RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA:
2013-2014
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THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA

Funder

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

Expert

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

International research area participant

- Coordinates and administers European Research Area programmes
- Promotes competitive participation of Lithuanian scientists in international research programmes
- Develops institutional networking with similar institutions of foreign countries and organizations forming the research policy
A PART OF RESEARCH COMMUNITY

During the past several years a number of significant changes took place in the activities of the Research Council of Lithuania (RCL). Established in 1991 the RCL has been an expert institution on issues related to the development of research for many years. After the restructuring in 2007, the RCL became the principal national institution providing funding for research activities in Lithuania. At present the annual budget of the RCL for competitive funding of research activities amounts to EUR 30 m.

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

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

“The RCL of the eighth term of office started its activities in July 2013. We forged ahead with various ongoing initiatives and some new ones, focusing on research integrity, ensuring attractive working conditions for scientists in Lithuania and fostering their participation in the international research arena. Our task is to expand the map of the countries we are cooperating with, assist in pursuing the research quality through development of research infrastructures as well as applying open access principles. The RCL aspiration is to strengthen national research system and our research community ensuring good funding for the best researchers”.

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

**Implements the research policy of Lithuania**

The RCL acts as advisory body to the Lithuanian Parliament and the Government on issues related to research activities and training of researchers. The RCL performs its tasks by providing and discussing recommendations regarding various research policy areas and their implementation measures, the development of programme-based and competitive research funding, training of researchers, criteria for the assessment of research activities, and other issues assigned to its competence. Proposals to the RCL decisions are submitted by its Committees, ad hoc working groups, experts, research and studies institutions and other public authorities.

**Priority areas of the RCL according to the strategic plan:**

1. To participate in the formation of the Lithuanian science policy acting as an advisory body for the Parliament and the Government on issues related to training of researchers, also identifying the criteria for the evaluation of research activities, organising the evaluation of research activities carried out in Lithuania, considering and submitting proposals concerning the efficiency of research work and its compliance with the needs of the State in promoting the development of Lithuania’s research resources, activities of national higher education and research institutions and enhancing the prestige of science:
   - To monitor development of the national research system, submit proposals concerning the matter to the Parliament and the Government;
   - To ensure the development of capacities and resources of the RCL as an expert institution while referring to expertise of Lithuanian and foreign researchers.

2. To ensure an efficient implementation of the programme-based competitive R&D funding, participate in the international research area, and in the formation of the international research policy:
   - Further to improve and continue the competitive funding of research activities;
   - To promote the participation of researchers in the international research area.
Carries out evaluation

The RCL makes proposals on the implementation of research and high education policy, evaluates research activities, research efficiency and compatibility with the State needs. Together with the Ministry of Education and Science the RCL is obligated to set the classification of research fields and branches of the six research areas approved by the Government. The RCL evaluates scientific production of the whole research system, sets the minimal qualification requirements for positions of research staff of public research institutions and is responsible for the academic recognition of foreign research (art) doctoral degrees.

The RCL draws up conclusions concerning the performance of research institutions, elects and submits to the Parliament the candidates for the position of Supervisor of academic ethics and procedures. The establishment of this institution in 2013 is an important measure ensuring appropriate transparency and quality of the national higher education and research system.

Starting with 2011 the RCL participates in evaluation of the documents submitted for obtaining the right to conduct doctoral studies in science and art.

- Evaluation of the research and art works of the Lithuanian higher education and research institutions which is a basis for the state budget allocations.
- Supervision of doctoral studies and assessment of applications by higher education and research institutions to conduct doctoral studies.
- Recognition of foreign doctoral degrees.
- Minimum qualification requirements for research staff at public higher education and research institutions.
- Research integrity via the selection of the candidates for the position of Supervisor of academic ethics and procedures.
- Providing evaluations regarding development of national research infrastructures (RIs) and coordinates the update of national Roadmap.
- Providing expert advice regarding EU R&D policy and funding opportunities (FP7 and Horizon 2020, ERA-NETs, European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERIC)), etc.

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

The RCL participates in the international research policy formation together with EU institutions designing joint initiatives for competitive funding that will facilitate strategically important European science policy issues.

The RCL takes part in the activities of Science Europe and the European Science Foundation. Members of the RCL participate in the activities of the committees operating under the EU research and innovation programme Horizon 2020, the European Research Area Committee (ERAC, former CREST), the Common Strategy and other working groups of the Board of Governors of the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The RCL promotes and develops Lithuania’s participation in international research initiatives, joint EU research programmes and participates in the following associations and working groups:

- Science Europe
- European Science Foundation
- Joint Programming Initiatives
- Euraxess
- ERA-NET schemes
- The EU FP7 project TARGERT - Targeted R&D Policy, 2009-2011
- The EU FP7 project SPREE - Servicizing Policy for Resource Efficient Economy, 2012-2015
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING

During the last five years the RCL was aiming to become a significant and reliable institution providing funding for research activities on the competitive basis following the best European practices.

Currently the list of the programmes administered by the RCL comprises 28 national and international programmes and the EU Structural Funds projects designed to provide funding for different research and other science-related activities – scientific events, mobility, and internships. One of the aims of the funding activities of the RCL is to have a balance of top-down and bottom-up approaches while defining the research priorities.

The RCL regularly publishes calls for proposals for research projects in different areas of science. In all cases emphasis is placed upon funding excellent and cutting-edge research projects. Every year the RCL publishes more than 30 calls for proposals according to the national, bilateral or international programmes. Currently there are 7 standing commissions operating within the RCL responsible for the supervision of competitive funding activities.

Since the outset of these activities in 2009, the RCL has drawn up more than 30 descriptions of procedures designed to facilitate and simplify the management of the programmes and projects. An electronic IT system meeting the most modern requirements has been implemented for submission and evaluation of proposals. The RCL is in the process of development of the electronic system for search of the results of the calls that will facilitate the access to results of research activities for internet users.

The basic principles for funding research projects:
- integrity
- accountability
- external expertise
- publicity and transparency
- significance of the researchers initiatives
Allocations for the competitive research funding by the RCL, EUR millions

The state budget competitive funding allocated by the RCL for research projects and other scientific activities, EUR millions

Statistics of 2009-2013:
- Over 170 calls for proposals announced
- Over 9 000 proposals received
- Over 4 100 projects funded
Success rate of the proposals (%)*, 2012-2013

**Humanities and social sciences**

- Mykolas Romeris University
- Lithuanian Sports University
- Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
- Lithuanian University of Education
- Šiauliai University
- Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
- Klaipeda University
- Vytautas Magnus University
- Law Institute of Lithuania
- Kaunas University of Technology
- Institute of the Lithuanian Language
- Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre
- Lithuanian Culture Research Institute
- Vilnius Academy of Arts
- Vilnius University
- Lithuanian Social Research Centre
- Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore
- Lithuanian Institute of History
- Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Science
- Other institutions**

**Physical, agricultural, biomedical and technological sciences**

- State Research Institute Center for Innovative Medicine
- Lithuanian Sports University
- Institute of Onkology, Vilnius University
- Klaipeda University
- Aleksandras Stulginskis University
- Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
- Kaunas University of Technology
- Lithuanian Energy Institute
- Nature Research Centre
- Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry
- Institute of Onkology, Vilnius University
- Vytis Gediminas Technical University
- Nature Research Centre
- Lithuania University of Health Sciences
- Other institutions**

* - success rate is calculated dividing the number of the awarded grants by the number of submitted projects proposals (%)

** - other institutions are those that submitted less than 7 proposals during the period
The correspondence of the RCL funding schemes to the strategic goals (as a result of self-evaluation analysis, 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fostering excellent science and ensuring adequate level of research</th>
<th>Fostering international dimension of research</th>
<th>Address the pressing state issues (including innovation)</th>
<th>Ensuring the development of researchers’ career</th>
<th>Strengthening the dissemination of scientific achievements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National research programmes (6)</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Grant</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher teams projects</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BONUS, JPI, ERA-net schemes (e.g., Mera-net, BiodivERsA)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>+++</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>COST programme</td>
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<td>+++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral fellowships</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+++</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for research mobility</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Support for scientific events</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for the publication of research results</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+++</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Promotional scholarships for doctoral candidates</td>
<td>++</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for students’ research activities</td>
<td>++</td>
<td></td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

+++ very relevant  ++ relevant  + partly relevant
INVESTMENTS IN RESEARCH

The duration of research programmes in different fields is 4-6 years. Funding of up to LTL 10-20 million is envisaged for the implementation of the objectives of every programme. The RCL funding portfolio includes two large top-down funding schemes with pre-defined topics for national Lithuanian studies development and National Research Programmes. The two major bottom-up funding schemes are the Researcher teams projects and the Global Grant measure.

National research projects


The first programme administered by the RCL. The programme enables Lithuanian and foreign scholars to develop Lithuanian studies, disseminate the results, identify and launch new research themes, and continue fundamental academic research. A special focus of the Programme is the promotion of innovative interdisciplinary research and the dissemination of its findings among the academic community and the society.

National Development Programme for Lithuanian Studies 2009-2015: calls for proposals

National Research Programmes

One of the main instruments is National Research Programmes (NRP). NRP can be perceived as the research activities, methodologies and measures all tailored to a specific theme, providing most optimal conditions for a country to address its strategically important problems. These programmes are the best representatives of the top-down approach as they have to be approved by the Ministry of Education and Science. The process of programmes initiation and management is set up by the Government.
In 2013 five new topics for the national research programmes were approved. The perspective programmes were selected by the RCL out of 46 proposals taking into account the relevance of the topics to the State and the society and the ability to consolidate researchers of the country in the course of the coming 5-7 years. The start of new programmes is envisaged in 2015.

New NRP topics:
- Healthy Ageing,
- Modernity in Lithuania,
- Sustainability of Agro-, Forest and Water Ecosystems,
- Towards Future Technologies,
- Welfare Society.

New topics were approved towards the end of the first six NRP's:
- Chronic Non-Infectious Diseases (2010-2014),
- Ecosystems in Lithuania: Climate Change and Human Impact (2010-2014),
- Future Energy (2010-2014),
- Healthy and Safe Food (2011-2015),
- Social Challenges to National Security (2009-2013),
- The State and the Nation: Heritage and Identity (2010-2014).
**Researcher teams projects**

The calls for proposals for the scheme are always responded by the largest number of proposals. This measure supported by the RCL ranks as second among competition-based measures in terms of the financing allocated, and the first by the number of projects financed.

Eligible are the projects carried out by a researcher or by a group of researchers in any field of research: humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, biomedicine, technological and agricultural sciences.

In 2011, a separate call was organised for the joint projects of Lithuanian-USA groups of researchers, and in 2013 – a call for cultural development projects.

**Global Grant**

The Global Grant measure is funded by the EU Structural Funds and is designed to support projects of world-class researchers. Global Grant support is open to domestic and foreign researchers for implementation of their research projects in any field of science. The grant is awarded for 2-4 years covering all expenses related to the implementation of the project.

The scheme represents a significant portion of the RCL funding portfolio:

- 106 research projects are in progress,
- The total value of the projects exceeds EUR 32 million
EU Structural Funds Projects

2007–2013
The EU Structural Funds were used to create a variety of competitive funding measures. The projects implemented in 2007-2013 have widely expanded the possibilities for large-scale research activities as well as for mobility and career support. Total allocations for the projects administered by the RCL reached around EUR 73 million. Funding was allocated to the following activities:

- Promotion of the international level research conducted by experienced and young researchers and attracting foreign researchers into the Lithuanian research area (Global Grant measure).
- Promotion of postdoctoral studies while assisting young researchers in launching their independent research and preparing for academic and pedagogical career (project Postdoctoral Fellowship Implementation in Lithuania).
- Promotion of students interest in research and disclosing the prospects in the area of research by participating in autumn and summer research practice and doctoral internships (project Promotion of research activities of students),
- Visits of researchers to Lithuanian higher education and research institutions, participation in doctoral studies process, delivering of lectures and their cycles and carrying out research, giving presentations at international conferences and participation in other research activities (project Competitive funding of short-term visits of researchers),
- Competitive doctoral studies, providing additional possibilities to engage in doctoral studies at Lithuanian higher education and research institutions (project Improvement of training of high qualification specialist for the development of research-intensive economic sub-sectors).

Postdoctoral Fellowships in Lithuania:

- Since 2009, 5 calls for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship period at the Lithuanian higher education and research institutions were announced.
- Young scientists from Lithuania, Czech Republic, Italy, Canada, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine took part in the competitions.
- By 2015, 225 young scientists will have accomplished postdoctoral fellowships.
- A postdoctoral fellow is awarded an annual grant in the amount of EUR 48 620.
2014–2020

The projects implemented were helpful in shaping expectations for the new period of the EU structural assistance. The administrative scheme is being changed in order to facilitate researchers and their institutions with simplified processes and more friendlier environment for project managers.

The EU Structural Funds projects will be allocated to the following areas:
- Brain gain and reintegration,
- Promotion of high level international and national research and cultural development,
- Strengthening postdoctoral studies,
- Supporting the activities of academic communities, promoting mobility, and dissemination of research results.

The budget for the projects in 2014-2020 is estimated to amount to EUR 101 million.

International Programmes

Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme

In 2012, the RCL launched the call according to the Lithuanian-Swiss cooperation programme Research and Development – the largest cross-border programme ever administered by the RCL with a budget of CHF 9.7 million. The programme is dedicated to implementing joint research projects in the fields of environmental sciences and technologies, health (life) sciences and natural sciences during 2013-2016.

11 grants for joint Lithuanian-Swiss projects awarded:
- natural sciences – 4 projects;
- health (life) sciences – 3 projects;
- environmental sciences and technologies – 4 projects.

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

**Funded projects by international partnership programmes**

![Chart showing funded projects by international partnership programmes]

**Allocated funds by international partnership programmes, EUR thous.**

![Chart showing allocated funds by international partnership programmes]

* - projects are funded by Sciex NMSch Scholarship Fund
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The RCL acts as a coordinator for other programme measures, which provide funding for other scientific activities.

| Support for academic associations | 33 | 38.2 |
| Scholarships to doctor’s degree students for academic achievements | 482 | 757.9 |
| Academic mobility of doctor’s degree students | 61 | 52.5 |
| Support for scientific events | 61 | 152.4 |
| Support to publication of research articles and books | 8 | 9.5 |
| Researcher mobility | 235 | 249.2 |

Training of high qualification specialists (doctor’s degree students) in competition-based doctor’s degree studies

Currently 261 doctoral students study supported by funding allocated under the EU structural funds project *Improvement of training of high qualification specialist for the development of research-intensive economic sub-sector*. The Project is designed for training of high qualification specialists (doctoral students) in research fields related to the subject matters of the national integrated programmes. The demand for specialists in the fields concerned has been growing in view of the rapid development of biotechnologies, material science and nanotechnologies.

Statistics of 2013:
- 242 proposals submitted,
- 69 grants awarded,
- Projects durations – 2 years,
- Total allocations – EUR 1.3 million.
Promoting students’ research activities

Promotion of students’ research activities seeks enhancing interest among academic youth in research activities and reveals the prospects for their scholarly career. The project provides for a possibility for researchers to carry out individual research while using the most state-of-the-art equipment and research literature resources with a view to promoting mobility of academic youth between different research and studies institutions.

The project is composed of three parts, namely the research practice for students, research activities during the semester and visits of doctoral students to foreign research centres. The activities of the Project involved 2,097 first, second and third cycle students from Lithuanian and EU higher schools during the period of 2009-2013.

Statistics of 2013:
- 200 students involved in the research practical training,
- 282 students participated in research activities at their time free from studies,
- 48 doctoral students for internship at foreign research centres,
- Total allocations – EUR 802 thous.

Start of the new decade

ADMINISTRATION OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The RCL acts as the administrator of the European Union and European inter-governmental programmes and as the national coordinator to some of the activities. In 2010, the RCL took over the administration of the part of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission for research, technological development and demonstration activities (FP7) and other intergovernmental programmes and initiatives from the Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology.

The RCL represents the following areas of the new EU research and innovation programme Horizon 2020 in Lithuania:
- three areas of the priority Excellent Science: the support programme of the European Research Council, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and the Research infrastructure programme,
- the thematic area Space technologies of the priority Industrial Leadership,
- four areas of the priority Societal Challenges: Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing, Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Bioeconomy, Climate Change, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials, Inclusive, effective and reflective society,
- the area Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation,
- the activities of the Joint Research Centre.

Participation in FP7

The RCL continues fulfilling its obligations under the FP7 and administers the following areas of the programme:
- two thematic areas under the specific Cooperation programme: Environment (including climate change) and Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities,
- five thematic areas under the specific programme Capacities: Research infrastructures, Research potential, Science in Society, Support for Coherent Development of Research Policies, International Cooperation,
- specific programme People,
- specific programme Ideas,
- the activities of the Joint Research Centre.
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- five thematic areas under the specific programme Capacities: Research infrastructures, Research potential, Science in Society, Support for Coherent Development of Research Policies, International Cooperation,
- specific programme People,
- specific programme Ideas,
- the activities of the Joint Research Centre.
The structure of the participation of Lithuanian institutions in FP7 projects, 2013

The number of participations by institution type

EC contribution to participation by institution type, EUR

The RCL compensates expenses of Lithuanian participants related to the value added tax incurred in relation to the implementation of FP7 projects. The measure seeks facilitating participation in FP7 projects under which the value added tax is not compensated. Total 44 agreements on the compensation of VAT were concluded with 17 applicants according to which the RCL allocated EUR 151 thous.
## Total Lithuanian Participants in FP7 during 2007-2013 (*E-CORDA data on 2014-03-01*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Proposals eligible to evaluation</th>
<th>Implemented projects</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Research for the Benefit of SMEs</td>
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<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information and Communication Technologies</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie-Curie Actions</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology</td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<td>Transport (including Aeronautics)</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>Science in Society</td>
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<td>Environment (including Climate Change)</td>
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<td>JTI-ARTEMIS</td>
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<td>Energy</td>
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<td>Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies</td>
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<td>Ideas (ERC)</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>–</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection</td>
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<td>Research Infrastructures</td>
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</table>
Participation in COST Actions

The Council is also the coordinating and funding institution for the European Cooperation in Science and Technology programme (COST) in Lithuania. During 2013, the RCL accepted 65 proposals to participate in the COST programme filed by 17 Lithuanian institutions. Following the expert assessment 45 representatives of Lithuania were nominated to 41 COST action management committees.

Participation of Lithuania in COST Actions according to scientific domains, 2000-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Number of activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FA</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BM</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IC</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The RCL together with partner countries administers six more international programmes and takes part in the initiatives of research and development:
- ERA-NET programme BiodivERsA2,
- ERA-NET programme EuroNanoMed II,
- ERA-NET programme MERA-NET,
- HERA programme under ERA-NETplus,
- JPI Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a New Challenge for Europe
- JPI Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans,
- Joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS).
The RCL was established in 1991 as an advisory body for the Parliament and the Government to provide advices in the area of science and R&D policy. The Founder of the RCL is the Parliament. In 2008, the Parliament approved the new Regulations of the RCL, its functions were expanded, and the RCL was formed on the basis of the principle of competence in the relevant research fields.

The RCL 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. The Committees of the RCL are authorised to pass decisions on issues related to the research areas under their supervision. The Board of the RCL the activities whereof are carried out by the Chairman of the Board, Chairmen of the Committees, the Scientific Secretary, the representatives appointed upon a motion of the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Parliament, representatives delegated by the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Finance, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences draws up the agendas of meetings, approves the expert groups proposed by the committees and examines other issues.
- The RCL of the VIII term of office started its activities in July 2013.
- The RCL is composed of 29 members: 9 members of the Board and two expert committees with 10 members each.
- The Research Foundation consists of 77 administrative staff.

The Research Foundation of the RCL implements decisions of the RCL concerning the programme-based competitive research funding, organises the work of experts and the commissions as well as representation in international organisations, administers the calls for funding projects, drafts the rules and regulations for different administrative procedures and carries out the information work.

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

**Administrative staff according to age groups, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-30</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over 51</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The number of administrative staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>77</td>
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