



DIRECTIONS FOR THE LITHUANIAN STUDIES RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT 2012–2020

Approved by the Government of Lithuania in 2012 (Nr. 1372)

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The aim of the Lithuanian Studies research development guidelines (hereinafter 'Guidelines') is to define priorities of the Lithuanian Studies research which will promote the renewal of the Lithuanian Studies in the nearest decade (until 2020), based on presumptions and tasks of the Lithuanian Studies research development.
2. The Lithuanian Studies is a vital condition for the survival of nation and state as an independent political community. It can be understood not only as the field of studies, i.e. not only as humanities and sociology studies, object of which is the study of past, present, and future of the State of Lithuania, society, culture, Lithuanian Nation and its language, but also as a mission to cherish Lithuanian identity and to contribute to the strengthening of country's political community, cultural maturity, creativity, and autonomy as well as to full participation of Lithuania in the world's cultural and scientific polygon.
3. The guidelines are aimed at the creators and implementers of science and study politics, the academic community, and the society interested in the Lithuanian Studies research. They deliver framework for the formation of long-term science politics, the preparation of strategic science development documents, and the provision of scientific policy implementation measures.
4. The guidelines are prepared in accordance with the Law on Research and Higher Education and the project of Lithuania's Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030' as well as other documents discussing the Lithuanian Studies development: prognostic evaluation of Research and Higher Education system — the insight, the Lithuanian humanities and social studies development strategy, the International Research Database 'Lituanistika' feasibility study, the development and the consolidation of Lithuanian humanities and social sciences institutes feasibility study.
5. The guidelines define the status of the Lithuanian Studies research, its values, general principles, and developmental presumptions on the basis of which priorities for the Lithuanian Studies research and criteria for its development directions are determined.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRENT STATUS

6. The state is obliged to give a strategic priority to the Lithuanian Studies research solving the main national identity and national development tasks. Institutions of Research and

Higher Education, participating in the implementation of this priority, are treated as performing activity of strategic importance. The main institutions performing the Lithuanian Studies research are universities and research institutes. The Lithuanian Studies research and dissemination also take place in scientific libraries, archives, and museums.

7. The strength of the Lithuanian Studies research is institutional variety and common activity forms (scientific societies and associations, jointly published journals by the institutions, project implementation, joint doctoral studies, etc.). On the other hand, there is a lack of institutional and community interactions and synergies, harmony of infrastructure (especially digital) and its common use, and the exchange of research resources and results in national and international level.
8. The strength of the Lithuanian Studies is its attention to heritage: within twenty years of the Independence, fundamental research were performed and capital works were published. Lithuanian research institutions have possibilities to be the centres of the international science in the areas where they have work experience, established schools, and critical mass of researchers (e.g. the Baltic Studies, the Culture and the History of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, semiotics). However, a part of this area results is lacking for international dissemination, while their authors are lacking for wider international awareness. The Lithuanian Studies research result dissemination is not sufficient in Lithuanian society either. It lacks science promotion policy; science promotion studies, generalisation of individual research fields, and other academic genres, which could reach teachers, students, and researchers from other areas, as well as society concerned, are poorly developed.
9. Within the recent period, generations of researchers in the community of the Lithuanian Studies have changed; it has come a generation of researchers who have graduated from the universities of the independent Lithuania. However, with a withdrawal of the oldest generation and difficult engagement of young people, some research areas are discontinuing, especially in the fundamental field. It lacks new theoretical works of synthetic nature, which would comply with the modern level of international methodology and scientific thinking.
10. Over the past decades, the Lithuanian Studies have methodologically renewed, new interdisciplinary branches of science have emerged, a large extent of new electronic scientific research resources have been created, a large part of libraries, archives, and museum funds have been digitised. However, considering the Lithuanian contexts, new methodologies are not always creatively applied in the Lithuanian Studies. Modern technologies are applied poorly, the interactions with international scientific research infrastructures are weak. Lithuanian research institutions do not coordinate EU common programme projects in humanities and social sciences, they are not enough involved into projects coordinated by scientists from other countries; in recent years only individual scientists got involved into common European science programmes.
11. According to the prevailing European practices, national organisational ventures for the implementation of scientific policy and coordination and financing of research are created (the Research Council of Lithuania). However, general policy of the Lithuanian Studies research lacks consistency, strategic direction, and promptness; its formation and

implementation measures need to be improved. It lacks more efficient scientific management, which is important in order to seek for the results which would be seen not only on national but also on the European scale; it lacks professional scientific managers, who are familiar with the formation of scientific communication and networks, peculiarities of the dissemination of entrepreneurship and research results, intellectual property rights, etc.

12. Currently, research financing model is being changed, it is being partially switched to programme project-based financing. Such financing provides for new possibilities to perform innovative, interdisciplinary, and inter-institutional research as well as to involve young researchers in them. However, the financing model being implemented is not favourable for long-term continuous research projects as it does not ensure the preservation and the development of the infrastructure necessary for them.

III. PRESUMPTIONS FOR LITHUANIAN STUDIES RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

13. Proper internal and external presumption shall be created in order to ensure successful the Lithuanian Studies research development.
 - 13.1. General internal presumptions for research quality are the following: professionalism, creativeness, reflexivity, openness, self-awareness in regards to value, and interdisciplinarity.
 - 13.2. General external presumptions are the following: clear and effective policy of humanities and social sciences and the strategic planning which expresses essential needs of society and responds to the most important scientific challenges. Decisions on the research policy and strategy shall be adopted in discussion with the academic society and in cooperation with community, by seeking wide consensus.
 - 13.3. Effective system of expert evaluation of scientific projects and works is an important factor for the improvement of research quality, including the purification of evaluation criteria and high qualification of experts.
14. Purposeful financial and organisational support, which would be aimed not only at the preservation but also at the strengthening of current institutional potential of the Lithuanian Studies research, collected groups of scientists, and associations, the support of established schools and leaders of individual scientific directions, and the promotion of the transmission of traditions by involving young scientists into scientific research which are already being performed, is necessary.
15. It is necessary to finance the renewal of research and the scientific potential which performs the research, to create conditions for the implementation of innovations, to expand the field of research, to involve young researchers, to improve mobility of scientists, and to encourage interdisciplinary and inter-institutional cooperation. It is necessary to support groups of researchers, associations and networks, and the membership of researchers in the international professional organisations.
16. Modern infrastructure, including the dissemination of data with a help of modern means, well-functioning open access databases which ensure possibilities for material of the Lithuanian Studies to enter national and international academic space, is also necessary. The institutional creation of digital resources shall be coordinated country-wide.

17. The system for the dissemination of the Lithuanian Studies research results, including the presentation of new research, resources, data, and generalisations to the Lithuanian society and the international audience which would not only strengthen cultural awareness and identity of citizens but also would increase the visibility of our country, is also necessary.

IV. CRITERIA OF PRIORITY DIRECTIONS FOR THE LITHUANIAN STUDIES RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

18. Paying attention to current cultural, political, economic, and social status in Lithuania and to the status of the Lithuanian Studies, as well as seeking faster development of the Lithuanian Studies and its greater impact on the society, the priority will be given to the Lithuanian Studies research, which meet the criteria listed below. Priority will be given to the following research:
 - 18.1. Research which have strategic significance for the State of Lithuania and the society, respond to the main challenges, and solve problems of vital importance.
 - 18.2. The Lithuanian Studies which concentrate on the greatest scientific potential; support shall be given to schools of the highest level scientists and research centres where the best results are achieved, cooperation between different generations of scientists takes place, and students and doctoral students are involved into scientific activities.
 - 18.3. Research which distinguish by innovative ideas, methodological novelty, and validity as well as orientation to relevant international academic discussions; support shall be given to the cooperation of Lithuanian and foreign scientists on the basis of subject proximity, methodology, or organisational aspect, and to the participation in scientific network and common projects, science forums, and organisational memberships while integrating Lithuanian humanities and social sciences into international academic discourses of these areas.
 - 18.4. Research which encourage the creation of the Lithuanian Studies data , their modern processing and integration, especially the creation of the Lithuanian Studies heritage common informational infrastructure.
 - 18.5. Research which results are seen to the society and which dissemination and penetration encourage public awareness and dialogue and impacts its development; support shall be given to the dissemination of the Lithuanian Study research results and findings among the Lithuanian society.

Research subjects which development shall be given the priority are provided in the Annex.

V. FINAL NOTES

19. The Lithuanian Studies research is an integral part of science and higher education system of a state; it highly depends on a general academic context and an erudition level in Lithuania. Successful development of the Lithuanian Studies is inseparable from the renewal of general scientist preparation methods, the strengthening of organisational potential of institutions, and the anticipation of national sustainable development directions, i. e. from the Lithuanian Studies development and the sustainable development of science and society, i. e. successful development of the Lithuanian Studies needs close interaction with a common system of sustainable science and society development.

ANNEX. PRIORITY SUBJECTS OF THE LITHUANIAN STUDIES RESEARCH

1. Research of the Baltic languages, culture, and mythologies
2. Historical and synchronous research of community and social interactions
3. Transformations of current Lithuanian language and linguistic consciousness
4. Challenges posed on the Lithuanian language and the Lithuanian culture by electronic media
5. Change and expression of ethnicity in modern Lithuania
6. Impact of globalisation and European integration onto Lithuania
7. Methodologies of humanities and social sciences
8. History of Lithuanian consciousness
9. Research of the interactions between cultural memory and identity
10. Impact of Christianity on Lithuanian society and culture
11. Development of philosophical, political, and legal mind of Lithuania
12. Sociocultural research of Lithuanian art
13. Textual research and edition of Lithuanian literature
14. Transformations of modern political and legal system of Lithuania
15. Systemic search and research of Lithuanian Studies heritage elsewhere
16. Migration and diaspora
17. Processes of modernisation in Lithuanian society from the Age of Enlightenment to modern times
18. Paradigm media transformations: writing, print, electronic media
19. Sociocultural changes in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania
20. Urbanisation and urbanised society in Lithuania
21. Development of visual culture