



THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA: GUIDELINES ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR 2016–2020

The importance of international cooperation when carrying out research is constantly increasing: in view of the growing mobility of researchers, the increasing variety of international research activities and innovation programmes, as well as the volumes of funding allocated for their implementation, it is especially important to be part of the research policy and research areas and benefit from opportunities offered by international cooperation, thus ensuring the highest possible competitiveness of Lithuanian science. While performing the role of science policy maker and implementer as prescribed in its Regulations, the Research Council of Lithuania (hereinafter – the Council), in cooperation with other institutions of Lithuania, such as the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Education and Science (hereinafter – MES), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter – the MFA), the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology (MITA) and others, seeks to expand international relations so that being part of the international research community could jointly address issues relevant for Lithuania, Europe and the world. Furthermore, it is important to use international cooperation with foreign researchers as an efficient tool for improving the quality of the work of Lithuanian researchers, the efficiency of the research they carry out, and at the same time the international competitiveness of the country. The essential driving force of international cooperation is the necessity to integrate in the research area of the European Union (hereinafter – EU) and the global science arena, cherish the principles of open science and participate in the common digital market.

For the purpose of the present Guidelines, international cooperation is understood in the broad sense of the word, i.e. as the participation of the Council and its delegated researchers in the activities of international organisations and institutions, as well as promotion of and support to Lithuanian researchers participating in different international research programmes and initiatives, and eventually also support for attending international events or paper publishing. International cooperation embraces involvement of foreign experts, as well as a special methodology promoting international cooperation for the evaluation of project proposals and project results.

The purpose of the present Guidelines is to present international cooperation as a research policy tool that enables attaining the strategic objectives of the Council – efficient, high quality and competitive research responsive to the needs of the State, society and the global community. For that purpose, it is necessary to identify and anticipate priority tasks and their implementation measures differentiated according to the areas of activities of the Council and specific instruments. The overall purpose is to ensure that the entire activity of the Council – its participation in international institutions that shape research policy, the national and other research programmes, support to researchers, as well as all other research funding instruments – has a clearly manifested international dimension. International cooperation is introduced as an integral part of all activities of the Council, as the research in Lithuania should be visible and valued in the international context of Europe and world. Three most important guidelines have been provided for the following objectives:

GUIDELINE 1.

TO ACHIEVE GREATER INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY AND JOINTLY ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO THE WHOLE OF HUMANITY

GUIDELINE 2.

TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF PERFORMANCE OF LITHUANIAN RESEARCHERS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE STATE OF LITHUANIA AND SOCIETY, AS WELL AS ITS COMPETITIVENESS ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

GUIDELINE 3.

TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES AND OTHER SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE

GUIDELINE 1.

TO ACHIEVE GREATER INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY AND JOINTLY ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO THE WHOLE OF HUMANITY

While pursuing this objective, the Council must be an active participant in the activities of different EU and other international research authorities and institutions responsible for the formation of research policy, harmonise its programmes and their financing procedures with other countries, organise joint calls and in any other way to facilitate and assist Lithuanian researchers in carrying out joint research with other scientists.

1.1. Participate in the activities of international organisations and institutions, and the EU research policy building process

The Council participates in the activities of the institutions engaged in the formation of the EU science policy. In 2008–2015, the Council was a member of the European Science Foundation (ESF), and Lithuanian researchers were included as members in all standing committees of the Foundation. After the European Science Foundation was replaced by Science Europe (SE) in 2011 the Council joined the organisation as the representative of Lithuania, and Lithuanian researchers delegated by the Council became engaged in the activities of some SE working groups, specifically Open Access to Research Infrastructures and Research Data.

Since 2010 the Council has participated in the research and development programme Science for a Better Future of the Baltic Sea Region (BONUS) implemented under Article 185 of the Treaty establishing the European Community that provides for participation in research and development programmes undertaken by several Member States. The European Economic Interest Group (BONUS EEIG) was established for the purpose of management the BONUS programme, and the Council has delegated its representative to the EEIG Steering Committee.

In 2014, the Council engaged in the activities of the association of the reformed programme for European Cooperation in Science and Technology, COST, whose principal objective is the implementation of the COST programme. The Council has delegated its representatives to the following two divisions of the Association: The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), a decision making body passing the essential decisions on the strategy, the COST Scientific Committee (SC) responsible for the overall supervision and quality of the activity of the association, and the Expert evaluation groups (RP).

The key instrument for the implementation of the EU research policy is Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (hereinafter – H2020) (2014–2020). The H2020 is implemented by the European Commission (hereinafter – EC) engaging the programme committees. The programme committees are responsible for strategic planning and are involved in developing the H2020 work programmes. The representatives and/or experts appointed by the Council participate in seven committees under H2020: “Strategic configuration”, “European Research Council; Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions on skills, training and career development; Future and new technologies”, “Research infrastructures”, “Nanotechnologies, advanced materials, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and processing”, “Health, demographic change and well-being”, “Climate change, resource efficiency and raw materials” and “Inclusive, innovative and reflective society”.

It is noteworthy that the Council compensates business travel expenses for researchers representing Lithuania in a number of working groups and committees of EU institutions and other international organisations, where the Council delegates its national representatives.

The Council participates in joint EU programmes not only via its delegated national representatives or experts, but also directly implementing international projects that contribute to making of the research policy. In 2012 the Council together with 10 other partners was awarded a three year-long project "Servicizing Policy for Resource Efficient Economy" (SPREE) under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the purpose of which is to identify potential servicing policy packages for the establishment of servicing systems, facilitating the transition from selling products to providing services. Since 2014 the Council participates as one of the 15 partners in the 30-month duration project "Open Policy Access Alignment Strategy for European Union Research" (PASTEUR4OA) implemented under the FP7. Institutional participation in international research policy projects is an especially important factor for ensuring international cooperation that facilitates adoption of good practice and coordination of actions with other Member States.

Objective

Appreciating the significance of participation in the activities of international institutions and organisations and the process of formation of the EU research policy for the Lithuanian research policy, the Council seeks to:

- better coordinate the preparation of the common position of Lithuania in cooperation with other Lithuanian institutions (Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MITA, the Permanent Delegation of Lithuania to UNESCO), and ensure that the common position is properly presented to international organisations and H2020 committees;
- become better involved in the process of the EU research policy formation and decision making at the international level, engaging representatives of research communities for that purpose. The participation in the work of international organisations and/or engagement in their activities must be based on potential benefit for Lithuania, its research potential, the systemic approach towards the existing instruments employed by the Council, and its administrative capacities;
- facilitate representatives of the Council in exchanging information, receiving professional assistance and advice from the Council and other institutions of Lithuania;
- receive in a timely fashion feedback from representatives of the Council and strengthen their accountability to the Council;
- disseminate the information within the Lithuanian scientific community about the activity of international institutions and organisations and the H2020 programme.

1.2. Foster participation of Lithuanian researchers in projects implemented under international programmes and initiatives

The participation of the Council in the management activities of international institutions and science policy projects is a necessary but insufficient prerequisite for boosting the international cooperation of the Lithuanian researchers. Therefore the Council, as an institution implementing the national research programmes, is engaged in the international initiatives of coordination of the national research programmes: the European research area networks developed under the FP7 (such as ERA-NET), and the networks for cofunding European research (ERA-NET COFUND), joint programming and the initiatives under Article 185 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

The Council participates in seven ERA-NET/ERA-NET COFUND projects: EuroNanoMed, the network dedicated to nanotechnologies in medicine and healthcare, BiodivErsA network aimed at maintaining biological diversity and ecosystems, the network for the humanities HERA, the interdisciplinary material science and engineering network MERA.NET, the urbanism studies and innovations network ENSUF, SUMFOREST – a network for maintaining sustainable forestry and the European forest policy, and the social sciences research network NORFACE DIAL. Among the participants of each network there are numerous EU Member States and associated countries, therefore the instrument is an efficient measure for the development of the common European research area and the enhancement of the international dimension of national research programmes.

The Council is engaged in the activities of two Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI): “Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a New Challenge for Europe”, and “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans”. The JPIs are among the most recent initiatives of the EU designed to coordinate the national research programmes and to provide for joint programmes and measures that will facilitate solving strategically important problems and efficiently use the funds of not only the EU budget, but also those of the national research programmes.

It is noteworthy that the Council not only represents Lithuania in the management bodies of the above networks or initiatives, and has the possibility of direct participation in compiling the strategic research agendas or access to the best practice of other countries, but also participates in competitive funding of international research thus enabling Lithuanian researchers to engage in international projects.

Separate mention should be made of the training secondments of Lithuanian graduates in the European Space Agency that are supported by the Council, and organised in cooperation with the Agency according to the international criteria and selection principles, as well as of the funding to Lithuanian participants provided by the Council for the LILAN and NORFACE programmes implemented jointly with the Scandinavian and the Baltic States, and the BONUS programme referred to earlier.

The Council also organises the participation of Lithuanian researchers in the activities of the COST programme by publishing an open call to submit proposals, hosting proposal collection and expert evaluation sessions, and delegating two representatives of Lithuania to each of the COST action management committees.

By participating in the H2020 National Contact point (NCP) network set up by the European Commission and involving all the Member States, the countries associated to H2020, and the third countries, the Council provides qualified assistance to the programme participants and applicants. The national NCP networks consist of H2020 thematic areas NCPs. While fulfilling the functions of the NCP, the employees of the Research Foundation of the Council disseminate the information about the H2020 programmes, organise events and trainings for participants from Lithuania, consult the entities submitting proposals, accumulate and generalise the information about the participation of the Lithuanian researchers, and submit such information to institutions formulating the Lithuanian research policy. As part of fulfilling the NCP functions, the Council acts as the administrator of three areas of the first priority of H2020 “Excellent Science”: European Research Council, Research Infrastructures, and Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. In cooperation with MITA and the Lithuanian Centre of Innovations, the Council manages the ‘Space’ area of the second priority ‘Industrial Leadership’.

Within the third priority 'Societal Challenges', the Council acts as NCP for the following areas:

- ✓ Health, demographic change and wellbeing (in cooperation with MITA);
- ✓ Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy (in cooperation with MITA);
- ✓ Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials;
- ✓ Inclusive, innovative and reflective society.

Furthermore, the Council performs NCP activities for one horizontal activity of H2020 – Spreading excellence and widening participation, and also for the Joint Research Centre.

With a view to promoting the participation of Lithuanian researchers in the H2020 programme, the Council grants financial support to drafters of eligible proposals under the H2020. The amount of support depends on the role of the Lithuanian institution – whether the institution is the coordinator or a participant of the project, and on the evaluation of the proposal. Furthermore, having implemented any successful FP7 projects, Lithuanian institutions may apply to the Council for the reimbursement of the VAT expenses incurred in relation to the implemented FP7 projects, because under the FP7 participation rules the VAT expenses are considered ineligible and therefore not compensated by the European Commission.

It should be noted that the participation of Lithuanian researchers in the projects under the H2020, or ERA-NET and the JPI or when initiating new COST actions could be more active. The submitted or approved projects with Lithuanian representatives as the coordinators are especially few.

Objective

Seeking to promote Lithuanian researchers to more actively participate in the projects under international research programmes and initiatives, the Council intends to:

- prioritise the EU research funding instruments that are in the best interests of Lithuania, also prioritise the instrument groups, e.g. the Joint Programming Initiatives;
- better align its financial instruments with the instruments of other EU Member States and the entire EU, for instance, by reserving part of the national programme funds for addressing the issues common for all Member States, or by allocating the funding for highly ranked H2020 projects that, however, did not receive funding;
- seek to identify more efficient measures to promote participation in international programmes, for example, by strengthening the NCP network, opening the LIASON office in Brussels, etc.;
- carry out ongoing monitoring of the participation of Lithuania in international programmes and initiatives, and report the results of such monitoring to the Ministry of Education and Science and other authorities with a specific interest in the subject.

1.3. Promote cooperation among researchers according to bilateral (tripartite) cross-border agreements and cooperation programmes

The Council finances the mobility of Lithuanian participants in research and development programmes, and in individual cases provides financial support to mobility and research implemented under bilateral and/or tripartite cross-border agreements. Furthermore, the Council participates in organising calls for proposals under the programmes that are held according to agreed international criteria, conducts monitoring of the course of the programmes and provides expert evaluation of the relevant reports. With respect to the four programmes implemented bilaterally with Belarus, France (Gilibert programme), Valonia (part of Belgium) and Ukraine, funding is provided only for mobility of researchers, and only in the case of the tripartite agreement with Latvia and Taiwan (part of China) funding is granted to both types of activities: mobility and research.

For the purpose of promoting the mobility of researchers, since 2011 the Council has performed the functions of the mobility centre for Lithuanian researchers. The centre has been founded due to the initiative of the European Commission. It is a member of the European researcher mobility centre network EURAXESS that unites more than 200 researcher mobility centres operating in Europe.

Since 2011, the Council has been implementing the Lithuanian-Swiss Cooperation Programme “Research and development”; the programme aims at establishing links and friendly relationships between the countries, promoting successful and productive cooperation in the field of research and development, deepening knowledge in certain areas and stimulating inter-institutional collaboration, thus contributing to the social and economic development of Lithuania. The funds of the programme are used to finance joint Lithuanian and Swiss research and institutional partnership projects. The Council publishes calls for proposals and administers research projects implemented jointly by Lithuanian and Swiss researchers. In the period of 2010–2015 the Council, as the coordinating institution, took part in the activities of the Swiss Fund of scholarships for young Lithuanian researchers implemented under Sciex-NMSch, the Scientific Exchange Programme between the New Member States of the EU and Switzerland.

In 2014, the Council launched a special call as an active support for the Lithuanian and Japanese research partnership projects. According to an agreement with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) the Council organises calls and finances Lithuanian partners in their joint research projects and seminars with Japanese researchers.

A new instrument of the Council “Open partnership research projects” focuses on and aims at strengthening international cooperation. In accordance with the competitive procedure the funding is allocated to the research projects that are of 2-3 years in duration and implemented jointly with researchers of foreign countries (except Japan and Switzerland). The Council provides funding to the Lithuanian participants of the projects.

Objective

With a view to promoting the mobility of Lithuanian researchers, ensuring more efficient cooperation, the uniformity of research and an enhanced impact of the bilateral (tripartite) programmes upon Lithuanian science, the State and society, the Council intends to:

- review the ongoing cross-border agreements in the area of science and recommend to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania the countries for research cooperation, that meet the national Lithuanian interests best of all, specifically focusing upon the neighbouring and scientifically advanced countries;
- submit a proposal to the Ministry of Education and Science to apply an open partnership scheme to all cross-border agreements in the area of science implemented by the Council.

GUIDELINE 2.

TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF PERFORMANCE OF LITHUANIAN RESEARCH AND ITS IMPACT ON THE STATE OF LITHUANIA AND SOCIETY, AS WELL AS ITS COMPETITIVENESS ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The international relations between researchers and science policy-makers is not the goal, but rather a means allowing to improve the quality of science by adopting good practice and advanced research methods, providing better access to the sources of knowledge and research infrastructures, creating the international discussion area and the diversity of opinions, and applying research evaluation criteria and methods.

In addition to science policy and its financing instruments designed specifically to promote international cooperation, the Council implements a number of local programmes that include elements of international cooperation

2.1. Promote international cooperation in the case of researcher-driven research; strengthen the international dimension of national programmes

The Council provides financial support to researcher-driven projects in all fields of research, that are submitted by individual researchers or groups of researchers together with their affiliating institutions in Lithuania or abroad. In 2012–2014 support was granted to the projects implemented in cooperation with USA researchers, and the Council funded the research carried out in Lithuania. After the launch of the new financial instrument “Open partnership research projects”, the researcher-driven projects are confined to the national institutions.

The international dimension is inherent not only in the programmes funded from the state budget, but also in those supported by the EU structural funds. The largest of such initiatives is the measure VP1-3.1-ŠMM-07-K “Support to Research Activities of Scientists and Other Researchers” (Global Grant) of Priority 3 of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development. The programme was aimed at attracting world renowned researchers and/or at enabling Lithuanian researchers to make a breakthrough. Due to its aim the programme was open to researchers from any country, provided they planned to be employed at the Lithuanian institutions. The programme also provided for a wide international dissemination of the research results. The selection of the project proposals was carried out by mixed groups of the Lithuanian and foreign experts, and the project proposals were evaluated according to high level international standards.

With a view to supporting the career of young researchers, promoting mobility and attracting talents from abroad, the EU structural funds are used to finance the programme “Post-doctoral fellowships in Lithuania”. Due to structural funds of EU, young scientists from Lithuania and foreign countries were offered a possibility to work independently in the Lithuanian research institutions of their choice. All post-doctoral fellows were seconded for a several months to research centres of foreign countries.

Although the national programmes are designed to address the problems of strategic significance for the Lithuanian state and society, the Council seeks to strengthen their international dimension

by participating in the initiatives for coordination of the national programmes of the Member States initiated by the EU (see Section 1.2). In addition, part of the budget of the national programmes is efficiently allocated to facilitate Lithuanian researchers' involvement in the international research community, broad dissemination of research results, and the hosting of international events. International cooperation is also one of the quality criteria to evaluate the implementation of the national research programmes. Moreover, international cooperation is inherent in two Lithuanian studies programmes that thematically are focused mostly on the problems of the Lithuanian state and the region, i.e. the "National Lithuanian studies development programme for 2009-2015", and the "State Lithuanian studies and dissemination programme for 2016-2020". The above mentioned programmes provide for a possibility for researchers to investigate archives of neighbouring and more distant countries historically linked with Lithuania and its society. Moreover researchers can organise expeditions and investigate the Lithuanian cultural heritage abroad. Thus, the national programmes contribute to the development of the international cooperation of Lithuanian researchers, and strengthen the internationally recognised Lithuanian research centres.

Objective

With a view to using the internationality of different level and nature to improve the quality of science, the Council will:

- maintain international cooperation as an essential horizontal priority of its activity, and integrate it in all areas and instruments of its activity;
- highlight the internationality dimension in all its calls for proposals and take the dimension into consideration when evaluating projects;
- expand the participation of foreign experts – internationally recognised scientists, in evaluating projects funded by the Council;
- in order to ensure the participation of international experts, to encourage project proposals to be written not only in the Lithuanian, but also in the English language;
- promote the dissemination of the Lithuanian science in foreign languages;
- create conditions for the further development of the international Lithuanian studies by organising a relevant centre in Lithuania; by using all available methods and measures promote studies by the emigrants and the Lithuanian diaspora, and invite the communities residing outside Lithuania and the world's Lithuanians to involve in such studies.

2.2. Provide support for enhancing the scientific qualification of Lithuanian researchers and the international dissemination of the research results

The Council acts as the administrator of different types of support, the most international of which are support to research trips, visits of researchers, academic trips of doctoral students, scientific events and the papers of Lithuanian researchers in high-level international scientific publications.

2.2.1. The purpose of the support to research trips is to encourage researchers to develop their professional qualification, enhance their international mobility, and support the international dissemination of the Lithuanian research. Under this programme support is granted for internship of scientists and other researchers, their participation at scientific conferences abroad, and teaching at the foreign institutions of research and studies.

2.2.2. The project "Competitive funding of short-term visits of scientists" is implemented under implementation measure No VP1-3.1-ŠMM-01-V "Promotion of the mobility of scientists and other researchers and research work of students" under Priority 3 Strengthening of capacities of researchers of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development for 2007-2013 also aims at strengthening the relations of Lithuanian scientists working abroad with Lithuanian academic institutions, attracting high level researchers to Lithuania, reintegrating the brain drained researchers, and providing the proper conditions for Lithuanian researchers and scholars to attend international scientific events. Therefore, the measure covers the incoming and the outgoing researchers.

2.2.3. In order to promote the international cooperation of doctoral students, the Council allocates funding to academic trips and fellowships. Funding is provided on a competitive basis.

2.2.4. The purpose of support to scientific events is to promote the development of Lithuanian research and international scientific relations, therefore the Council provides, on a competitive basis, funding for the organisational expenses of international scientific events held in Lithuania.

Objective

Seeking to enhance the qualification of Lithuanian researchers and the visibility of the research results and support their international dissemination, the Council plans to:

- maintain the current level of support, and gradually increase it for the mobility of the researchers from/to Lithuania, hosting of international events and preparation of publications, and promoting the internationality of academic associations;
- in addition to the support for short-term fellowships, provide support to scientific fellowships of incoming and outgoing scholars.

GUIDELINE 3.

TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES AND OTHER SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE

The Council supports the EU policy establishing the open access as the standard of dissemination of research based on public funds and is applied to users without any financial, technical and legal restrictions. The Council seeks to ensure adequate dissemination of research results and exchange of research knowledge that would facilitate cooperation among researchers by: (a) publishing the research results in open access journals, (b) allowing access to the data constituting the basis of the publications, (c) allowing the use of research infrastructures (hereinafter – RIs) of international, regional or national level. The Council has prepared and published the Guidelines on the Open Access to results of research of the Research Council of Lithuania for 2016–2020; the Guidelines are fully aligned with the open access requirements under H2020, and define the general principles of open access to scientific publications and data, and their application to projects funded by the Council. The open access and the corresponding open access concept is the guarantee of international cooperation ensuring the dissemination of the most advanced research results. .

With a view to disseminating the information about the open access and its benefit for policy-makers, researchers and knowledge managers, the Council participates in the common open access movement active globally and in the European Union, and initiated and supported by UNESCO, the European Commission, the European Research Council, Science Europe, the European University Association, and other organisations and movements.

The access to research infrastructures is different from that to publications or data, as determined by the nature of the infrastructures – whether the equipment is stationary or the data are accessed virtually. The EU devotes great attention to both the physical and virtual infrastructures, because the development, upgrading and maintenance of efficiently operating research infrastructures are the essential prerequisite of the future science. The costs of implementing, upgrading and functioning of research infrastructures are so high in some areas that they can be reasonably managed only by means of international cooperation.

The European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), that has a mission to develop a consistent strategy of the European RI policy as the ESFRI RI Roadmap, was an encouragement for the governments of many countries to draw up strategic documents – Roadmaps of Research Infrastructures enabling a joint and coordinated participation in the activities of high level RIs, and thus provide for Europe new opportunities to compete in the global area of innovations and research creating high added value.

At the request of the Ministry of Education and Science, in 2014 the Council updated the Roadmap to include a number of new infrastructural projects: the project list of Roadmap 2011 consisted of 15 RI projects, and in 2014 it was supplemented with 7 new RI projects.

Following the recommendations provided in the Roadmap 2011, and the synergies defined therein with the European infrastructures, in 2013 Lithuania became a member of the European Research Infrastructure Consortium “European Social Survey” (ESS ERIC), and in 2014 the Council became a member of the European Research Infrastructure Consortium “Common Language Resources and Technology infrastructure network” (CLARIN ERIC).

The Council does not only support the existing RIs, but also creates RIs itself. In cooperation with Lithuanian research institutions and libraries, since 2006 the Council has been compiling and developing an international database Lituaniatika. The Lituaniatika database contains numerous

works in the humanities and social sciences, their research object being the history and status quo of the Lithuanian State, the society, the Lithuanian nation and the language. The database is of a highly modern infrastructure, it provides data dissemination with the help of most cutting-edge tools and well-functioning open access environments (more than half of the texts collected in the database are open access texts) that ensure a possibility for the Lithuanian studies materials to enter the national and international academic area.

Objective

In cooperation with EU and other international institutions, the Council seeks to:

- prepare publications drawn up on the basis of the projects funded by the Council, and disclose the data related to such publications or developed as project results;
- in cooperation with other Lithuanian institutions, facilitate the Lithuanian research infrastructures in their efforts to engage in international RIs;
- develop supporting instruments and the related legal acts and regulations for the competitive funding of research infrastructures, their development, maintenance and renewal.

SCHEME OF THE GUIDELINES ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA FOR 2016–2020

1. TO PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN THE ACTIVITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY

Participate in the activities of international organisations and the EU research policy building process

- European Science Foundation (ESF), 2008–2015
- Association Science Europe, since 2011
- BONUS programme: BONUS EEIG Steering Committee, since 2010
- COST Association: Two committees (CSO, SC), since 2014
- Programme Horizon 2020: 7 committees, 2014–2020
- FP7 projects: SPREE, 2012–2015; PASTEUR4OA, 2014–2016

Promote Lithuanian researchers to participate in international programmes and initiatives

- ERA-NET (FP7), ERA-NET COFUND (H2020), 7 programmes:
 - BiodivERsA
 - EuroNanoMed
 - MERA.NET
 - SUMFOREST
 - ENSUF
 - HERA
 - NORFACE DIAL
- Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI), 2 initiatives:
 - JPI Cultural Heritage
 - JPI Oceans
- Other international programmes:
 - COST
 - BONUS
 - European Space Agency
 - NORFACE
 - LILAN
- Programme Horizon 2020 – provide NCP services for 10 programmes of H2020:
 - European Research Council
 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions
 - Research infrastructures
 - Space
 - Health, demographic change and wellbeing
 - Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy
 - Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
 - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
 - Spreading excellence and widening participation
 - Joint Research Centre

Promote bilateral / tripartite collaboration of Lithuanian researchers

- Cross-border cooperation agreements in the area of research and technologies:
 - Lithuania–Belarus
 - Lithuania–Valonia (Belgium)
 - Lithuania–France (Gilibert)
 - Lithuania–Latvia–Taiwan (China)
 - Lithuania–Ukraine
 - Lithuania–Switzerland and Sciex-NMS
- Open Partnership measure
- Lithuanian-Japanese Partnership
- Services of the mobility centre EURAXESS

2. TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LITHUANIAN RESEARCH AND ITS COMPETITIVENESS ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Strengthen the international dimension of researcher-driven research and NRP

- Projects of researcher groups
- Support to the research activities of researchers (Global grant) (EU SF)
- Post-doctoral fellowships (EU SF)
- National research programmes + development of Lithuanian studies

Provide support for enhancing the qualification of researchers and for the international dissemination of the research results

- Academic trips of PhD students
- Research trips
- Visits of researchers
- Scientific events
- Publications in high level international journals
- Support for associations

3. TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES AND OTHER SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE

- Development of the open access policy
- Roadmap for the development of Lithuanian research infrastructures (RIs)
- International database Lithuanistika
- Membership in international RIs:
 - RI European Social Survey (ESS ERIC), since 2013
 - RI Common Language Resources and Technology infrastructure network (CLARIN ERIC), since 2014