments used for comparative research in several countries and are especially instrumental for developing and improving methodology research skills.

At a request of the Ministry of Education and Science the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences of the Council was submitting its conclusions regarding the compliance and compatibility with the research and development (social and cultural) of the principal activities of the Applied Research Institute for Prospective Technologies (Protech), the biotechnology pharmacy centre Biotechpharma, PI Aukštieji algoritmai, PI Baltijos pažangiųjų technologijų institutas, PI kosmoso mokslų ir technologijų institutas. At the Order of the Chancellor of the Government of the RL the Council examined:

1. a proposal of Remigijus Šimašius, the Mayor of the City of Vilnius Regarding the establishment of a National Research Centre in Vilnius, and a proposal of Visvaldas Matijošaitis, the Mayor of the City of Kaunas Regarding the concept of a National Research and Innovations centre. In order to further perfect the concepts of the national research centre the relevant Resolution of the Government of the RL, and a Decree of the Prime Minister proposed to set up an expert working group;

2. a Resolution of the Lithuanian Biotechnology Association (drawn up following the session in bioeconomy at the international conference Innovation Drifts 2015 held on 4 September 2015, Vilnius), and the Resolution of the workshop Bioeconomy in Lithuania: prospects for development hosted by the Ministry of Economy of the RL, following which the Council proposed that the Lithuanian strategy on bioeconomy should be at the instruction of the Government of the RL initiated and monitored by any of the Ministries whose interests are close to the area of bioeconomy (e.g. Ministry of Economy of the RL), and that the strategy encompass not only the policy on the introduction of bioeconomy in the national economy, but also the development of research in the area of bioeconomy.


The Council was submitting comments and proposals regarding the draft legal acts related to research and higher education institutions, their activities, on finance and accounting issues, assistance from EU structural funds and its administration submitted for approval by other public authorities.

The Council proposed Prof. Rita Šerpetytė and Prof. Vytautas Sinkevičius as candidates to the members of the advisory committee under the service of the Supervisor for academic ethics and procedures.

The Council also proposed candidates for the selection committee of the national science awards of the Republic of Lithuania.
2.2. Financing of research and other scientific activities

The Council allocates funding for commissioned research, or studies initiated by researchers, as well as for international cooperation projects, and provides financial assistance to different activities promoting researcher careers and their mobility.

Competitions of proposals according to the financing programmes (schemes) administered by the Council were first launched in 2009. Since then the Council has been building the practice of competitive funding: it drew up descriptions of the procedure for competitive funding, the related documentation, set up expert panels, accumulated and examined the expertise in experts evaluation. Currently there are 9 standing commissions operating within the Council responsible for competitive funding activities. In 2015, 29 calls for proposals were published (or their individual stages); the results of the calls are summarised in Table 10, and the success indicators of the institutions are summarised in Figs. 8-10.

In 2015, in response to a proposal of the Ministry of Education and Science to encourage researchers to carry out urgent applied short-term research based on the State’s needs, the Council initiated a new field of activities supported by the Council – the need-driven projects. This area of activities of the Council is administered following the Description of the Procedure for the Initiation and the Implementation of Need-Driven Research Projects approved by Order No. V-124 of 27 May 2015 of the Chairman of the Council.

With a view to promoting the dissemination of research results and facilitating research and higher education institutions to educate researchers on the basis of the most advanced and cutting-edge applied works the Council initiated a new area of activity, i.e. support for publication of a work, or acquiring the rights to publish a text-book, and/or to publish it. By Order No.V-234 of 14 October the Chairman of the Council approved the Description of the Procedure for Granting Assistance.


Based on the amendments approved by Resolution No. 1353 of 3 December 2014 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania to the Regulations of the National Research programmes approved by Resolution No. 731 of 16 July 2008, the Council drew up the Description of the Procedure for the Development and the Implementation of the National Research programmes and approved it by its Resolution No. VIII-39 of 16 April 2015. The Description specified the procedure for the development of NRP, the functions of the groups responsible for the implementation of NRPs; furthermore, the NRP project administration procedure was brought in line with the General Regulations of Competitive Funding of Research and Dissemination Projects of the Research Council approved by Resolution No. VIII-26 of 27 October 2014 of the Council.

The Council continuously seeks to improve the legal acts and regulations underlying the implementation of programme-based competitive funding of research activities.

1. Resolution No. VIII-41 of 22 June 2015 of the Council approved a new version of the Description of the Procedure for Awarding Doctoral Grants for Academic Achievements and Support for Academic Trips. The new version of the Procedure provides that an incentive grant and support for academic trips may be awarded to doctoral students who have already published any publications on any subject, or have them admitted for publication (having withdrawn the requirement that the publications must be related to the subject of the dissertation, or drawn up in the course of the doctoral studies), expanded the list of the criteria for the evaluation of proposals, and included some other amendments that were proposed having regard to experience in handling proposals for the past three years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Supported areas</th>
<th>Total proposals submitted for the competition</th>
<th>Total projects recognised as winners of the competition</th>
<th>Allocation, EUR (2015)</th>
<th>Total projects in progress under the contracts signed in previous years</th>
<th>Allocation, EUR (2015)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>Research commissioned by the State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>National research programmes</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Healthy and safe food</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>900,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Well-being society</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>294,491</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Healthy ageing</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>654,198</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Sustainability of agro-, forest and water ecosystems</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>708,895</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Towards future technologies</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Programmes on Lithuanian studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>The National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>450,475</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1,093,399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>State Lithuanian studies and dissemination programme for 2016-2024</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Need-driven research projects</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>142,142</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Technological development projects</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>492,451</td>
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<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Research initiated by scientists</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Projects of researcher groups</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>2,759,612</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>4,434,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III.</td>
<td>International cooperation programmes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bilateral (trilateral) cooperation programmes and projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Lithuanian-Latvian-Chinese (Taiwan) programme</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>145,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Lithuanian-Belorussian</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>56,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Lithuanian-French</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Lithuanian-Ukrainian</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>40,495</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Lithuanian-Wallonian (Brussels)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,129</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Lithuanian-Japanese</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>60,436</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Open partnership projects</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>JPI, ERA-NET, Article 185 Initiatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>BiodivERsA</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>HERA</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>JPI Cultural heritage</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>M-ERA.NET</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>ENSUF</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>NORFACE-DIAL</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>EuroNanoMed</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>77,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>BONUS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>109,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>European Space Agency</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Support to the participants in 7th FP and H2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Compensation of the VAT paid in relation to 7th FP projects</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20*</td>
<td>58,657</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Support to drawing up proposals for H2020</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>420,189</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Representation at EU working groups. etc.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16*</td>
<td>17,237</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV.</td>
<td>Measures for funding researchers’ career and mobility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Support for academic associations</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Support for researcher trips</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>360,198</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Support for research events</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>76,392</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Scholarships to doctor’s degree students for academic achievements</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>475,105</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Support to academic trips of doctor’s degree students</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48,580</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Support for publication of a work, of acquiring the rights to publish a text -book, and/or to publish it</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>692,880</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Support to publication of research articles and books</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25,331</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total concluded contracts
2. The Description of the Procedure for Granting Support for the Publication of Research Articles and Books amended by Resolution No. VIII-42 of 22 June 2015 provides for a potentially larger amount to be granted according to this area of activity, and withdrew the requirement to include a reference that the publication is funded by the Council in papers already accepted for publication.

3. The Description for the Procedure for Granting Support for Research Trips was amended by Resolution No. 12 October 2015 of the Council specified the procedure for the administration of projects and reporting for the same, and part of the requirements provided for in the Description was transposed to the support agreement.

4. Resolution No. VIII-45 of 12 October 2015 amended the General Regulations for Competitive Funding of Research and Dissemination Projects of the Research Council of Lithuania. The Resolution provided for a requirement to ensure a more flexible approach towards modifications in the implementation of all the projects currently in progress.

The Council is a participant in the Global Lithuania Programme for 2011–2019 approved by Resolution No. 389 of 30 March 2011 of the Government of the RL, and designed to promote the involvement of Lithuanians residing abroad in State life, in political, economic, scientific, cultural and sports life of Lithuania. The activities within the programme during 2015 included 11 projects involving Lithuanian researchers residing abroad, five internship placements of Lithuanian researchers residing abroad (two such researchers participated in carrying out peer reviews), as well as the programme for the Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the restoration of the statehood of Lithuania approved by Resolution No. 904 of 19 August 2015 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, under which 12 projects were implemented in 2015.

Table 11. Funding of areas of science by funds of the State budget, 2015 EUR’000*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supported areas of activities¹</th>
<th>Humanities N²</th>
<th>Social Funds</th>
<th>Physical Funds</th>
<th>Agriculture Funds</th>
<th>Biomedical Funds</th>
<th>Technologies Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13 294.49</td>
<td>5 180.81</td>
<td>11 637.44</td>
<td>28 1,173.68</td>
<td>6 271.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>1 51.61</td>
<td>6 312.39</td>
<td>6 305.06</td>
<td>5 231.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13 294.49</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEN</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>3 77.17</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>17 536.80</td>
<td>1 40.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>1 52.03</td>
<td>5 325.05</td>
<td>5 331.82</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIT</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1,436.70</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIP</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>623.99</td>
<td>67 1675.47</td>
<td>65 1,729.00</td>
<td>9 283.00</td>
<td>69 1,912.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12.33</td>
<td>5 80.23</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEC</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>2 158.75</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>1 35.97</td>
<td>4 297.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>5 64.96</td>
<td>7 59.87</td>
<td>0 0.00</td>
<td>11 155.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ GER – NRP Well-being society
SEN – NRP Healthy ageing
SIT – NRP Sustainability of agro-, forest and water ecosystems
SVE – Healthy and safe food
LIT – the National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015
MIP – projects of researcher groups
REP – need driven research projects
TEC – technological development projects
TAP – bilateral (trilateral) cooperation programmes

² N – total projects
**Fig. 8.** State budget funds allocated under a competitive procedure to research and other scientific activities projects, 2015, EUR million*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of humanities and social sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LKTI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTTI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VGTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LKI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other institutions***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of physical, agriculture, biomedical and technology research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSMII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMTI FTMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VGTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMTI IMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPTI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other institutions***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

* – the success ratio is determined by dividing the winning proposals by the total number of proposals submitted.

** In the case of HSS, the estimations were carried out according to the data of Call VI of NMP GER and MIP, call IX of LIT IX, and competitions in REP, and in case of GTM – according to the data of call VI in NMP SIT, NMP SEN and MIP, and the competitions in REP and TEC.

*** – institutions which submitted fewer than 8 proposals.
Fig. 10. Success rates of Lithuanian institutions (in percent) in competitions published according to measures for researcher career and mobility funded from the State budget, 2015**.

* – the success ratio is determined by dividing the winning proposals by the total number of proposals submitted.

** – the estimations were made on the basis of the data of the competitions regarding support to grants to doctoral students for academic achievements, support to academic trips of doctoral students, and support to research trips.

*** – institutions which submitted fewer than 10 proposals.

The Council continues to cooperate with other institutions conducting competitive funding of R&D projects. The Council has concluded and signed cooperation agreements with MITA, the Lithuanian Council for Culture, the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language and the Education Exchanges Support Foundation. The aim of the cooperation is to ensure the most economically efficient, expedient and rational use of the State budget funds for funding culture, art and research projects, and prevention of double funding. In the course of 2015, the institutions were consistently exchanging information about proposals submitted for competitions, and projects that received funding.

During 2015, the Council was making all the required arrangements for the investment from the European Union (EU) structural funds investment period 2014-2020. After the Government of the RL by its Resolution No. 528 of 4 June 2014 approved the Rules on the Allocation of Responsibilities and Functions Among Institutions for the Implementation of the Operational Programme for Investment Financed from the European Structural Funds in 2014-2020, the Research Council was designated to act as the implementing authority responsible for the administration of the relevant measures by way of global grant, i.e. applying a simplified expense payment procedure. To ensure proper preparedness for the new period of investment from the EU structural funds the Council initiated surveys intended to identify and apply the simplified payment methods with respect to different expenses. The reports of such surveys were published at its website and in www.esinvesticijos.lt.

A number of research initiatives were completed and approved in 2015 by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education and Science, such as:

1. survey on the calculation of fixed rates of accommodation in Lithuania;
2. survey on the calculation of fixed rates of expenses related to the participation of a researcher in doctoral studies process;
3. survey on the calculation of fixed rates of expenses of post-doctoral internship;
4. survey on the calculation of fixed rates of scholarships and implementation expenses of scientific practice of students and research carried by students during their time free from studies.

In 2015, descriptions of the procedures for the administration at the Council of 22 future measures were submitted to the Ministry of Finance; such descriptions regulate the actions of the Research Council.
Foundation of the Council in relation to the functions assigned to the Council for the purpose of implementing EU structural assistance in 2014–2020. Order No. V-336 of 30 December 2014 of the Chairman of the Council approved the regulations of the EU Structural Assistance for Research Unit, the EU Structural Assistance for the Development of Researchers’ Abilities, and the EU Structural Assistance Coordination Unit of the Council as well as the job regulations of the employees of the Unites. The Units concerned will be implementing only the functions related to the administration of the EU structural funds assistance for 2014-2020. The activities of the Global Grant Unit were terminated as of 31 December 2015.

2.2.1. Implementation of national research

The year 2015 witnessed the completion of an NRP Healthy and safe food, in addition to the approval by Order No. V-694 of 26 April 2011 of the Minister for Education and Science of the national research programmes implemented in 2010–2014:

2.2.1.1. NRP State and nation: heritage and identity

The objective of 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 from the viewpoint of heritage, contemporary state of identity and impacts of the modern world challenges. The main objectives of the programme were sought by resolving five main tasks:

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 Lithuanian society, their development and prospects;
2. Research of the discourse of historic consciousness, 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 emigration, self-consciousness and preserved identity;
3. Research of the relationship between cultural heritage and society, and development of the infrastructure required for the research of heritage and identity;
4. Research of the impact of the different (new ones) challenges of the modern world – globalisation, secularisation and others upon the identity, the State, language and culture;
5. Development of the concept of the integrated information infrastructure of the Lithuanian heritage and identity.

The programme was allocated EUR 4.8 million, its output included 58 projects implemented by 290 researchers from a range of Lithuanian institutions. Altogether 757 scientific papers were drawn up and published: 40 science monographs, theoretic and synthetic research papers, 303 research articles and chapters in books published in peer-reviewed publications, 32 research articles and chapters in the books and similar publications in other scientific, culture and professional publications; 32 source publications, dictionaries, manuals, encyclopaedias, biographies, bibliographies, study text-books; 324 other academic publications (presentation and thesis) and other results; 26 compilations of research, social and cultural development papers.

2.2.1.2. NRP Chronic non-infectious diseases

The goal of the NRP Chronic non-infectious diseases is to gain the new scientific knowledge which is required to reduce the morbidity, mortality and disability of the Lithuanian population caused by major chronic non-infectious diseases, to develop the strategic principles for the prevention of such diseases and create further improved methods for their prevention and diagnostics. The main objectives of the programme were sought by resolving five main tasks:

1. Establish the impact of social, economic, life-style and biological factors on 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 a comprehensive analysis, molecular marker and non-invasive visualisation methods for the prevention and early diagnostics of CNIDs.
The programme was allocated EUR 5.5 million, its output included 48 projects implemented by 324 researchers from a range of Lithuanian institutions. The outputs of the programme included 100 scientific articles included in the Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge database with the relevant impact factor, one published monograph, and one patent was registered with the European Patent Bureau, and two patent applications were filed in addition to a number of drawn up methodological recommendations. In relation to the dissemination of the programme’s results, 177 presentations were delivered, of which 130 were delivered at international conferences.

2.2.1.3. NRP Ecosystems in Lithuania: climate change and human impact

The NRP Ecosystems in Lithuania: climate change and human impact aims at obtaining new scientific knowledge about the impact of the current and historical biological invasions upon the structure of biological systems, their functioning and evolution with a view to clarifying the basic adaptation patterns of ecosystems and their components in the context of global changes. In addition, it aims at implementing a complex evaluation of the current state of ecosystems, their biological diversity and resource availability given the impact of global biological invasions, while identifying the most common adaptability and mitigation measures and methods. The main objectives of the programme were sought by resolving five main tasks:

1. on the basis of biogeochemical indicators analyse changes in the paleo-environmental conditions establishing their stages and relationship with the globally recorded quaternary fluctuations, identifying the impact of the paleo-environment factors on the patterns of invasion (expansion) and adaptation of species;
2. study the invasiveness of alien species, their evolutionary (genomic) changes and adaptation in new localities, by drafting guidelines for their assessment, forecasting and management of biological invasions under conditions of global environmental change;
3. identify the vulnerability of native species and their adaptation under conditions of biological invasion and other global changes, and 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.

The programme was allocated EUR 6.5 million which were used to support 38 projects, of which 36 projects were implemented (two projects were not completed, however, the objectives pursued thereby were partly achieved). The projects under the programme were implemented by 9 institutions and 262 project implementers.

The outputs of the programme included 132 articles (printed, accepted and submitted for publication); of those 106 were published in foreign periodic scientific journals and 26 articles were published in Lithuanian periodic scientific journals, two international scientific conferences, project implementers attended about one hundred conferences, at which they delivered more than 100 presentations.

2.2.1.4. NRP Future energy

The aim of the NRP Future energy is to address the most relevant scientific problems concerning 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 main objectives of the programme were sought by resolving five main tasks:

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.

The programme was allocated EUR 5 million, its output included 22 projects implemented by 290 researchers from a range of Lithuanian institutions. More than 100 articles were published in different periodic research publications with an impact factor on the Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge database, two monographs, four patents were obtained, also five applications were filed with the State patent
Bureau, one application to the European Patent Office, seven new technologies were developed, described and implemented.

Fig. 11 and 12 show summarised data on the impact factor in recognised scientific journals of the articles drawn up and published as a result of the implemented NRPs *Chronic non-infectious diseases, Ecosystems in Lithuania: climate change and human impact, Future energy, Healthy and safe food*, as well as of the projects implemented by researcher groups in the PABT research areas.

**Fig. 11.** Development of the impact factor of the articles drawn up in relation to the national research programmes in the PABT areas in 2011–2015*.

* source – database Thomson-Reuters ISI Web of Science, data of 13 January 2015.

**Fig. 12.** Development of the aggregate impact factor of the articles drawn up in relation to the national research programmes in the PABT areas in 2011–2015*.

* source – database Thomson-Reuters ISI Web of Science, data of 13 January 2015.
2.2.1.5. **NRP Healthy and safe food**

The NRP Healthy and safe food is designed to obtain and systematise new scientific knowledge required for the development of relevant research methods and the application of bio-substances to new, safe and higher quality food products or enhanced biological value complying with healthy nutrition principles and that are competitive in domestic and foreign markets; develop the theoretical basis for technologies of functional food products while rationally using local raw materials and ensuring the safe supply of food products to consumers. The following two tasks have been defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

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 developing technology prototypes that enhance the safety and quality of food products;
2. analyse and assess 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 2011-2014, support was granted to 27 projects according to three calls. During 2015, 18 projects were ongoing and were allocated EUR 900,168 for their implementation. During 2015, 10 final and two annual reports of projects implemented in previous years under the programme were evaluated, in addition to the published annual report of the programme.

2.2.1.6. **NRP Healthy ageing**

The objective of the Healthy ageing programme is to carry out an integrated analysis of the issues surrounding the healthy ageing of Lithuanian society in the areas of biomedicine and social medicine through developing science and technologies, as well as examine the results of fundamental and applied research. The following three tasks were defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

1. to develop new methods for the evaluation and prevention of disease risk factors; research and evaluate their impact on the duration of life health and quality;
2. to develop methods for early detection and to forecast the progress of diseases shortening the healthy and productive life years through the use of biotechnologies, nanotechnologies, information and communications technologies;
3. to develop, improve and research methods for treating health conditions affecting the duration of healthy and productive life years, patient rehabilitation methods, and long-term monitoring methods, as well as technologies reducing social exclusion of the elderly in Lithuania.

Two calls for proposals were published under this programme. In response a total of 97 proposals were submitted, funding was allocated to 21 projects scheduled to be implemented in 2015–2018. EUR 4 million was allocated to projects which were recognised as successful under the call; EUR 654,198 will be allocated in 2015.

2.2.1.7. **NRP Sustainability of agro-, forest and water ecosystems**

The objective of the NRP Sustainability of agro-, Forest and Water ecosystems is to obtain, analyse and generalise new scientific knowledge about the impact of climate change and the use of ecosystem resources on the ecosystems of Lithuania, their adaptability to changing climate and environment conditions by way of integrated scientific research. Having acquired new fundamental and empirical knowledge about the overall consequences of the use of ecosystem resources, to propose measures which will prevent the threats related to such consequences and to draw up new guidelines for controlling and restoring the sustainability of the ecosystems. The following two tasks were defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

1. To study the effects of climate change and other environmental stress factors on agro-, forest and water ecosystems, their productivity and biological diversity.
2. To study how the intensive exploitation of resources affects agro-, forest and water ecosystems, identify the long-term consequences of such impact, possible damage and propose measures to restore sustainability.
In 2015, two calls for proposals were published under this programme. In response a total of 41 proposals were submitted, funding was allocated to 11 projects scheduled to be implemented in 2015–2018. EUR 3.5 million was allocated to projects which were recognised as successful under the call; EUR 708,895 will be allocated in 2015.

2.2.1.8. NRP Well-being society

The objective of the NRP Well-being society is to produce a comprehensive analysis of the preconditions, factors and trends necessary for the development of a well-being society in Lithuania, to study the possibilities and obstacles to its development, and to help public authorities pass strategic decisions and recommendations for the development of such a society. The following three tasks were defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

1. provide a scientific basis for the development of a safe, healthy and inclusive society in Lithuania by analysing the structure of the society (stratification), its values, attitudes and changes in behaviour, social, national and religious identity, emigration and re-emigration factors, social inequality and social exclusion, health, social, economic and other factors relevant to the quality of life, social investment for improving social assistance, healthcare and the health services system, the involvement of other (not only health but also law enforcement) sectors in building a safe and healthy society;

2. project, forecast and substantiate the smart growth of the country and the development of its well-being by analysing political economic and social factors. Such factors include: territorial (regional) differentiation; interactions between the welfare system and the economic development of the country by drawing up entrepreneurship; development of the market; the creation and implementation of social ideas in the public sector and in business; evaluation of the performance of welfare institutions — social protection and healthcare, the labour market and housing policies, the education system, and their impact on the development of the national economy, democracy and civic society; political priorities and the attitudes of the country's governing elite;

3. substantiate research-based good and responsible governance by analysing the country's political and governance system as a means of developing a well-being society, abilities to implement policies, collective action problems, the European identity of Lithuania. By drawing up proposals and recommendations regarding a responsible and open public policy, make improvements to the quality of public services, the participation of citizens and society in public governance and strengthening of the legal system.

Two calls for proposals were published under this programme. In response 116 proposals were submitted, funding was allocated to 13 projects scheduled to be implemented in 2015–2018. EUR 1.3 million was allocated to projects that were recognised as successful under the call; EUR 294,491 will be allocated in 2015.

2.2.1.9. NRP Towards future technologies

The purpose of the NRP Towards future technologies is to create a favourable international context and conditions for research building up a basis for developing future technologies, promoting innovations and enhancing Lithuania's competitiveness and security. The following two tasks were defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

1. acquire special competences and experience in carrying out research according to the themes of the research programmes of the European Space Agency;

2. develop research activities focusing on the studies of methods of generation, transmission and registration of electromagnetic radiation.

In 2015, two calls for proposals were published under this programme. A total of 35 proposals were received in response to the calls. The proposals were checked for their eligibility, and arrangements were made for a peer review of the proposals to be carried out in 2016.
2.2.1.10. The National Lithuanian Studies Development Programme for 2009-2015

The National Lithuanian Studies Development Programme for 2009-2015 (hereinafter – LIT programme) was the first programme launched by the Council in 2009 for the purpose of implementing its programme-based and competitive financing of research activities.

Late in 2014, the Council published the IX call, the last call under the LIT programme for proposals to implement projects under three groups of measures of the programme:

1. research in different fields of Lithuanian studies, dissemination of the results of such research, and enhancement of researcher qualification;
2. national and international dissemination of studies of Lithuanian philology, promotion of international relations and international recognition;
3. publication of research papers in Lithuanian studies.

The Council received 62 proposals for research projects and 112 dissemination projects; all the proposals were submitted for peer review within the reporting period. Following the expert assessment, the Council decided to award funding to 13 research and 31 dissemination projects.

During 2015, 115 projects under the LIT programme were in progress (55 research and 60 dissemination projects), supported with the allocated EUR 1,543,874.

For more about the Programme see the Annex to the Report (the final report of the National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015).

2.2.1.11. State Lithuanian Studies and Dissemination Programme for 2016-2024

On 11 May 2015, Order No. V-519 of the Minister for Education and Science approved the State Lithuanian Studies Research and Dissemination Programme for 2016–2024. The purpose of the programme is to develop fundamental and applied Lithuanian studies, promote the renewal and enhance the international dimension of Lithuanian studies, absorbing the most advanced research instruments, respond to changes in society with new knowledge and ideas, protect Lithuanian studies, develop and strengthen the dissemination of Lithuanian research studies within the Lithuanian and international academic community, promote the accessibility of Lithuanian studies in society. The following three tasks were defined to achieve the objective of the programme:

1. carry out Lithuanian studies encompassing the specialised sources for Lithuanian studies, as well as specialised databases;
2. promote national and international dissemination of Lithuanian studies, as well as international cooperation between researchers engaged in Lithuanian studies;
3. publish research papers in Lithuanian studies (including electronic publications).

In 2015, the Council published one call for proposals under this programme. Out of the 238 proposals 152 concerned research projects, with 86 proposals for dissemination projects. The proposals were checked for their eligibility, and arrangements were made for a peer review of the proposals to be carried out in 2016.

2.2.1.12. Need driven research projects

In 2015, in response to the proposal of the Ministry of Education and Science to encourage researchers to carry out urgent applied short-term research based on the State's needs, the Council initiated a new field of activities supported by the Council – need driven research projects. The first call was conducted in May–June 2015. The competition was conducted in two stages and according to the themes proposed by eight Ministries and other public authorities. During Stage 1 applicants submitted short proposals (43 proposals submitted), of which the Need Driven Research Supervisory and Management commission selected 18 proposals recognised to be the best. The projects envisaged under the selected proposals were further elaborated in the full proposals. The proposals were evaluated by the relevant expert panels and it was decided to fund nine projects by allocating EUR 142,142 for the purpose in 2015.
**2.2.1.13. Technological development projects**

In order to facilitate technological development in the country by promoting research activities whose results would be aligned with productive innovations and instrumental for addressing important technological problems of the private and public sector, in 2015 the Council again published an invitation for proposals for technological development projects (the projects under the previous call were implemented in 2012–2014). The competition was conducted in June–September 2015. Thirteen proposals were submitted and seven projects were evaluated as eligible for funding, and were allocated EUR 492,451 in 2015.

**2.2.1.14. Projects of researcher groups**

The largest number of projects funded by the Council is in the area of researcher group projects, and funding in this area continued in 2015. In providing support in this area the Council seeks to provide financial support to research according to subject themes proposed in all areas, submitting projects together with an implementing Lithuanian institution, or in cooperation with Lithuanian and foreign institutions. Early in 2015, the Council conducted a peer review of the proposals submitted under Call VI published in autumn 2014. A total of 652 proposals were submitted (225 in HSS, and 372 in the NTS area). The projects dedicated for cooperation with the USA should be evaluated separately – 55 proposals submitted in the area. Funding was provided to 95 projects (36 projects in the HSS area, 50 projects in the NTS area, and nine projects based on cooperation with the USA). Altogether EUR 2,402,078 was allocated for the projects in 2015 (EUR 760,091 for HSS projects, EUR 1,390,910 for NTS projects, and EUR 251,077 to support cooperation with the USA). Having reviewed the use of the appropriations allocated to the Council, as well as the funding for MIP contracts under Call VI that have not been signed, the Council decided to support 16 MIP projects from the reserve project list. Thus, a total 16 MIP projects under Call VI were allocated funding, amounting to EUR 2,759,612 within the year concerned. During 2015, another 169 MIP projects were implemented according to contracts signed in previous years. In 2015, EUR 7,193,973 was allocated to the MIP projects. The evaluation of the interim and the final reports of the projects was ongoing throughout the year. Altogether 236 reports were evaluated.

Fig. 13–14 show the impact factor of the articles drawn up within the framework of MIP projects in the NTS area.

![Fig. 13. Impact factor of the articles drawn up within the framework of MIP projects in the NTS area, 2011–2015*.

* source – database Thomson-Reuters ISI Web of Science, data of 13 January 2015.](image-url)
2.2.1.15. Support to research activities of scientists and other researchers (Global grant)

As of 31 December, the Council completed implementing Measure No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-07-K Support to Research Activities of Scientists and Other Researchers (Global Grant) of Priority 3 Strengthening of Capacities of Researchers and other Scientists of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development (hereinafter – the Global grant measure), an instrument for funding high level international research initiated by Lithuanian institutions since 2011.

Altogether 106 high international level research projects were implemented under the measure, which the Council supported in 2015 with an allocation of EUR 3,083,209.47 (Fig. 15).

Table 12. Info on proposals according to calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research area group</th>
<th>Call I</th>
<th>Call II</th>
<th>Call III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposals submitted</td>
<td>Funded projects</td>
<td>Proposals submitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTS</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three calls for proposals were published within the lifetime of this measure; 349,106 proposals were received, and the successful projects were allocated in excess of EUR 32,217,000.
Altogether 173 proposals were submitted in response to Call I (71 HSS, and 102 NTS), and EUR 63,070,692.70 was committed for the purpose. Altogether 33 projects were successful (11 HSS and 22 NTS projects), and allocated EUR 11,451,820.20.

90 proposals were submitted in response to Call II (40 HSS, and 50 NTS projects), and EUR 30,794,202.11 was committed for the purpose. Altogether 35 projects were recognised as successful (14 HSS and 21 NTS projects), and allocated EUR 12,093,973.13.

86 proposals were submitted in response to Call III (51 HSS, and 35 NTS projects), and EUR 21,418,028.78 was committed for the purpose. Altogether 38 projects were recognised as successful (19 HSS and 19 NTS projects), and allocated EUR 9,627,415.14.

From the beginning of the global grant instrument in 2011 until 31 December 2015, project implementers delivered 1,255 presentations at scientific conferences abroad, published 44 scientific monographs, registered two patents at the State Patent Bureau, and submitted 12 patent applications at patent services of Lithuania, the European Union and the United States of America. The results of the projects included 878 publications by project implementers (mostly in physical and biomedical sciences), among which 47 publications in the journals attributed to top ten journals in the Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge data base.

Table 13. Research papers by research areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research area</th>
<th>Allocated funds, EUR'000</th>
<th>Total projects</th>
<th>Total papers in the Thomson Reuters Web of Science</th>
<th>Impact factor</th>
<th>Highest index of project h**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>4,789</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19*</td>
<td>0*</td>
<td>Not applicable*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social sciences</td>
<td>6,842</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical sciences</td>
<td>9,247</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural sciences</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical sciences</td>
<td>10,293</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technological sciences</td>
<td>1,851</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>33,259</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>833</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*total research papers in the Lituanistika database. **h index – individual researcher (and magazines) and publications promotion indicator.

2.2.1.16. Long-term institution-based programme in economic research

The long-term institutional programme in economic research Long-Term Competitiveness Challenges of the Lithuanian Economy approved by Order No. V-1104 of 9 July 2012 of the Minister for Education and Science was implemented in 2012–2014. On 29 August 2012, the Council signed a contract with KTU, the lead programme implementer regarding regulations on the implementation and financing of the programme. KTU implemented the programme in cooperation with its partners ASU, LEI, LKA, MRU, VDU, VGTU and VU.

Total allocations for the programme in 2012–2014 amounted to LTL 2,673,000 (EUR 763,700). The final scientific report of the programme was produced and submitted for evaluation by an expert panel early in 2015.

The themes and the objects examined and considered by programme implementers are relevant for many Lithuanian institutions and social groups. The conducted research in many cases constituted the basis for drawing up guidelines or recommendations intended for the Government, and some of the recommendations targeted business entities and public sector enterprises. Resolving the tasks anticipated under the programme produced results which are significant for the entire academic community, as they deepened the knowledge of phenomena and created preconditions for further research. The programme was designed to engage researchers of different institutions and encourage them to cooperate. In the opinion of the experts evaluating the programme report, it produced a significant impact on the development of the academic community in the area of economics.
The results of the programme were presented at the international conference ‘Lithuanian science and industry’, at the closing event of the programme that became a forum for discussions among representatives of research, business and management institutions. Furthermore, programme participants delivered 60 presentations at local and international conferences, meetings with representatives of interest groups, seminars and discussions. The results of the programme also included 90 research publications, among them 60 publications in foreign and international journals.

The experts noted that the programme’s implementation format (when one leading institution coordinated the research conducted by other implementing institutions) was rather unconventional, and for the first time ever applied in the area of economics.

2.2.2. International research activities

2.2.2.1. Participation in the ERA-NET programmes

The Council was participating in seven projects under ERA-NET programme constituting a framework for international calls for proposals in various areas of research.

BiodivERsA3. In cooperation with its international collaborators, the Council continued to implement the BiodivERsA3 programme (ERA-NET COFUND project under Horizon 2020 programme of the EU) in 2015. In 2015, seven proposals were submitted under the BiodivERsA3 call (initially eight preliminary proposals) in relation to which Lithuanian institutions were partners. The Council arranged an eligibility check of such (preliminary and full) proposals. The Council has committed EUR 300,000 to fund the successful projects including Lithuanian institutions as participants (three projects can be funded).

During 2015, representatives nominated by the Council were active participants of the BiodivERsA3 programme: they attended the general assembly, meetings of the steering group of Call IV, contributed to setting up international panels of experts to evaluate BiodivERsA3 proposals, promoted the 2015 call for proposals among Lithuanian applicants, hosted an international event dedicated to presenting the call and considered other issues related to the programme.

Mera-Net. During 2015, the Council in cooperation with other partners was continuing to implement the Mera-Net programme (a ERA-NET-PLUS project under the 7th Framework Programme). The call for proposals under the programme for 2015 was published on 3 February 2015. Nine short proposals were submitted providing for the participation of researchers from Lithuanian institutions. The eligibility check of the proposals was carried out through September.

As of 1 October 2015 funding was provided to the MYND project ‘Use of defects of diamonds in nanotechnologies’ under Call III and implemented by VMTI FTMC.

In 2015, the Council participated in submitting a Horizon 2020 proposal regarding the new stage of the Mera-Net programme, and signed a grant agreement regarding funding of Mera-Net 2. In 2016 the Council intends to launch a call for proposals according to the new programme – Mera-Net 2.

A representative of the Council was attending meetings of representatives of the countries that responded to the calls under the Mera-Net programme in 2015. The meetings discussed a range of issues related to the call and evaluation of the proposals.

EuroNanoMed 2. One more project implemented during 2015 was EuroNanoMed 2, i.e. an ERA-NET project under the 7th FP of the EU, and the Council continued financing the implementation of the VOLGACORE project submitted under a 2013 call and involving a Lithuanian participant (the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences). As of January 1 the Council started allocating funds to the REGENERATE project with VMTI FTMC as the Lithuanian participant and its partner UAB Ferentis (project proposal submitted according to the call of 2014).

In 2015, four project proposals involving five participants from Lithuania were submitted in response to the call under the EuroNanoMed 2 programme. The eligibility check of the proposals was carried out through April 2015. Not a single proposal involving Lithuanian participants was selected as eligible for funding following the peer review of the proposals.

The call for proposals under the programme for 2016 was published on 26 November 2015.
Representatives of the Council attended the meetings of the EuroNanoMed 2 programme Member States discussing a range of programme implementation issues.

**HERITAGE PLUS.** During 2014, the Council in cooperation with other partners was continuing implementation of the HERITAGE-PLUS programme (a ERA-NET-PLUS project under the 7th Framework Programme). The year 2015 was the last year for the competition for proposals for the Joint programming initiative **Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a new challenge for Europe** under the HERITAGE PLUS programme. Out of 352 short proposals 16 were submitted in cooperation with Lithuanian institutions: in 12 proposals the Lithuanian institutions were partners for project implementation, and in four cases they were project coordinators. Total 61 consortia were invited to submit full proposals, with a Lithuanian institution acting as the coordinator for one such consortium. The international peer review of the proposals decided to finance 15 projects. However, not a single proposal with partners from Lithuania was considered by the international peer review as eligible for funding.

A representative of the Council was attending the meetings of the representatives of the countries participating in the calls under the HERITAGE PLUS programme. The meetings discussed a range of issues related to the call and the evaluation of proposals.

**HERA.** In 2015, a call for proposals was also launched under the HERA joint research programme ‘Uses of the past’ (ERA-NET PLUS project under the 7th FP of the EU). A total of 605 short proposals were submitted, of which 34 were in cooperation with Lithuanian institutions (under 33 proposals Lithuanian institutions were partners for the implementation of the projects, and in one case the Lithuanian institution acted as the project coordinator). Invitations to submit full proposals were submitted to 100 consortia, in five of which Lithuanian institutions acted as project partners. The decision regarding financing the projects will be passed in early 2016.

Representatives of the Council attended the meetings of the HERA programme Member States discussing a range of programme implementation issues.

**ENSUF.** The ERA-NET Cofund Smart Urban Futures, ENSUF is an ERA-NET Cofund programme implemented under the Horizon 2020 scheme and serves as a framework to provide funding to different research in the area of urban development, and innovations. ENSUF is part of the joint programming initiative **Urban Europe.** The purpose of ENSUF is to coordinate national research and innovation programmes in the area of urban development, and organise competitive funding of the projects in the area on the international level. ENSUF unites 26 institutions providing funding to research and innovations from 18 European states.

In 2015, the Council joined the ENSUF international call to submit proposals. The call for short proposals was published on 16 December 2015 and was open until 15 March 2016. The Council contributed to the budget of the joint international call with EUR 200,000; the funds are intended to be allocated to Lithuanian institutions included in the list of international projects that qualify for funding.

A representative of the Council participated at the meetings of the countries participating in the ENSUF call, and discussed the terms and conditions of the call and other issues.

**NORFACE DIAL.** At the end of 2015 the Council joined the NORFACE research programme **Dynamic of Inequality Across the Life-Course: Structures and Processes (DIAL)** implemented according to the ERA-NET Cofund scheme of the Horizon 2020 programme of the EU. The objective of the programme is to promote high-level international research in social sciences throughout Europe by coordinating national research programmes, and organising international competitive funding of the programme. The NORFACE DIAL project is coordinated by NORFACE (New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe), a network of organisations funding social science research in Europe, comprising research-funding organisations from 17 European countries.

A call for proposals under the NORFACE DIAL programme is scheduled to be published in January 2016.

**2.2.2.2. Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme BONUS**

Since 2010, the Council has been a participant of EEIG (European Economic interest Grouping) of the Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS) implemented according to Article 185 of
the Treaty establishing the European Community, and has a representative on the Steering Committee. The participants of the BONUS programme are the nine countries around the Baltic Sea and the EC. The Council is the institution coordinating and administering BONUS in Lithuania and providing the relevant funding according to it. In the course of 2015, funding was further provided to two Lithuanian participants under Call I, in addition to two new funding agreements signed with Lithuanian participants (the proposals submitted according to Call II).

During 2015, participants of the Council actively contributed to the process of aligning the position of Lithuania regarding the potential funding of Lithuanian participants in submitting proposals according to the last call under BONUS programme and the preparation of a new stage of the programme BONUS2, for which the Council submitted opinions and drafted the documents required in drawing up a joint proposal on the part of the Baltic states to the European Commission.

A new call for proposals under the BONUS programme will be published in November 2016.

2.2.2.3. Lithuanian – Swiss cooperation programme 'Research and development’

Since 2011, the Council, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Public Institution Central Project Management Agency has been implementing the programme Research and Development under the Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union. Acting as the Implementing Authority the Council is responsible for the organisation of the call for proposals and supervision of the implementation of the projects.

The Council acts as the administrator of 11 research projects implemented by Lithuanian and Swiss researchers. The projects under the programme were allocated EUR 7,328,172: 85% of the amount was allocated from the Swiss support programme, and 15% – from the State budget of the RL. The average allocation per one project was EUR 0.66 million. By 31 December 2015, the project implementers had received EUR 6,380,411, including the advance transfer.

The year 2015 was the third year of the projects under this programme. At the beginning of the year, a number of annual project implementation reports were submitted to the Council for evaluation. The reports were evaluated by the Joint Selection Committee composed of 3 highly experienced Lithuanian and 3 Swiss researchers. All the reports were evaluated positively, and the projects were approved as eligible for continued implementation. Early in 2015, the Council hosted a conference dedicated to introducing the results of 11 projects that had been partially implemented, discuss the experience of joint activities of bilateral groups, and the further implementation of the projects. One of the eleven projects in progress was completed on 31 December 2015.

In spring 2015, the Council launched a competition for the implementation of projects within the framework of the partnership of Lithuanian and Swiss research and studies institutions. The decision to launch an additional competition was taken because of significant savings of the programme funds as a result of the rise in the exchange rate of the Swiss franc with respect to the euro. The researcher consortia of the two countries submitted 17 proposals for projects to be implemented under the institutional partnership. The total requested funding amount was EUR 2.465 million, i.e. several times more than the original budget of the programme. Following the peer review of the proposals the Joint Selection Committee selected nine institutional partnership projects with an intended duration of 9 months. EUR 1.08 million (CHF 1 million) is intended to be allocated to a range of scientific internships, visits, conferences and other joint events in relation to the projects implemented under the institutional partnership, as well as to the publication of scientific papers. The average budget per project is EUR 120,000. The projects under the joint partnership framework will be launched in 2016. Lithuanian researchers will be involved in the implementation of the projects in cooperation with researchers from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, Lausanne, Bern, Zurich, Fribourg and the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in north-western Switzerland, the Swizz Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology, and the Psychiatric Clinic of the University of Bern.
2.2.2.4. Lithuanian-Latvian-Chinese (Taiwan) programme;

During 2015, following the relevant international contract the Council continued implementing the jointly-funded cooperation 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);

In 2015, the Council published one call for proposals under the programme. Altogether 31 proposals were submitted according to the call of the programme; following the expert assessment a decision was passed to grant funding to 4 projects (starting from 2016).

During 2015, the Council funded 10 projects under the programme (total allocations in 2015 – EUR 145,170). The Council organised an expert evaluation of the reports of the projects for 2014.

A representative of the Council attended the meeting of the Lithuanian section within the tripartite committee of the programme, in which he presented the expert evaluation of the reports for 2014, the information on the eligibility checks and expert evaluation procedures, as well as the proposals regarding funding of the projects.

2.2.2.5. Cooperation with Japan

In 2015, the Council started providing funding to the first five research projects under the Lithuanian-Japanese competition for proposals launched in 2014. For the purpose of the implementation of the projects the Council allocated EUR 399,000. The projects will last for two years.

In response to the open partnership call published by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, JSPS on 22 June 2015 the Council published a second call for proposals regarding support to Lithuanian researchers to carry out joint research and dissemination projects with Japanese researchers. According to the agreement with the JSPS the competition was arranged in both countries; the proposals were accepted until 08 September 2015, the Council’s funding commitment to the projects under the programme is EUR 234,000. The projects will last for two years. In Japan projects under the programme may be financed according to the JSPS free partnership projects and seminars scheme, or according to other research funding programmes.

2.2.2.6. Participation in cooperation initiatives of the Nordic and the Baltic States

Since 2010, the Council has been part of the Nordic and Baltic States cooperation initiatives coordinated by Nordic Research Board NordForsk. The Council is the institution providing funding to research in Lithuania.

The call for proposals under the Nordic and Baltic States cooperation initiative expired in February 2015. Following the peer review two projects were selected as eligible for funding with Vilnius University participating in one of them as a participant of the project consortium.

2.2.2.7. Open partnership research projects

With a view to promoting the international dimension of research carried out by Lithuanian researchers, the Council initiated a new financing instrument Open partnership research projects. According to this instrument following the competitive procedure, funding is allocated to research projects of 2-3 years in duration and implemented jointly with researchers of foreign States (except Japan and Switzerland). The Council provides funding to the Lithuanian participants of the successful projects. The funding for project partners from foreign states may be allocated according to respective research funding programmes or other facilities operating in the foreign states.

Call I for proposals regarding projects in all areas of science under the programme was also launched in the reporting year. The competition for proposals was met with considerable interest on the part of researchers, and 130 proposals were submitted with researchers from 24 Lithuanian institutions among potential project implementers. The projects according to successful proposals are scheduled to be launched in H1 2016.
2.2.3. Researcher career and mobility

As every year, the Council was devoting significant attention and resources to researchers’ career and mobility measures. A summary of the results of state-budget funded researchers’ career and mobility projects in 2015 is presented in Table 13.

Table 13. Success rate of proposals under the competitions for support to researchers’ career and mobility under the instruments funded from the State budget in 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instruments</th>
<th>Total proposals submitted</th>
<th>Funded projects</th>
<th>Average success ratio, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships to doctor’s degree students for academic achievements</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for academic associations</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to academic trips of doctor’s degree students</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for researcher trips</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for research events</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for publication of a work, of acquiring the rights to publish a text -book, and/or to publish it</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to publication of research articles and books</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.3.1. Implementation of post-doctoral fellowship in Lithuania

The year 2015 witnessed the completion of the project Implementation of Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Lithuania under the implementation Measure No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V Promotion of Scientists and Other Researchers Mobility and Students Scientific Research under Priority 3 Strengthening of Capacities of Researchers of the Operation Programme for Human Resources Development for 2007-2013 (project No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V-02-004). The objective pursued by the project is to develop the post-doctoral fellowship system by including third cycle university level students in research activities, enabling them to pursue independent research work, and prepare for an academic pedagogical career. Within the project implementation period, 225 post-doctoral internships were carried out in Lithuania; in addition there were 11 foreign internship students, including five researchers from Ukraine.

In the course of the two-year post-doctoral fellowship programme students have a possibility to undertake post-doctoral studies in foreign research centres or universities. Furthermore, researchers undertake their post-doctoral studies at different universities of the world, such as Harvard, Edinburgh, Oxford, Milan, Warsaw, Zurich and other universities.

2.2.3.2. International mobility according to bilateral cross-border contracts

During 2015, the Council was implementing five cooperation programmes in R&D area according to international contracts and agreements (hereinafter – Cooperation programmes) providing funding to researchers’ mobility:

1. the programme on cooperation in research and technologies between the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL and the State Research and Technology Committee of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter – Lithuanian-Belarus programme);
2. the programme on cooperation in research and technologies between the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL and the State Science, Innovations and Information Agency of Ukraine for 2011-2015 (hereinafter – Lithuanian-Ukrainian programme);
3. the bilateral Lithuanian-French integrated activity cooperation programme in research and development Gilibert (hereinafter – Gilibert programme);
4. the Lithuanian and Wallonian-Brussels bilateral and research and technology programme (hereinafter – Lithuanian-Wallonian programme).

In 2015 the Council provided funding to 28 mobility projects: 15 projects according to the Lithuanian-Belarus programme, six projects according to each of the Lithuanian-Ukrainian and Gilibert programmes,
and one project according to the Lithuanian and Wallonian-Brussels programmes (total EUR 182,879 was allocated to the implementation of the programmes in 2015).

In the course of 2015, experts of the Council evaluated the reports of R&D programmes implemented by public research institutions during 2014: Gilibert programme (12 final reports), Lithuanian-Belarus programme (8 final reports), the Lithuanian-Chinese (Taiwan)-Latvian programme (1 report), and the Lithuanian-Ukrainian programme (5 reports).

In 2015, the Council published a call for proposals under the Lithuanian-Ukrainian programme (31 proposals received). Following the peer review of the proposals seven projects were qualified as eligible for funding and funding agreements were concluded with the relevant project implementers (starting from 2016). The total amount of support was EUR 105,660.

In addition, representatives of the Council were participating at meetings of the Lithuanian part of the commission and the bilateral commission of the Lithuanian-Ukrainian programme, at which they presented expert assessment of the proposals under the calls of 2014, the results of the expert assessment of the proposal under the 2015 call, and project funding proposals.

2.2.3.3. Swiss Grant Fund (Sciex-NMSch)

Acting as the coordinating institution in the course of 2015 the Council continued to provide consultations to internship students seconded abroad and their academic supervisors, and was submitting the relevant reports. No competitions for proposals were launched in this field in 2015. Throughout the entire programme implementation period (2009–2016) six calls for proposals were launched for Lithuanian participants. Young researchers from Lithuania submitted 100 proposals. Altogether 51 young researchers were supported to undertake an internship training opportunity.

A representative of the Council attended the closing event of the Sciex-NMSch programme in Switzerland.

2.2.3.4. European Space Agency programme

On 8 April 2015, the European Space Agency signed an agreement with the Council on internship placements for Lithuanian graduates in the area of physical and technology sciences at the European Space Agency. The Council drew up the documentation required for the internship studies to be carried out. The first call for proposals was published on 18 September. A total of five proposals were submitted for the competition. The decision regarding financing the projects will be passed in early 2016.

2.2.3.5. Support for researcher trips

The Council is carrying out this area of activity in accordance with Art. 77(9) of the Law on Higher Education and Research. The purpose of the support for research travels is to support researchers in developing their professional qualification, enhance researcher mobility and international dissemination of the achievements of Lithuanian science. Under this programme assistance will be granted for internships of scientists and other researchers, participation at scientific conferences abroad, and teaching at foreign research and studies institutions.

The first call (Call I) for proposals for support for researcher mobility was launched in April 2015. Altogether 367 proposals were received; the amount requested was EUR 484,852. The second call (Call II) in mid-September received 184 proposals for support for researcher trips; the total amount requested was EUR 213,334.

During the reporting year a total of 333 agreements regarding support to researcher trips were signed with researchers and institutions. The amount requested was EUR 392,032 in support. However as this support is expense reimbursement, in fact the researchers only used EUR 360,198.

Support was allocated to 157 researchers in NTS (124 scientists) and 176 researchers in HSS (152 scientists). In 2014, most of the trips (79.9 %) were related to attendance at scientific conferences, the purpose of 11.7 % of the trips was to carry out research in foreign research and studies institutions, and 3.6 % cases concerned participation in scientific expeditions or researcher schools organised abroad.
2014, support for trips of researchers was allocated within the framework of the EU structural fund project *Competitive funding of short-term trips of scholars* (see Section 2.2.3.6 of the Report).

### 2.2.3.6. Competitive funding of short-term visits of scholars

The last day of the project *Competitive funding of short-term visits of scholars* support for implemented according to Measure No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V Promotion of Mobility of Scientists and Other Researchers, and Research Activities of Students under Priority 3 Strengthening of Capacities of Researchers of the Operation Programme for Human Resources Development for 2007-2013 was 16 September 2015. The principal objectives of the project are to strengthen the relations of emigrant researchers and those working abroad with the higher educational establishments of Lithuania, as well as with research institutions, other companies and entities engaged in research. This will thus enhance the level of research in progress, and facilitate preparatory arrangements for attracting high-level foreign and Lithuanian emigrant scholars, and the reintegration of returning researchers. It will also help Lithuanian scholars and researchers to participate in international scientific events. Such visits are just one of the ways to strengthen international scientific cooperation and maintain social dialogue.

Two groups of scholars and researchers (incoming and outgoing) could receive support according to five categories of visits. Visits of three categories refer to incoming researchers who receive support for carry out their research activities, deliver lectures, hold seminars or their cycles, and participate in the doctoral studies process. The other two categories refer to outgoing researchers, where the purpose of the assistance is to facilitate their participation at international research conferences and to carry out research abroad.

During 2015, 190 short-term visits of scholars and researchers were arranged, of which: 5 scholars arrived to Lithuania to participate in the doctoral studies process, 27 were delivering lectures or conducting seminars, and 18 scholars were conducting research in Lithuania; 58 Lithuanian researchers were supported to conduct their research in foreign institutions, and 86 attended scientific conferences in foreign countries.

The support allocations for the activities under the project amounted to EUR 341,725.10.

### 2.2.3.7. Grants to doctoral students for academic achievements and support for their academic trips

During 2015, 225 scholarships worth EUR 475,105 were allocated to doctoral degree students. The support for academic trips in H1 2015 benefited 22 doctoral students, and 26 students during the second half of the year. The amount allocated to support academic trips of doctoral degree students was EUR 48,580.

In October 2015, the Council published calls for proposals for doctoral student grants in 2016, and for support for academic trips in H1 2016. By 15 November 2015, the Council had received 96 applications for support for academic trips of doctoral degree students. The applications were subjected to eligibility check. The applications are also being examined by the standing Commission on the allocation of support for academic trips of doctoral students. By 15 December 2015, the Council had received 655 applications for doctoral scholarships for academic achievements. The eligibility check and expert evaluation of these applications will continue through 2016.

### 2.2.3.8. Training of high qualification specialists (doctoral degree students) in competition-based doctoral degree studies

On 30 September 2015, the Council completed the project *Improvement of Training of High Qualification Specialists for the Development of Research-Intensive Economic Sub-Sectors – NKPDKOT* (project No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V-03-001) according to Measure No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V Promotion of Mobility of Scientists and Other Researchers, and Research Activities of Students under Priority 3 Strengthening of Capacities of Researchers of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development for 2007–2013. The activities carried out under the project...
were intended to train high qualification specialists (doctoral degree students) able to address the most relevant challenges in science and apply the acquired knowledge for business needs. The Council implemented the project in cooperation with 17 other partners – Lithuanian institutions.

Altogether 216 doctoral students have participated in the project since its outset. The allocations to project activities totalled EUR 6,509,677.48 (including EUR 4,643,236.16 allocated from EU funds), of which EUR 6,133,257.83 was used to implement a range of different activities. Within the validity of the project 45 doctoral degree students have defended their doctoral degree theses, and were awarded with a PhD. Another 39 students successfully completed their doctoral degree studies, and are preparing to defend their theses, and 118 have completed part of their doctoral degree studies. The latter will continue their doctoral degree at the respective institutions (they will be further funded from the EU structural funds for 2014–2020). While implementing a project of the new EU support period during 2015 the Council received 204 proposals regarding competitive funded doctoral studies, and selected 97 themes for future doctoral degree students.

2.2.3.9. Support for research events

The purpose of support for research events is to promote the development of research activities in Lithuania and to strengthen international research relations. Research events supported by the Council address the most relevant issues in science, disseminate the most advanced, most modern scientific ideas, support the adaptation of such ideas in practice and promote social cultural development.

In 2015, the Council published one call for proposals for support for research events. A total of 59 proposals were submitted; the Council allocated EUR 76,392 to support 36 scientific events.

2.2.3.10. Support for the publication of research articles and books

This support is awarded to Lithuanian researchers who wish to publish their research papers in high-level scientific journals, or publish research books. By allocating this type of support the Council seeks to promote the development of Lithuanian science and its global visibility, and ensure that the financial capacities of the researcher or the institution at which he is working does not affect the dissemination of the achievements in the area of research. This activity support for the Council was managed in accordance with the Description of the Procedure for Granting Support for the Publication of Research Articles and Books approved by Resolution No. VII-107 of 25 June 2012 of the Council. Applications for this kind of support may be filed on a continuous basis.

During 2015, the Council reviewed 40 proposals including 1 application for support for publication of a book. EUR 25,331 was allocated to activities according to 18 proposals, the entire amount was intended to support the publication of a scientific article.

2.2.3.11. Support for academic associations

Acting in accordance with Article 66 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the RL and its Regulations the Council supports activities of student unions and organisations, organisations of scientists and other researchers, student research organisations and other associations (hereinafter – academic associations). The purpose of the support for academic associations is to promote the activities of such associations related to the objectives of the higher education and research system and 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.

In 2015, the Council received 45 proposals to fund projects implemented by academic associations. The 40 projects which will be implemented by academic associations were allocated EUR 64,000. The financial support was specifically allocated to activities of academic associations related to the objectives assigned to the research and studies system, and the attainment of...
such objectives, addressing the issues relevant for the development of research and studies. In this regard account was taken of the experience of the institution in implementing projects, the quality of the submitted proposal, funding requirements and their reasonableness, as well as the participation of academic associations in international organisations, the scope and the visibility of the association’s activities.

2.2.3.12. Support for the publication of a paper or acquiring the rights to publish a text-book, and/or to publish it

The purpose of the support for the publication of research papers and the dissemination of such results was to promote the development of Lithuanian research resources, support institutional activities, raise the profile of science and to call on the relevant institutions to train future researchers on the basis of the most recent, advanced and global-level applied papers. This area of the Council’s activity is administered according to the Description of the Procedure for Allocating Support for Publication of a Paper or Acquiring the Rights to Publish a Text-Book, and/or to Publish it approved by Order No. V-234 of 14 October 2015 of the Chairman of the Council.

In October 2015, the Council launched a call for applications to receive financial support for publication of research papers. Altogether 186 applications were submitted of which 111 were selected as eligible for funding; EUR 692,880 was allocated for the purpose.

2.2.3.13. Promoting students’ research activities

The project was implemented according to the implementation measure No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V Promotion of Mobility of Scientists and Other Researchers and Research Activities of Students under Priority 3 Strengthening of Capacities of Researchers of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development for 2007-2013 (project No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V-01-002). The purpose of the project is to enhance the interest of young academics in research activities and reveal the prospects of a scholarly career. The project provided researchers with the possibility to carry out individual research while using state-of-the-art equipment and research literature resources, and was a means to promote the mobility of young academics between different research and studies institutions.

The project consisted of three parts: scientific practice of students, research by students and internship studies of doctoral degree students in foreign research centres. Academic supervisors of the student’s research works are Lithuanian scholars and highly qualified researchers. Students participating in the project are paid fixed-amount scholarships. Stage I of the project was implemented in 2009–2011 (711 students from Lithuania and other EU Member States, the activities were allocated EUR 1,196,070 (LTL 4,129,790).

According to an extended financing and administration agreement the second stage of the project will cover the period of 2011-2015. Within the second stage of the project in 2011-2012: 588 students participated in the student research practice, 1,327 students in out-of-curriculum research (of which 180 signed agreements and launched their research in 2015), 117 doctoral degree students signed agreements concerning fellowship programmes abroad.

Students’ research activities were supported with allocations of EUR 164,455. Stage II of the project Promotion of Research Activities of Students was completed in 2015.

2.2.4. Other financing instruments

2.2.4.1. Support to applicants under Horizon 2020

Seeking to incentivise the Lithuanian participants of the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020 (hereinafter – Horizon 2020) the Council published a call for proposals for support to applicants under the Horizon 2020 programme. The proposals were submitted in the period from 1 April until 30 October 2015; 15 Lithuanian institutions submitted 258 proposals; funding of EUR 420,189 was allocated to 253 proposals.
2.2.4.2. Compensation of VAT for projects under FP7 projects

In the course of 2015, the Council continued its activities in reimbursing value added tax (hereinafter – VAT) in relation to participation in the 7th Framework Programme (hereinafter – FP 7). According to the regulations on participation in FP 7 projects, the VAT paid in relation to the projects is considered as ineligible costs and 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 12 May and 9 October published calls according to which institutions implementing FP 7 projects could file documents for compensation of the VAT incurred in relation to the implementation of projects. Having reviewed the submitted documents, the Council concluded 20 agreements on the reimbursement of VAT with 11 applicants (EUR 58,657.44 was compensated).

2.2.4.3. Financing of representatives in European Union and other international working groups

During 2015, the Council continued to finance the activities of its representatives in various EU and other international working groups, committees, commissions, etc.

In 2015, the Council concluded 16 tripartite agreements concerning the financing of activities of its representatives in various EU and other international working groups, committees, commissions, etc. The allocations according to these agreements amounted to EUR 17,237.5 of which EUR 5,752.3 was allocated to cover expenses related to the activities of Lithuanian representatives and experts in committees for the FP 7 programmes. Representatives of the Council participated in 31 meetings of different working groups, of which 13 were meetings of committees under the Horizon 2020 programme.

2.3. Participation in the development of the international research area

The Council coordinates and administers programmes of the European Research Area, promotes competitive participation of Lithuanian researchers in different international research programmes, and develops relations with different foreign organisations responsible for the formation of science policy, and implementing competitive funding of research.

Cooperation and competition are two complementary parts of the international dimension: on the one hand, countries cooperate in addressing common challenges, on the other hand they compete for researchers of the highest levels and funding from foreign financing sources. By being part of the international research policy and research activity area the Council seeks to take advantage of the opportunities offered by international cooperation and ensure the highest possible competitiveness of Lithuanian science.

The Council is a participant in the most important international organisations (see Sections 2.3.4–2.3.6 of the Report) which offers and ensures opportunities for Lithuanian researchers to join international cooperation networks, obtain access to cutting edge infrastructures, and thus opens possibilities for participation in high-level research and innovation activities. Being a member of different international organisations the Council has access to information about the best practice of other countries (analyses performed, studies or methodologies).

The Council has been involved in discussing and resolving different issues important for the European Research Area by representatives to different committees of the Horizon 2020 programme, and other international working groups (see Section 2.2.4.3 of the Report).

One of the most important events dedicated to the development of the international dimension in 2015 was a COST information day COST – a possibility to develop international cooperation in research organised on 19 March jointly by the Council and the COST Association. Among the participants and the speakers at the event were Dr. Angeles Rodríguez-Peña, President of the COST Association, and its senior administrator Christer Halen. At the event significant attention was dedicated to the proposal competition under the COST programme: drawing up of a new proposal to initiate a new activity, items to specifically consider when drawing up international proposals, possibilities and national requirements for joining the COST activities already in progress. A high-level meeting held on 20 March was attended by Dr. Angeles Rodríguez-Peña, the Vice-Minister for Education and Science of the RL Dr. Rimantas Vaitkus, the Chairman
of the Council Prof. Dainius H. Pauža, and the Vice-Chairperson of the Council Prof. Rūta Petrauskaitė. The discussions covered a number of issues related to the participation of Lithuania in the COST programme, and the possibilities of improving the country’s performance in this respect.

In 2015, the Council hosted information days dedicated to a range of programmes and themes under the Horizon 2020 programmes (see Section 2.3.1) which were also attended by representatives of the EC. In June 2015, the Council organised a two-day training session Participation in the Horizon 2020 programme – practical aspects dedicated to potential applicants under the Horizon 2020 and conducted by an expert from Germany, Rita Clancy.

A meeting of delegations of the Research Councils of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia took place on 24–25 August 2015 in Estonia and passed a joint statement of the three Baltic states. The joint statement declared an undertaking to further cooperate with a view to ensuring the progress of science in the Baltic region, make every effort to strengthen the evaluation of research carried out by researchers in the Baltic states, while seeking synergy in research of infrastructures, and improving communication in conducting research and exchange in results. The statement proposed to intensify the activity of the task force set up in 2015 at the initiative of the Ministers for Science and mostly concerned research infrastructures, and emphasised that funding of R&D should be considered to constitute investment in the prosperity of the entire region.

As part of the efforts to improve the participation of Lithuanian researchers in the activities of the European Research Council, on 22 September 2015 the Council hosted a discussion with Lithuanian science politicians, heads of research and studies institutions on ways to improve participation in the European Research Council (hereinafter – ERC) domain of the Horizon 2020 programme.

In all its current and newly launched initiatives the Council has been specifically focusing on the international dimension of its activities.

2.3.1. Administration of Horizon 2020 and the Seventh Framework Programme

1 January 2014 was the date of the launch of the new EU research and innovations funding programme Horizon 2020. Over seven year EUR 70.2 billion will be invested in research and innovation projects. The Council is the administrator of the following areas under Horizon 2020:

- European Research Council;
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions;
- Research infrastructures;
- Health, demographic change and well-being;
- Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy;
- Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials;
- Space;
- Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies;
- Spreading excellence and widening participation,
- Joint Research Centre.

The Council administers the area of Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy jointly with the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA), and in the area of Space technologies the Council cooperates with MITA and the Lithuanian Centre of Innovations.

The Council participates in the network of the National Contact Points (NCP) under Horizon 2020 which brings together the EU Member States, Horizon 2020 Associated Countries and third countries. On the national scale the NCP network is represented by the NCPs according to Horizon 2020 thematic areas which provide highly qualified assistance to programme participants and applicants. Within the Council the functions of the national representatives are performed by four employees who in the course of 2015 attended nine meetings of the NCP hosted by the European Commission.

Acting as the administrators of the Horizon 2020 programme the NCPs operating in the Council perform the following functions:
provide information about Horizon 2020, and seek to enhance its visibility by:
- cooperating with press officers for Horizon 2020 at Lithuanian research and studies institutions, business entities and public authorities;
- organising different information events (11 information days to introduce the calls under Horizon 2020 held in 2015);
- preparing and publishing information about the programme in the internet website of the Council;
- providing consultations, assistance and organising training (conducts ex-ante Horizon 2020 proposal examination services);
- providing initial information about other national and international programmes;
- cooperating with the focal points of other countries with a view to ensuring more successful participation of Lithuania in the Horizon 2020 programme, and a more efficient performance of the Lithuanian focal points (by participating in different projects of national focal points under Horizon 2020).
- collecting, systematising and analysing statistical information about the participation of Lithuania in Horizon 2020;
- providing assistance to applicants under the Horizon 2020 (see Section 2.2.4.1 of the Report).

According to the data of the European Commission of 30 October 2015, Lithuanian institutions participated in submitting 673 proposals under Horizon 2020, involving 802 participants from Lithuania, and in the case of 169 submitted proposals Lithuanian researchers acted as coordinators. 78 participants from Lithuania (of which 11 coordinators) included in the list of proposals eligible for funding. There are 74 participants (of which 11 coordinators) from Lithuania and these are parties to 64 contracts regarding the implementation of projects concluded with the EC. The budget of the Lithuanian participants in the projects is EUR 11.11 million, including EUR 9.57 million allocated by the EC. The average funding received by a single participant from Lithuania is EUR 129,260. The success rate in terms of the number of participation is 9.73 % (Fig. 16), and 4.6 % according to the allocations by the EC.

The 7th Framework Programme of the EU has ended, nevertheless, the projects that started within the framework of the programme were continued. During 2015, the Council continued compensating VAT incurred in relation to projects under the FP7 projects (see Section 2.2.4.2 of the Report).

The Council has also delegated representatives to the programme committees under Horizon 2020 to represent Lithuania and take part in drafting action programmes and other documents.

Fig. 16. The initial results of the participation of Lithuanian institutions in Horizon 2020 programme

### 2.3.2. Joint Programming Initiatives

Lithuania is participating in a number of Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI):

*Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a New Challenge for Europe.* During 2015, the Council continued financing a project involving a participant from Lithuania that had filed a proposal according to
the trial call of a JPI Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a New Challenge for Europe in 2013. The project will be completed in the middle of 2016.

The year 2015 was the last year of the competition for proposals for a JPI Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a New Challenge for Europe under the HERITAGE PLUS programme (see Section 2.2.2.1).

In 2015, representatives of the Council attended the VIII meeting of the Board of the JPI Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (Brussels), and the first conference dedicated to presenting the vision of the JPI, and the strategic agenda of research and innovations encompassing the joint activities of European marine and maritime research and its prospects. The principal achievement in this area in 2015 was the launch of the trial (pilot) calls according to a number of subjects: microplastics, deep-sea mining, monitoring infrastructures and North-East Atlantic waters measuring intercalibration. Since the area is not a priority area for Lithuania, the Council decided not to become part of the call. The areas discussed in the course of 2015 included the legal (institutional) status of the JPI Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans, and the drawing up of the proposals according to CSA (coordinator – Belgium BELSPO) and CoFund (marine technologies area) under the Horizon 2020 programme.

2.3.3. COST activities

The Council acts as the coordinating and funding institution in Lithuania according to the European Cooperation in Science and Technology programme (hereinafter – COST programme).

In 2014, the structure and the management of the COST programme was reorganised by establishing the COST Association. Currently, the members of the COST Association are 34 European states and Israel (participates as a cooperating State). In order to ensure orderly administration of the COST programme, the Council represents Lithuania within the activities of the senior officials of the COST Association:

In 2015, a representative of the Council participated at three meetings of senior officials of the COST programme; the meetings discussed the most relevant COST programme management issues, as well as two meetings of the national focal points.

After COST abolished the COT committees by individual areas, and set up one Scientific Committee in 2015, Prof. Rūta Petrauskaitė was delegated to the committee as the representative of Lithuania. Prof. Petrauskaitė attended three meetings held in Brussels; the meetings introduced the activities of COST, the activities of the Scientific Committee of COST, and discussed a range of issues related to the forthcoming evaluation of the proposals. The proposals submitted in response to Call I were evaluated in the light of the policy aspects of the COST programme, i.e. respecting the principles of gender equality and prioritising young researchers.

In 2015, the Council appointed the experts who were included in the database of the COST programme (the database constitutes a basis for setting up groups for evaluation of proposals under the COST programme).

During 2015, the Council was further implementing the standing calls to submit proposals concerning participation in actions under the COST programme. In the course of the year the Council organised four interim proposal collection and expert assessment sessions. During 2015, the Council accepted 77 proposals concerning participation in the COST programme filed by 13 Lithuanian institutions. Following the expert evaluation, 65 representatives of Lithuania were appointed to different committees of the COST programmes. Lithuanian institutions were participating very actively in the following Actions under the COST programme: Individuals, Society, Cultures and Health (28 actions), Materials, Physics and Nanosciences (19 Actions), Trans-Domain Proposals (19 actions), and Forests, their Products and Services (16 actions). Thus 28 representatives of Lithuania became members of the Action management committees under the COST programme approved on 30 October 2015 by the senior officials.

2.3.4. European Science Foundation and Science Europe

The European Science Foundation (hereinafter – ESF) established in 1974 with a view to promoting and supporting the development of high-level science in Europe was for a long time one of the most influential institutions of the EU. The ESF is responsible for coordinating common research activities, carries
out science development analysis, hosts international research conferences and methodological seminars, and carries out peer reviews of research activities and institutions. The Council has been participating in the activities of the ESF since 2009.

In November 2015, the Chairman of the Council attended the closing general assembly of the ESF which discussed the performance of the ESF. After 33 organisations withdrew from the ESF, at the end of 2015 the association consisted of 13 organisations from 11 European states. Starting with 2016, the membership of the Council in the ESF was terminated.

An assembly of institutions funding and implementing national research that took place on 21 October 2011 in Berlin announced a launch of a new Association Science Europe. The Association Science Europe unites 47 institutions engaged in funding and implementing research (including the Council) from 27 European states.

On 12–15 April 2015, the Chairman of the Council Prof. Dainius H. Pauža attended a high-level workshop, European Research Area, and the General Assembly of Science Europe held in Vienna (Republic of Austria). The workshop on the European Research Area is a regular annual event, bringing together Ministers of European States, heads and representatives of organisations funding national research activities or engaged in research.

The general Assembly of Science Europe approved the reports of the Association for 2014, discussed the issue of setting up the standing Research Committee, the procedures for selecting candidates to be members of the Committees, and approved the candidates, discussed the performance of other committees and the emergence of new structures.

The Council is engaged in the activities of several working groups of the Science Europe Association. At the working group Open Access to Research Infrastructures the Council is represented by Prof. Algis Krupavičius, and Prof. Rūta Petrauskaitė is the delegate of the Council to the working group Research Data.

In 2015, the Vice Chair of the Council, and the Chair of the HSS Committee Prof. Rūta Petrauskaitė attended three meetings of the Access to Data working group of the Science Europe Association; the agenda of the meetings included examination and evaluation of the accomplishments during the term of the working group, and the most important instruments: ‘Research Infrastructure Financing Landscape’ (comprehensive overview of the situation), and the opinion of the Science Europe Association on TDM (text and data mining) that will be presented to the European Commission and the Parliament who are working on updating copyright policy. Another very important accomplishment was the Glossary of Data Management Terms compiled by Prof. Rūta Petrauskaitė and Peeter Doorn, Director of Data Service of the Netherlands; the Glossary will facilitate a uniform understanding of the terms used in documents of Science Europe. The most recent seminar of this working group in October 2015 discussed the importance of content mining for science. The seminar discussed the self-analysis carried out by members of the group, and elected a new Chairperson of the group. The meeting of the Board of the Science Europe Association scheduled for Q1 2016 will discuss the future of this working group.

In 2015, a representative of the Council Algis Krupavičius attended four meetings of the working group ‘Open access to research infrastructures’. Mr Krupavičius, in cooperation with his colleagues Kas Maessen (Netherlands Organisations for Scientific Research) and Ricardo Migueis (Foundation for Science and Technology of Portugal) drew up a survey report ‘Strategic Priorities, Funding and Pan-European Cooperation for Research infrastructures in Europe’ analysing such issues as planning and funding of public research infrastructures, cooperation in Europe, presenting an overview of the different national research infrastructures, and 15 recommendations for the development of strategic priorities, funding and international collaboration of RIs.

2.3.5. Researchers in motion network EURAXESS

During 2015, the Council was continuing its activities within EURAXESS, the network of the European national centres of mobility in research; the Council was consulting and providing practical information to researchers and scholars on mobility in Lithuania and abroad, was managing the website www.euraxess.lt, on which the Council was publishing information about events, placing work ads for scholars and
researchers in Lithuania and foreign states, possibilities for funding research and internship studies. In 2015, the EURAXESS website published information on 31 vacancies in Lithuanian.

A representative of the Council was attending events organised for national focal points of EURAXESS centres and the administrators of the national EURAXXES internet websites.

2.3.6. Other international cooperation activities

In Lithuania the Council represents the Norweigian Social Science Data Services, NSD, (replaced the European Science Foundation, which has terminated its activity – more at http://www.esf.org/index.php?id=4813) and continues managing the European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH PLUS) (https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/erihplus/). On 28-29 May 2015, a representative of Lithuania, the Vice-Chair of the Research Council, and the Chair of the HSS Committee Rūta Petrauskaitė attended the founding conference of ERIC PLUS in Bergen (Norway). Cooperation with the ERIN PLUS index compilers is of utmost importance for Lithuania for several reasons. First, the index is a leverage when assessing any HSS publications that are not included in the bibliometric databases, i.e. scientific journals published in Lithuania should be included in the list and thus become more visible. Another reason is that by managing the ERIH PLUS the NSD will promote and support the registering and rating of Lithuanian HSS journals, and encourage the publishers of such registered journals to provide information on the regularity and the quality of the journals they publish to the NSD. Having developed into a database for national publications the ERIH could further integrate the Lituanistika DB that will soon enter its fourth financing period.

The scientific secretary of the Council Dr. Brigita Serafinavičiūtė attended a seminar on sustainability science hosted by UNESCO (Poland, Germany and Austria national commissions) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, held on 11–12 September 2015 in Warsaw. Sustainability is a science that is structurally and methodologically suitable for addressing any major challenges. The contemporary world most of all needs problem-based research, while multidisciplinarity is a prerequisite for the sustainable development of science. Sustainable development is related not only to the environment, but also requires social and demographic changes and the modernisation of institutions. This is specifically relevant for the Central and Eastern European region. The purpose of the workshop was to consolidate the agreements entered into at a seminar in Bratislava in 2014, to prepare for the submission of a project to the European Commission. It was noted in particular that sustainable development should not be an object of political fights, therefore it was absolutely necessary to include representatives of all political forces in the discussions. For the development to be sustainable, it is necessary to implement joint international and regional projects to change the classification of science fields, as the current classification is an obstacle to training interdisciplinary doctoral degree holders. The Living Lab could be used as a methodological instrument for identifying problems, as well as for addressing them. The working groups discussed the idea of the project to be submitted to the European Commission, expectations as to the results, potential partners and the progress in developing the project. Representatives of Germany agreed to act as coordinators of the project.

In response to a request of the State Fund for Fundamental Research of Ukraine, and a call of the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL the Council delegated its representative Prof. Rūta Petrauskaitė to deliver a presentation on the competitive-based funding of science implemented by the Council at the GRANT 2015 (http://enggrant2015.dffd.gov.ua)hosted by the Fund on 1–2 October 2015. During the visit to Ukraine, a meeting was arranged with the Vice-President of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine to discuss the desire for close cooperation within the European Research Area.

The Council has been developing cooperation with a number of foreign countries of high scientific level. On 7 October 2015, the University of Tokyo (Japan) hosted the second joint Lithuanian-Japanese science symposium dedicated to life sciences. The symposium was organised and hosted by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, JSPS), the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Japan, the University of Tokyo and the Council. Representatives of the Council were among the attendees of the symposium; presentations were delivered by 14 scholars, seven from each Lithuania and Japan. Representatives of the Council met representatives of the JSPS and discussed possibilities for further cooperation. Now, as
relations between Lithuanian and Japanese scientists are intensifying the two institutions expect to conclude an interinstitutional agreement to fund joint research projects in the future.

The key subject matter of the VII World Science Forum held on 4–7 October 2015 in Budapest (more at: http://www.sciforum.hu/) was the Enabling Power of Science. The Forum held six plenary and nine thematic sessions; 70 speakers representing science, politics and society delivered presentations. The Forum reflected on the way science opens new paths for the improvement of human life, business innovation and policy-making. Participants discussed communication between science and society, different aspects of confidence in science, the role of science in seeking and maintaining peace, the power of the human brain, innovation ecosystems, the challenges of international cooperation, global healthcare policies, renewable energy resources, light technologies, and the contribution of science in mitigating disaster consequences. The themes considered at the Forum covered two main aspects – sustainable development and the advisory role of science for policy-makers. The Forum discussed how science could facilitate implementation of the 17 sustainable development objectives approved for implementation by 2030 by the United Nations, and help in facing the challenges that lie ahead of the mankind in this ambitious path. Following an intensive three-days of discussions the Forum adopted the Declaration of the World Science Forum on the enabling power of science (http://www.sciforum.hu/declaration/2015-declaration-on-the-enabling-power-of-science.html). At the Forum the Council was represented by Aušra Vilutienė, director of the Research Foundation, and Dr Brigita Serafinavičiūtė, the Scientific Secretary of the Council.

2.4. Other projects implemented by the Council

2.4.1. FP7 project Servicizing Policy for Resource Efficient Economy (SPREE)

The year 2015 was the last year of the three-year project Servicizing Policy for Resource Efficient Economy (SPREE) under the FP 7 programme. The aim of the SPREE project is to identify potential “Servicizing Policy Packages” for the establishment of Servicizing systems able to facilitate the transition from selling products to providing services. An advanced Agent-Based Modelling (ABM) approach is used to structure and test options for Servicizing Systems and Policies, which would eventually encourage participants to seek more rational use of resources, and facilitate a transition from selling products to providing services.

The participants of SPREE in Lithuania in cooperation with a team from Santiago de Compostela University carried out studies in the agricultural sector, and participated in developing the Integrated Harmful Organism Control (IHOC) service system model. The project implementers considered possibilities for encouraging farmers to avail themselves of crop protection service providers, instead of doing this by themselves. The Spanish researchers were examining the opportunities for promoting protection products in vineyards, and Lithuanian researchers were more interested in the use of the products in growing rapeseed.

The SPREE project brought together ten teams from the United Kingdom, Sweden, Netherlands, Spain, Lithuania, Finland and Israel for cooperation. The project implementers were modelling the servicing opportunities in three sectors: water sector (used-water processing and rainwater collection service system), mobility sector (car and bicycle or rental services system), and agri-food sector (integrated pest management service system). The results of the project were presented in the internet website of the European Commission.

The total value of the project was EUR 3,011,500, of which EUR 180,200 was allocated to the Council.
2.4.2. The Seventh FP project Open Access Policy Alignment Strategies for European Union Research (PASTEUR4OA)

During 2015, the Council continued the implementation of the project Open Access Policy Alignment Strategies for European Union Research, hereinafter – PASTEUR4OA. The 30-month PASTEUR4OA project was launched in February 2014 in cooperation with another 15 organisations from different EU Member States. PASTEUR4OA supports the aim of encouraging the development of matching policies on Open Access and Open Data in the European Union, according to the European Commission’s recent Recommendation on Access to and Preservation of Scientific Information (July 2012) and in view of maximizing alignment with the Horizon 2020 policy on access to the research funded by the Commission. The project is expected to facilitate developing and/or reinforcing Open Access strategies and policies at the national level and their coordination among all Member States.

During the reporting period, efforts were continued to develop a coordinated cooperation network Knowledge Net for specialised national centres which will facilitate the formation of an open access policy in Europe. In Lithuania, the Council is the national centre. One result of the project is a completed typology constituting a framework for classifying national and institutional Open Access approaches, having identified in addition the factors determining their efficiency. The project implementers drew up and published abundant material facilitating drawing up Open Access provisions on the national and institutional level, introducing best practice examples, case studies, templates and diagrams, etc.

As part of the project, numerous regional seminars are organised for representatives of policy-makers and representatives of research institutions. Representatives of the Council together with specialists from four Lithuanian universities and the Ministry of Education and Science participated in the Eastern European region seminar Working Together to Promote Open Access Policy Alignment in Europe held on 29–30 October 2015 in Budapest (Hungary).

In July 2015, the Council hosted a seminar in Vilnius to discuss the most relevant issues related to the building of open access to research publications and data policy; the seminar also published two interviews with visiting speakers (see Section 2.1.7 of the Report). Representatives of the Council cooperated in organising a cycle of FOSTER seminars Open science for young researchers: challenges and opportunities for Lithuanian researchers (coordinator – Kaunas University of Technology).

Information about the project and the Open Access is published regularly and updated on the internet website of the Council.

2.4.3. Technical assistance for the implementation of the Global grant

Order No. 1K-283 of 31 August 2009 of the Minister of Finance of the RL On the Appointment of the Global Grant Manager (with subsequent amendments) appointed the Council to act as the manager of the Global Grant responsible for the implementation of Measure No. VP1-3.1-ŚMM-07-K Support to Research Activities of Scientists and Other Researchers (Global Grant) of Priority 3 of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development. With a view to implementing the Global Grant measure appropriately the Council and the PE Central Project Management Agency have concluded two agreements concerning implementation of the projects Support to research activities of scientists and other researchers (Global Grant) (No. VP1-5.1-FM-01-V-02-001), and Information and publicity of the Global Grant measure (No. VP1-5.2-FM-01-V-02-001). The principal purpose of these technical support projects is to ensure appropriate financial and technical conditions for the administration, information and publicity of the Global Grant measure.

The technical support project No. VP1-5.1-FM-01-V-02-001 (administration activities) was allocated EUR 448,911 in 2015 (of which EUR 235,461 was allocated for salaries); EUR 448,319.83 was absorbed. The technical support project No. VP1-5.2-FM-01-V-02-001 (publicity activities) was allocated EUR 28,962 in 2015; EUR 28,960.87 was absorbed.

With a view to ensuring the efficient management and implementation of the Global Grant measure, favourable working conditions and adequate remuneration were provided to the employees performing functions related to the implementation of the programme-based competitive financing: 17 working places
were created, the participating employees were enhancing their professional qualification and benefited from possibilities to advance their professional knowledge and skills at Lithuanian and foreign training centres.

The results of the publicity actions related to the Global Grant measure are published in the website www.lmt.lt. The events that attracted significant attention of researchers and researchers were the information events, seminars and training session for applicants, project implementers, research and studies institutions, and the closing conference By investing we seek excellence in research of Measure No. VP1-3.1-ŠMM-07-K Support to research activities of scientists and other researchers (Global grant). Altogether 21 episodes presenting the Council and its activities were shown on national TV.

3. The organisational structure of the Council

The Council is made up of the Board, two expert committees – the Committee of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences, and the Research Foundation of the Council (hereinafter – the Research Foundation). The committees of the Council are authorised to pass decisions on issues related to the research areas under their supervision. The Board of the Council, whose activities were carried out by the Chairman of the Board, includes Chairmen of the Committees, the Scientific Secretary, a representative appointed by 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 draws up the agenda of plenary meetings, approves the expert groups proposed by the Committees and tackles other issues.

In 2015, the Council held five meetings, and the Board met on 20 occasions. In the course of the year the Council passed 11 Resolutions, in addition to 117 Resolutions of the Board.

The functions of the Research Foundation of the Council include implementation of Resolutions passed by the Council, administration of calls for proposals, organisation of the expert evaluation process, also provision of assistance at meetings of different commissions and working groups operating within the Council, drafting of descriptions of procedures for the implementation of the Council's activities and of other procedural regulations, organisation of activities of the Council, drafting of documents related to the administration of State funds and the funds allocated under the EU structural assistance for the promotion of science, research and development activities. 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.

The Research Foundation consists of 7 Units (the structure approved by Resolution No. 8V-7 of 9 September 2013 of the Board of the Council). In November 2015, three new Units were added to the structure of the Research Foundation: the EU Structural Assistance for Research, the EU Structural Assistance for the Development of Researchers’ Abilities, and the EU Structural Assistance Coordination Unit. The decisions to open these new units were passed in view of the new period of the EU structural assistance, as the new units will be performing functions assigned to the Council related to administration of the EU structural funds for 2014-2020.

According to Resolution No. SV-S-1463 of the Board of the Parliament of the RL starting with 2012 the total maximum permissible number of civil servants and employees working under employment contracts at the Research Foundation of the Council is 45 positions. According to Resolution No. SV-S-878 of 17 December 2014 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 in the Administration of the Research Council of Lithuania the maximum permissible number of civil servants and employees working under employment contracts in the administration of the Council and remunerated from the EU and the international technical assistance funds was increased to 44 positions. In 2015, there were 18 employees working at the Global Grant Unit; upon the expiry of the EU structural assistance period in 2007–2013 (as of 31 December 2015) the employees of the unit were transferred to the three new units. In 2016, for the purpose of ensuring proper administration of the functions related to the administration of the EU structural assistance the Council intends to recruit new employees for the remaining 26 positions.
The Board of the Parliament does not establish any maximum permissible number of positions funded from the EU structural funds. Other activities terminated in 2015 were those of projects funded under the EU structural funds and employing 12 positions.

The Board of the Parliament does not establish any maximum permissible number of positions funded according to the Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme; in 2015 there were 6 such positions (Table 14).

In 2014, the Research Foundation of the Council had 89 positions: 44 positions funded from the State budget appropriations, and 44 positions funded by the EU and according to the technical assistance instruments of international financial support arrangements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positions at the Council in 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members of the Council: 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees of the Research Foundation of the Council:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– positions funded from the State budget: 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>positions funded by the EU and according to the technical assistance instruments of international financial support arrangements - 44 (public servants and employees working under employment contracts and paid from the technical assistance of the EU structural funds for 2007–2013, and the technical assistance of the EU structural funds for 2014–2020).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– positions funded from the EU structural funds (in other EU structural funds projects): 12*(end-2015) and 0* positions at the end of 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– positions funded from the Swizz assistance facility: 6*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* - positions not included into the maximum allowable number of positions (see the text).

4. Promotion of the activities of the Council

The Council regularly informs Lithuanian scholars, research and studies institutions, also the authorities contributing to the formation of science policy, and the media about any new programmes and the opportunities offered by them, calls for proposals, results of competitions, and any other activities of the Council, such as coordination of the issues related to Open Access, international cooperation, updates on the programmes of the European Commission coordinated by the Council in Lithuania, evaluation of research (art) papers, development of the EU investment in science, etc.

With a view to introducing applicants and project implementers to the regulations of competitions and the requirements for projects in progress the Council organises meetings with the academic community several times per year. Ordinarily the events are held pending the publication of calls for proposals according to the areas of research supported by the Council, or following such publication. The research community is always an active participant of such events.

In 2015, the Council hosted more than 30 events on different issues relevant for Lithuania and the entire Lithuanian community (22 information days and consultations and 8 events intended for an audience beyond the academic community, such as symposiums, conferences and discussions). A symposium for Lithuanian and Japanese researchers was held in Tokyo with the assistance of the Embassy of Lithuania in Japan and in cooperation with the JSPS. For the purpose of promoting the opportunities to cooperate with Lithuanian researchers the Council was among the participants of the World Lithuanian Economic Forum held in Tel Aviv (Israel) on 21-22 October 2015. At the end of the year the Council hosted a conference By investing we seek excellence in research summarising the results of the EU structural assistance measure Global Grant.

The internet website of the Council has about 2,000 subscribers (unique addresses). In the course of the year, the Council published nearly 200 different notices. Most of the notices concerned calls for proposals, results of the different competitions, competitive funding measures, as well as information about other activities of the Council, such as insight statements, proposals, public discussions, etc. Significant attention is dedicated to international events, the information of other institutions about competitions or events that may be relevant or of interest to the Lithuanian research community.
The website of the Council has become a gateway for Lithuanian research and studies institutions to search for information on competitions for positions in research and studies institutions and dissertations defended in Lithuania. By 31 December 2015, the database of defended dissertations contained total 4,303 entries.

The system for presenting the results of competitions to the scientific community and the public at large is still being further improved. In 2016, the Council will introduce an electronic search table designed to facilitate the search of competition results for applicants and enabling internet users to become more familiar with the results of research activities attained within the projects financed by the Council. The Council was also improving the electronic system for submission and expert evaluation of proposals and reports.

The Council continues to develop the database of proposals submitted to the Council, completed and on-going projects, accumulating information about research projects and proposals that were or are financed by the Council. Thus, while respecting the rights of applicants and implementers the Council seeks to provide more clarity to the public and ensure higher transparency about the course of examining and selecting proposals, the content of the research projects in progress or completed.

In order to present its activities to the public, the Council sought and started using more diversified tools and instruments, such as advertisement billboards, internet banners, information diagrams, fliers and the distinguishing signs of such tools, and used to:

1. Introduce the open partnership measure

![OPEN PARTNERSHIP](image1.png)

2. Introduce national research programmes

![NACIONALINĖS MOKSLO PROGRAMOS](image2.png)

3. Introduce the national Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015

![NACIONALINĖ LITUANISTIKOS PLĖTROS 2009–2015 METŲ PROGRAMA](image3.png)

The Council prepares and circulates on a continuous basis press releases, commentaries about its activities, events and other news, or provides information according to inquiries to the media. With a view to more comprehensively presenting the research and the results obtained as a result of the projects funded by the Council to society, starting with the end of 2015 the Council started drawing up and presenting to the public a series of articles at [www.delfi.lt](http://www.delfi.lt), Section *Conceived in Lithuania* (Lith. – *Sugalvota Lietuvoje*). The Council also responded to the appeal of the editor’s office of the Veidas magazine to help in selecting the nominees for the Mini Nobel awards introduced by the magazine at the beginning of every year.

In 2015, the Council updated the publication introducing its activities. The Council was also introduced in a publication ‘Who Is Who’.

### 5. Budgetary appropriations and the use of funds

Appropriations planned for 2015 – EUR 23,549,554. The data are broken down according to the approved programmes and presented in Table 15.
Table 15. Appropriations to the Council in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program me code</th>
<th>Financing source code</th>
<th>Measure title</th>
<th>Plan for the reporting period including adjustments (EUR’ 000)</th>
<th>Appropriations used (EUR’ 000)</th>
<th>Deviation (5–4), (EUR’ 000)</th>
<th>Completion %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01001</td>
<td>1.1.1.1.1.</td>
<td>Development of the national higher education and research system (State budget funds)</td>
<td>18090.2</td>
<td>18015.3</td>
<td>74.9</td>
<td>99.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01001</td>
<td>1.2.3.1.23/1.3.3.1.24</td>
<td>Development of the national higher education and research system (the Swiss Programme)</td>
<td>119.0</td>
<td>101.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>85.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01001</td>
<td>1.3.2.3.1.</td>
<td>Development of the national higher education and research system (European Union structural funds)</td>
<td>4,228.5</td>
<td>3,102.1</td>
<td>1,126.4</td>
<td>73.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01001</td>
<td>1.3.2.3.2.</td>
<td>Development of the national research and studies system (technical assistance from the European Union structural funds for 2007–2013)</td>
<td>477.9</td>
<td>477.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>99.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01001</td>
<td>1.2.2.7.2/1.3.2.7.2</td>
<td>Development of the national research and studies system (technical assistance from the European Union structural funds for 2014–2020)</td>
<td>590.5</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>567.2</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01001</td>
<td>1.4.1.1.1.</td>
<td>Development of the national research and studies system. Contributions from the income of budgetary institutions</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 23,549.5 21,725.4 1,824.1 92.3

The funds not absorbed under the measure *Development of the national research and studies system* (State budget funds) (management costs and funding of science) accounted for EUR 74,900. The largest share of the funds that were not absorbed (EUR 38,300) consisted of the funds for wages and social insurance, and the funds (EUR 36,500) that were allocated but not yet used to fund research and other activities (were returned to the budget).

The funds not absorbed under the measure *Development of the national research and studies system* of the Global Grant amounted to EUR 1,126,400. The reasons for not using the full amount of the funds were rather diversified, including such as the Ministry of Education and Science of the RL, financial adjustments applied to project implementers due to failure to fulfil contractual obligations, and the setting off of advances paid to institutions.

The amount of funds not absorbed under the measure *Development of the national research and studies system* (Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union) of the programme *Research and development* was EUR 17,500. The funds were not absorbed for a number of reasons, such as the funds in the wages and social insurance lines as a balance due to a disproportional allocation among funding sources, some funds in the service line having acquired services at a lower price than originally planned, or because the procurement of some of the services was transferred to 2016 because the duration of the project was extended.

The funds of the measure *Development of the national research and studies system* (Technical assistance, 2007–2013) (EU funds) were used according to the plan (99.9%).

Some EUR 567,200 were not used according to the measure *Development of the national research and studies system* (Technical assistance, 2014–2020) (EU funds). The funds allocated to the Council as the institution implementing the measures under the Global Grant programme to cover the expenses of preparatory works and carrying out the activities were not absorbed, as the Council did not receive any comments regarding the Management and control system, did not sign the Global Grant management contracts with the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Ministry of Finance of the RL, and therefore the activities were not launched. The coordination actions were launched in 2015, and are still in progress.
Currently the Council is in the process of coordinating with the relevant Ministries the criteria for activity selection, and drawing up and approving the descriptions for the project funding procedures. The above actions are prerequisites for maintaining the principles of reasonableness and efficiency when using allocated funds.

The approved contributions of the Council to the measure *Development of the national research and studies system* according to the Law on the Approval of the Financial Indicators of the State and the Municipal Budgets was EUR 43,400. The Council provided expert services and its other income from operating activities in 2015 amounted to EUR 5,900. The appropriations from the budget received and used in 2015 totalled EUR 5,900. The contributions from the income of budgetary institutions remained unabsorbed, because in the course of the reporting year there were not sufficient external orders (from other public authorities and/or business entities) to carry out research-expert activity or provide relevant services.

The expenses of the Council in 2015 are shown in Table 16. The Council's management costs accounted for 6.5% of the budgeted appropriations to the Council.

**Table 16. Break-down of the Council's expenses in 2015 by items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Item name</th>
<th>Appropriation plan, amount (LTL/EUR'000)</th>
<th>Appropriations used, amount (LTL/EUR'000)</th>
<th>Unused funds, LTL (EUR'000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Remuneration costs</td>
<td>1,286.3</td>
<td>1,026.4</td>
<td>259.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Social insurance costs</td>
<td>398.6</td>
<td>317.6</td>
<td>81.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Communications costs</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Business travel costs</td>
<td>103.5</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>Transportation services</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Copyright agreements</td>
<td>1,746.1</td>
<td>1,621.9</td>
<td>124.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>Professional development costs</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>Costs of other services</td>
<td>546.8</td>
<td>403.3</td>
<td>143.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>Other goods</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>Other expenses for current needs (Item 2.8 – institutions)</td>
<td>14,999.4</td>
<td>14,962.9</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>Social support (severance pays)</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>For current needs (transferred funds from the European Union, other international financial support and the general financing funds) (Item 2.9 – institutions).</td>
<td>4,228.5</td>
<td>3,102.1</td>
<td>1,126.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td>126.7</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>23,549.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,725.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,824.2</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The balance of the budgetary funds account at the end of the reporting period was EUR 0.00.

The balance of the funds in the *Other activities* item at the end of the reporting period was EUR 818.13.

Chairman of the Council

Prof. Dainius H. Pauža

29 February 2016