2013 was a special year for the Lithuanian development cooperation activities. During its first Presidency of the Council of the EU, Lithuania worked hard to ensure that the second half of 2013 saw the adoption of important legislation regulating the funding of the European Union development assistance in 2014–2020, documents relating to the activities of the 11th European Development Fund and the post-2015 EU development cooperation agenda. The coordination of provision of humanitarian aid among EU institutions and the United Nations Organisation became more intensive.

Lithuania continued to develop bilateral development cooperation with Eastern Partnership countries such as Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Sustainable development and harmonisation of national legislation with EU legislation, democracy and civil society building as well as support for youth initiatives were the objectives of reforms carried out in 2013 in Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia and Belarus with the help of specialists from Lithuania.

In 2013, Lithuania successfully completed an eight-year reconstruction mission in Ghor Province, Afghanistan. The outcome of the mission was an improved economic and social situation in Ghor Province, especially in agricultural, education and health sectors. Lithuania will be providing development assistance for Afghanistan from Kabul.

Since 2009, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has coordinated the participation of Lithuanian institutions in the EU Twinning Programme. This programme is yet another opportunity to show Europe and the world that Lithuania wants and can transfer the best practice of institutional and legal reforms. The number of projects awarded under the programme to Lithuanian institutions has grown every year. The increased frequency of successful proposals by Lithuania indicates the growing confidence in and respect for the capabilities of Lithuanians by partners.

In 2013, Lithuania gained more experience and knowledge which will be used in forthcoming partnerships.
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania
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LT-01511 Lithuania
projektai@urm.lt
www.urm.lt
www.orangeprojects.lt
Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme 2002–2013

Number of projects and official development assistance

- **Belarus**: 235 projects
- **Ukraine**: 72 projects
- **Moldova**: 81 projects
- **Georgia**: 137 projects
- **Mauritania**: 1 project
- **Tunisia**: 2 projects
- **Palestine**: 4 projects

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Only project funding
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Programme 2002–2013

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<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>102</td>
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</table>
Review of activities in 2013

In 2013, Lithuania’s contribution to official development assistance made up LTL 130.98 million, i.e. 0.11% of gross domestic product (GDP). Official development assistance (ODA) is assistance and humanitarian aid to developing countries and territories on the List of ODA Recipients of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) funded from the national budget and municipal budgets. Each year Lithuania submits its ODA information to the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC, www.oecd.org/dac/) which draws up the List of ODA Recipients.

In 2013, 65% (LTL 85 million) of Lithuania’s ODA went to bilateral development cooperation in the form of its contribution to the European Development Fund (around LTL 12 million), contribution to the EU general budget used for the implementation of EU external policy (LTL 62 million) and contributions to other funds and organisations (LTL 11 million). Lithuania’s multilateral assistance is used to support the poorest countries in the world in Africa, Asia, Latin America and other regions.

35% (nearly LTL 46 million) of Lithuania’s ODA was spent on the projects of the Development Cooperation Programme implemented in Eastern Partnership countries, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and other states on the OECD List of ODA Recipients.


ODA of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stood at nearly LTL 28 million (mainly the contribution to the European Development Fund and funding for bilateral projects in Eastern Partnership countries and Afghanistan). ODA of the Ministry of National Defence made up almost LTL 27 million which was spent on the costs of studies of foreign students and activities of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan Ghor Province. ODA of the Ministry of Finance stood at LTL 4.4 million (mainly the contribution to the International Development Agency (IDA), part of the World Bank providing assistance to the poorest people in the world). ODA of the Ministry of Education and Science amounted to LTL 3.1 million (mainly support for state scholarships for foreign students in Lithuania). ODA of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour made up LTL 2.7 million (mainly contributions for the maintenance of the Refugee Reception Centre in Rukla and to the International Labour Organisation (ILO)). The Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health as well as the Customs Department allocated about LTL 0.1 million each for ODA (mainly contributions to international organisations and funds).

In 2013, Lithuania continued to implement bilateral projects aimed at legal and social reforms in Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia. Bilateral projects promoting the creation of civil society by the youth were also implemented in Palestine and Tunisia.

The Provincial Reconstruction Team completed its mission in Afghanistan in 2013. As a result, the number of hospitals in Ghor Province tripled and the number of health care centres doubled, the number of doctors providing health services to the population increased nine-fold and there are more schools with a 2.5 times higher attendance rate, especially among girls.

The promotion of women’s rights and equal opportunities was the area of special focus during project implementation in the countries of Eastern Partnership and Community of Democracies.

Lithuanian ODA in 2013 by area, in LTL

- **62 million** Contribution to the EU budget
- **29 million** Bilateral projects
- **12 million** Contribution to the European Development Fund
- **11 million** Contributions to other international organisations and funds
- **11 million** Administrative costs
- **3.4 million** Scholarships, study costs, assistance to emigrants
- **2 million** Maintenance of the Refugee Reception Centre in Rukla
- **0.4 million** Humanitarian aid
ODA of EU Member States, in EUR

According to Council Conclusions on the Annual Report 2013 to the European Council on EU Development Aid Targets of 19 May 2014 (doc. 9989/14)

In 2013, Lithuania further expanded its role in the EU Twinning Programme whose implementation in Lithuania is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Seven new Lithuanian institutions joined the programme, 19 project proposals were drawn up and 9 projects were awarded. As many as five projects were prepared individually without partners from other EU Member States. In 2013, Lithuania successfully implemented projects of the EU Twinning Programme in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Montenegro, Croatia, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.

In 2013 commitment

Development cooperation is an important part of the Lithuanian foreign policy. In the second half of 2013, when Lithuania held the EU Council Presidency for the first time in history, the priorities of development cooperation were successfully achieved through the adoption of the EU Financial Framework 2014-2020 and important development cooperation documents which will inform the preparation of the new post-2015 development cooperation agenda and agreement on more effective coordination of humanitarian aid among donors. Lithuania played an active role in the activities of the United Nations Organisation thereby contributing to the creation of an effective global system for development assistance and concerted effort to support least-developed regions.

In partnership with educational institutions and non-governmental organisations, the latest course of events in the area of Lithuanian and global development cooperation was presented to the Lithuanian public. Various public events such as conferences and discussions were hosted to present the experience of Lithuania and recommended solutions to the problems of the transitional period.

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PREPARATION FOR THE NEW DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENDA

In the area of development cooperation, a special focus was on the post-2015 development agenda after the period for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals comes to an end and the new development cooperation agenda begins.

At the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals hosted by the United Nations on 25 September 2013 in New York, Linas Antanas Linkevičius, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania which held the EU Council Presidency, reaffirmed that the post-2015 development agenda should be based on the principles of equality and equity, democracy and good governance, the rule of law and accountability. It is necessary to mobilise all resources, public and private, domestic and international. They should be used for the reinforcement of peace and security, gender equality and women’s rights. On 12 December 2013, the EU Development Council adopted the conclusions of the Council on financing poverty eradication and sustainable development beyond 2015.

The second half of 2013 saw the conclusion of negotiations and approval of the agreement on EU development cooperation instruments in 2014–2020. Before Lithuania took over the presidency, experts had agreed on merely around 5% of the wording of the development cooperation regulation which defines funding for the EU development cooperation assistance. The Development Cooperation Working Group of the EU Council (CODEV) was responsible for trilateral talks with the Development Committee of the European Parliament and European Commission. A total of 11 expert level and 4 political level trilateral dialogues took place during the Lithuanian presidency. A political compromise was reached during the last one. The agreed regulation defines the largest EU external financing instrument providing for around EUR 20 billion to be allocated for the sustainable development agenda. The priority areas of the instrument are human rights, democracy and good governance, environmental protection and addressing climate change, sustainable economic growth. Under this instrument, the EU will provide bilateral assistance to the least-developed countries only, including countries in the Middle East and Afghanistan. Assistance to other countries, including Eastern Partnership states, will be available under other (geographic, sectoral) instruments designed to address multilateral problems.

Some key development cooperation documents were adopted in relation to the provision of support to the countries in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states in 2014–2020 and relations with overseas countries and territories: Council Decision regarding transitional European Development Fund (EDF) management measures from 1 January 2014 until the entry into force of the 11th EDF Internal Agreement; Council conclusions on policy coherence for development, on EU support for democratic governance and on the development report and external assistance policies and their implementation; Council Decision on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the EU. An agreement was reached on the regulations of the 11th European Development Fund.

During the Lithuanian EU Council Presidency in 2013, the position of the Council on the declaration of 2015 as the European Year of Development Cooperation was adopted.

TRANSFER OF TRANSITIONAL PERIOD EXPERIENCE

The use of transitional period experience in development cooperation was one of the priority topics during the Lithuanian EU Council Presidency. Lithuania has accumulated vast experience of transition to democracy and market economy so the aim was to ensure the succession of the Commission Communication of 3 October 2012 “EU support for sustainable change in transition societies” and Council conclusions on this matter approved
on 31 January 2013. Lithuania initiated the drawing up of the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the sustainable change in transition societies. The opinion was published on 16 October 2013 and presented at the European Parliament on 7 December 2013.

**EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN AID**

An important objective of the Lithuanian EU Council Presidency was to seek the effectiveness of the provision of humanitarian aid and better interaction among donors: between EU Member States and the European Commission as well as the EU and the United Nations Organisation (UN) which is the main coordinator of the provision of humanitarian aid.

The focus was on Syria and its neighbours: Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt. The conflict in Syria significantly energised cooperation between the EU institutions, including the Council, directorates general of the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS). Solving the Syrian conflict required various decisions (political, security, destruction of chemical weapons, etc.). Help was mobilised for the institutions of neighbouring states to receive huge flows of Syrian refugees and preparations were made for the recovery effort.

Other important areas were the coordination of the provision of aid in the Philippines and analysis of the humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic and other crisis zones. Countries dealing with prolonged conflicts such as Myanmar, Pakistan, Gaza Strip and Palestine, etc., were not forgotten either as humanitarian aid for them is vital. Lithuania cooperated actively with various relief organisations such as the World Food Programme, UNICEF, International Red Cross Confederation, UN Refugee Agency, VOICE consortium of humanitarian non-governmental organisations and Norwegian Refugee Council.

One of the key achievements of the Lithuanian EU Council Presidency is the completion of negotiations with the European Parliament over the regulation on EU humanitarian aid volunteers. The regulation lays down the legal framework for training of EU volunteers and their deployment to third countries. The aim of the new initiative is to expand the EU’s humanitarian aid operations and make support more visible as well as to build the capacity of aid receiving countries to properly respond to humanitarian crises. This would make humanitarian aid more effective and needs-based.

**PRESIDENCY EVENTS**

During its EU presidency, Lithuania organised several major public events on the transfer of transitional period reform experience to the developing countries.

During the Europe Development Days, Brussels hosted two events on 26–27 November 2013: high level discussion “Use of transitional period experience in post-2015 development cooperation agenda” and expert seminar on the involvement of the private sector in development cooperation. The participants of events discussed the possibilities and ways to use the transitional experience of EU Member States in developing countries which undergo or intend to undertake political, social and economic reforms. Liberian and Ethiopian ministers who participated in the discussion confirmed the need for knowledge and expertise in order to ensure that their countries received more effective development assistance.

The third international academy of young leaders “Democratic development in Europe’s Eastern Partnership countries: Challenges and opportunities” was held on 6–8 September 2013 in Vilnius on the occasion of the Lithuanian EU Council Presidency. Lithuanian politicians and political scientists, youth, NGO representatives and human rights advocates from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, USA, Lithuania, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, Hungary and Germany discussed the democratic transformation in Eastern Europe, challenges faced by countries and potential solutions to problems.

On 27–29 November 2013, Vilnius hosted the conference “Strengthening the role of civil society of Eastern Partnership countries in the decision-making process”. Experts and civil society representatives from Eastern Partnership and EU countries, a total of 378 participants and 211 media representatives, took part in the discussion during the event. The conference was broadcast live and was watched by the audience of around 7,000 viewers across the world. The conference was supported by the European Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and National Endowment for Democracy (USA, www.ned.org).
Lithuanian bilateral development cooperation in 2013
Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme

Lithuanian development cooperation and democracy promotion projects by area

**Support for civil society**
- **Belarus**: 36 projects, LTL 677,381
- **Ukraine**: 8 projects, LTL 217,429
- **Georgia**: 12 projects, LTL 300,248
- **Palestine**: 1 project, LTL 24,817
- **Tunisia**: 1 project, LTL 23,292

**Support for administrative and institutional capacity building**
- **Belarus**: LTL 1,012,762, 29.3%
- **Ukraine**: LTL 636,272, 18.4%
- **Georgia**: LTL 611,201, 17.7%
- **Palestine**: LTL 427,999, 12.4%

**Support for economic and social development, health and education**
- **Belarus**: LTL 159,633
- **Ukraine**: LTL 217,429
- **Georgia**: LTL 300,248
- **Palestine**: LTL 24,817
- **Tunisia**: LTL 23,292

Support for rural development, more effective agriculture
- **Belarus**: LTL 677,381
- **Ukraine**: LTL 217,429
- **Georgia**: LTL 300,248
- **Palestine**: LTL 24,817
- **Tunisia**: LTL 23,292
Lithuanian development cooperation and democracy promotion projects by area

**AFGHANISTAN**

- **22 PROJECTS**
  - LTL 1,043,177

**Public awareness projects**
- **Afghanistan** 30%
  - LTL 334,001 9.7%
- **Belarus** 19%
- **Georgia** 5%
- **Moldova** 5%
- **Ukraine** 6%
- **Palestine** 1%
- **Tunisia** 1%
- **Regional (Eastern Partnership) projects** 20%

**Public awareness**
- Support for nurturing of common historical and cultural heritage
  - LTL 334,001 9.7%
- Promotion of gender equality and social activity of women
  - LTL 186,914 5.4%
- Cultural cooperation
  - LTL 59,766 1.7%

**Belarus** 19%
**Georgia** 5%
**Moldova** 5%
**Ukraine** 6%
**Palestine** 1%
**Tunisia** 1%
SUCCESSFUL MISSION OF THE PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM

In 2013, Lithuania completed an eight-year mission of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Ghor Province. Lithuania’s development cooperation with Afghanistan will continue and be coordinated from Kabul.

Agricultural production and rural development

43 specialists from the Agriculture and Irrigation Department of Ghor Province, representatives of the Chaghcharan School of Agriculture and local farmers were trained to use progressive farming techniques. Educational material and recommendations on the expansion of feed range, prevention and treatment of cattle, sheep and goat diseases, proper animal care, production of cheese, requirements for production infrastructure and personal hygiene were prepared for them. Farmers received 200 kg of feeding plant seeds, 2,000 dozes of antimicrobial substances for the treatment of contagious and non-contagious diseases and 100 sets of special protection gear necessary for animal treatment. A cheese making machine was donated to the Agriculture and Irrigation Department.

260 families from Chaghcharan District communities were trained to prepare seed potatoes, identify healthy plants, harvest and store production during training organised together with partners from the USA (women accounted for 50% of participants). Experts developed educational material on potato cultivation and storage. A total of 13 demonstration warehouses for seed potatoes were built and community funds were used to build 126 additional warehouses. Twenty women from the poorest families in Chaghcharan District were trained to raise, feed and vaccinate poultry. Each woman received 20 hens and a poultry house.

520 families who used to fetch water from remote sources were provided with local drinking water supplied from 5 new drinking water wells in Ghor Province, newly built water reservoir, dams and passes across the districts of Ghor Province.

Health, cultural heritage protection and civil society

To improve the health situation in Ghor Province, 25 local residents received basic nursing training and training in obstetrics, paediatrics and post-operative care. The participants trained for the national examination of the Ministry of Health of Afghanistan for a nursing certificate which entitles holders to work at the provincial hospital or district clinics. Hygiene and family planning courses were organised for 400 women.

A feasibility study on the renovation of the Minaret of Jam included in the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger was prepared. The study looks into the feasibility of conservation of the minaret and archaeological monuments in the surrounding area as well as the use of preventive measures.

Seminars for women on their rights, especially the right to participate in elections, were held in Ghor Province.

Regional cooperation

During veterinary training, Lithuanian experts presented the food and feed control system put in place in Lithuania, shared their inspection experience and discussed problems related to the safety and quality of non-animal food imported to the EU with the representatives of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. During the visit to Lithuania, specialists visited the National Food and Veterinary Risk Assessment Institute, Food and Veterinary Service of Kaunas, State Plant Service, Medininkai border control post and non-animal food and feed undertakings with self-inspection systems.
Lithuania transferred its experience of implementation of aviation safety standards, thereby supporting the efforts of Afghan aviation safety supervisory authorities to reform the civil aviation system according to international aviation safety standards. Lithuanian experts prepared the guidelines for the improvement of certification and authorisation procedures and presented them to the specialists of Afghan airlines and institutions responsible for civil aviation safety during a seminar in Kabul.

Belarus

MAJOR FOCUS ON EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG GENERATION OF BELARUSIANS

Projects carried out in Belarus in 2013 contributed to the raising the activity and empowerment of various social groups, promotion of youth initiatives and cooperation, bridging the social divide, protection and promotion of common historical and cultural heritage as well as institutional capacity building.

Youth and civil society

In 2013, over 300 young people, including the youngest one aged just two, took part in civil society building and youth initiatives. One of such initiatives was the seventh congress of Belarusians studying in Belarus and other European countries. The congress saw the creation of the network of Global Belarus Leaders uniting young Belarusian professionals.

The youth is also supported through the European Humanities University (EHU) established in Lithuania which continues the traditions of the Belarusian academic society and trains a new generation of Belarusian youth operating in exile and enabling its students and teachers to use the Belarusian language in their academic and daily lives. In 2013, 191 graduates of bachelor studies and 53 graduates of master studies graduated from the EHU. Most graduates of the university see their future in Belarus. Lithuania supports the EHU together with the European Commission, Nordic Council of Ministers, United States of America, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Poland and other countries.

Social activity promotion, cultural cooperation and common heritage nurturing

Projects aimed at reducing the divide between social groups and promoting tolerance have taken place in Belarus for several years lately. In 2013, 480 project participants, including the disabled, their parents and teachers as well as representatives of Belarusian non-governmental organisations specialising in these areas, were trained. Lithuania’s projects in culture, education and science implemented in 2013 were aimed at strengthening cooperation between the representatives of both states. These projects attracted over 700 participants. The public was highly interested in the studies of synagogues which are part of the cultural and religious heritage of Belarusian Litvaks. The historians of both countries jointly published a book on the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Cossacks, publications promoting the cultural, historical and musical heritage of Duke Mykolas Kleopas Oginskis. A congress of Belarusian researchers “Belarus: The Northern Dimension” took place.

Institutional capacity building

Officials of the Customs Department of Lithuania, State Food and Veterinary Service and archivists of Kaunas County shared their experience, theoretical and practical knowledge with colleagues from Belarus to build their institutional capacity. In total 74 officials from Belarus were trained during projects.
Support for Education and Health in Regions

Georgia has been paying increasing attention to successful administrative and institutional activities. Tourism, infrastructure renovation and medical development projects were carried out in Georgian regions.

Regional Development

Ozurgeti District is rich in tourist destinations. The Rokiškis Branch of the Panevėžys University of Applied Sciences drew up a tourism management training programme for 5 representatives of Ozurgeti District in Lithuania. The programme comprised a theoretical course and visits to the districts of Rokiškis, Zarasai and Ignalina, tourist information centres in Vilnius and Panevėžys as well as tourist sites. On their return, the representatives of Georgia organised knowledge transfer seminars for tourism specialists of Ozurgeti District.

As part of development of tourism services in Batumi, a fish smokehouse manufactured in Lithuania was built. 10 people engaged in fishery were trained to use the smokehouse and adapt it for the development of rural tourism services. 5 representatives from Adjara came to Lithuania to visit the Ministry of Agriculture and companies in Šalčininkai, Trakai, Aukštadvaris, Plunge and Vilnius to learn about rural tourism services, fishery and food production sectors.

Khashuri is a city in the west of Georgia. Here Japanese and Lithuanian embassies renovated the infrastructure of a nursery school attended by around 200 young children. The Lithuanian embassy funded the renovation work in the yard of the nursery school: new swings were purchased and built, playgrounds were fixed, a new fence was built and glowers were planted. In addition, funding was provided for training of 16 tutors and teachers working at the nursery school.

In Guria District and Adjara 100 doctors specialising in areas such as cardiology, cardiac surgery, anaesthesiology and basic life support attended training provided by Lithuanian specialists on the prevention of cardiovascular diseases, cardiac diagnostics and treatment.

Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti Districts hosted training on strategic planning processes, public involvement in local government and community development. A visit of five Georgian representatives to the municipalities of Klaipėda and Plunge Districts was organised including meetings with local communities. The established relations suggest that municipalities will continue cooperating in the future.

Education and Civil Society

Lithuanian experts, drawing on the experience of modernisation of libraries in Lithuania, helped assess the situation of public libraries in Georgia and discuss how each library and the state could contribute to the creation of a modern library. Three seminars took place in Georgia, a three-day study trip to Lithuania was organised for three members of the steering group and the guidelines for the development of public libraries in Georgia were drawn up in English and Georgian.

In an effort to promote gender equality and emancipation in the Georgian society, 4 representatives from Georgia interested in the improvement of institutional mechanisms for equal opportunities for men and women were given an overview of gender equality institutional
mechanisms of Lithuania and the EU. Meetings were used as an opportunity to analyse the situation of institutional mechanisms of gender equality in Georgia and make recommendations on the further course of action. During the Lithuanian EU Council Presidency, experts from Georgia attended a high level EU conference on institutional gender equality mechanisms in Vilnius.

Moldova

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STRENGTHENING, FOCUS ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS

In 2013, cooperation between Lithuania and Moldova contributed to the improvement of compliance of the activities of Moldovan municipalities and other institutions with EU requirements. Projects undertaken with partners strengthened human rights and civil society, promoted municipal and regional development, supported legal reforms undertaken by the country. Over 150 experts were trained and help was provided for the development of two public sector databases.

Institutional capacity building

During a 5-day study visit to Lithuania, 4 specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of Moldova and the subordinate Food Safety Service were given access to the food and veterinary audit system put in place in Lithuania, EU and international requirements. Experts of the Baltic Institute of Agrobusiness shared the experience of the development and support of this system under the EU acquis with the participants of training. The Moldovan delegation visited the Ministry of Agriculture, State Food and Veterinary Service, food industry undertakings with self-inspection systems.

Lithuania continued to help Moldova implement its legal reforms. In 2013, a Moldovan and Lithuanian legal forum was held in Lithuania. The forum, which took place at the training centre of the National Courts Administration in Moletai, was attended by 10 representatives of Moldovan legal institutions. The event identified the key problem areas and offered solutions: the necessity to reform the judicial system, prevention of corruption, creation of the mechanism of helping crime victims and ensuring equal opportunities. The Lithuanian legal experience was the source of these solutions. To ensure the stable functioning of the new institution responsible for disciplinary responsibility and ethics of judges, Lithuanian court experts went on a visit to Moldova to transfer their experience to 40 representatives of the legal system of the Republic of Moldova.

Two events were organised to strengthen local government in Moldova: a financial management seminar in Chisinau for the representatives of Moldovan municipalities attended by 30 participants and a study visit to Lithuania for 6 heads of Moldovan municipalities and representatives of the congress of municipalities. The participants of events learned about the European financial management practices of local government and Lithuanian experience as well as the practice of representing local government interests in the national policy making process. The representatives of Moldova will continue their cooperation with Lithuania and will develop international relations. To this end, the database of international relations of Moldovan municipalities was developed.

Social security

The Lithuanian embassy in Chisinau focused on the problems faced by orphans and children from socially disadvantaged families and protection of children’s rights, was one of the organisers of the international conference “Children victims of violence: systemic approach in prevention and protection” in Chisinau. Practical sessions were held during the conference where experts from Lithuania and Moldovan lawyers, child psychologists and psychotherapists analysed specific cases of violation of children's rights and sexual violence. The embassy also contributed to the development of the database of Transnistrian orphans, homeless children and children from socially disadvantaged families operated by the Transnistrian Ministry of Social Security and Labour and helped train 30 employees of the ministry to use the database.
STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY

Taking into account the goal of Ukraine to accelerate Eurointegration processes, Lithuania supported projects in customs reforms, national support for agricultural administration and energy sustainability planning, provided assistance for the development of democratic civil society and promotion of equal opportunities. The transfer of Eurointegration experience to Ukrainian authorities and the public, cooperation between regions and municipalities brings Ukraine closer to international standards and strengthens its relations with the EU.

Institutional capacity building

For a number of years, Lithuanians have been helping Ukrainians implement customs reforms related to trade facilitation, modernisation and harmonisation of trading conditions with EU Member States. In 2013, 60 customs officials in Kiev and Lviv were comprehensively briefed on the EU tariff classification of goods and various controls of tariff classification of goods. Eight customs officials from Ukraine attended workshops in Lithuania where they observed how Lithuanian customs officials carried out controls of tariff classification of goods and laboratory tests. A team of Lithuanian customs experts drew up recommendations on potential solutions to several highly complicated issues in this areas identified in the Ukrainian customs.

2013 marked the beginning of cooperation between the National Paying Agency (NPA) of Lithuania and Agrarian Policy and Food Ministry of Ukraine aimed at ensuring a more transparent administration and control of national support for agriculture. Lithuanian experts explained the accreditation requirements applied by the EU to paying agencies relating to the control of administration of support for agriculture and rural development. During practical training in Lithuania, 7 specialists from Ukraine visited structural units of the NPA and carried out practical assignments, learned about the latest technologies of on-the-spot checks. In addition, Lithuanian experts drew up guidelines on the feasibility of applying the EU requirements for controlling support for agriculture and rural development at the Agrarian Policy and Food Ministry of Ukraine.

Experts from Lithuania shared their experience of energy sustainability planning and environmental impacts with Ukrainians to strengthen the energy sustainability capacity of Ukrainian local government. The practice of implementation of the Covenant of Mayors and preparation of energy sustainability action plans in Lithuanian and other European cities was presented to 125 representatives of local government and NGOs in Chernigov Oblast. A delegation of 8 Ukrainians in Lithuania met with the representatives of local government and regional energy agencies and improved their energy planning and efficiency know-how during training sessions and discussions.

Civil society

As part of democracy and civil society promotion initiatives, a public discussion (over 50 participants) was hosted in Lviv to present the association agreement between the EU and Ukraine and the Lithuanian EU Council.
Palestine, Tunisia

CIVIL SOCIETY BUILDING FOR YOUTH

In 2013, Lithuania implemented one project in Palestine and one in Tunisia, which brings the total number of Lithuania’s projects in Palestine and Tunisia to four and two respectively.

At the political school in Tunisia, experts from Lithuania and other countries shared their theoretical and practical knowledge of justice during the Presidency. The public was invited to take interest in Eurointegration challenges and the media was briefed on the problems of Eurointegration reforms and democratic processes in the country. A special programme supporting Ukraine’s Eurointegration ambitions was developed and broadcast on the Crimean television. The filming took place in Brussels, Crimea (during Lithuanian Days) and Vilnius (during the EU Eastern Partnership summit meeting).

Lithuanian experience in ensuring equal opportunities to the most vulnerable social groups was drawn on in improving the capacity of community organisations of Chernigov, Chernivtsi and Vinnysia Oblast representing disabled women to fight against violations of employment rights and discrimination. Representatives of non-governmental organisations, employment centres and the media were briefed on the relevant practice in Lithuania. 15 disabled women gained knowledge of representation in employment relations and defence of civil rights. They are competent to transfer the new knowledge to other disabled women. Nine personal development courses based on non-formal education methodologies were organised, 21 lectures on finding employment were delivered and 3 job fairs were held. More than 500 disabled women participated in the activities. In addition, training for women (35 female participants) on the setting up and development of own business was offered in two towns in Donetsk Oblast. These courses improved personal social competences of women and encouraged them to provide mutual support.

Lithuania supports the strengthening of public spirit skills of Palestine youth and encourages young Palestinians to play a more active role in their country’s life building a democratic and knowledge-based society. Using non-formal education techniques, specialists from Lithuania hosted training at the Palestinian boys school Arab Institute (24 boys), Al Quds University (18 students), non-governmental organisation Vision Alliance for Arts and Culture (17 participants). The training included the presentation of ideas for projects relevant to the youth and community (and the best ones were put into practice), preparation of their descriptions and planning for actions to help implement these projects. At the end of the visit, specialists from Lithuania took part in the collection of olives together with partners and trained youth groups, which served as a practical example public spirit building through non-formal education.
The EU Twinning Programme is the initiative of the European Commission to help beneficiary countries to strengthen their administrative and institutional capacity through the transfer of experience of the donor country to related institutions in the beneficiary country which carry out reforms.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the national coordinator of the EU Twinning Programme actively ensuring the visibility of new Twinning projects among Lithuanian institutions, promoting their participation in projects and transfer of transitional experience to Eastern Partnership and Balkan countries in their preparation to join the EU.

### Lithuanian institutions which implemented projects under the EU Twinning Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Number of projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Project Management Agency</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Food and Veterinary Service</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Social Security and Labour</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Investigation Service</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Transport and Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customs Department</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Government</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Non-food Products Inspectorate</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Paying Agency</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Electoral Commission</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Audit Office</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc.</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
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- Bulgaria: 2 projects (2007, 2009)
- Egypt: 1 project (2011)
- Georgia: 1 project (2010)
- Moldova: 2 projects (2010, 2010)
- Romania: 1 project (2007)
- Ukraine: 3 projects (2010, 2013, 2013)
- Ukraine: 19
In 2013, Lithuanian institutions implemented 3 Twinning Programme projects in Armenia aimed at the improvement of competitiveness, consumer protection and customs controls.

The Competition Council of the Republic of Lithuania and the Federal Ministry of Economy and Technology of Germany, senior partner, completed a two-year project “Strengthening the implementation of competition and state aid laws in Armenia” in February 2013. Nine representatives of the Competition Council from Lithuania provided consultations, training and seminars on the legislation and implementation of competition and state aid laws to the competition institution of Armenia.

In October, a two-year project “Capacity building of the Market and Consumer Protection Inspectorate and harmonisation with EU standards” was completed. It was implemented by the State Non-food Products Inspectorate as the junior partner of UK’s NI–CO.

In 2012–2013, the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance and its partners from Finland implemented the project “Support for the Armenian State Revenue Service in customs clearance controls based on best practices of EU countries”. This was the first project awarded to an international consortium led by the Lithuanian institution (Lithuania was the senior partner and Finland the junior partner) in Armenia. During the selection procedure, Lithuania and Finland competed against Austria, Greece, Italy and a consortium of Danish and Estonian institutions.

The project aimed at strengthening the nuclear safety and radiation protection infrastructure in Azerbaijan was launched in 2012. The Azerbaijani Ministry of Emergencies chose the Lithuanian Radiation Protection Centre and the Central Project Management Agency as its project partners. Lithuanian experts helped colleagues draw up the national radiation protection strategy, provided recommendations on the harmonisation of Azerbaijani national law with the EU and international radiation protection standards. The project involved the development of a new radiation control system, preparation of the nuclear accident response scheme and conduct of emergency preparedness exercises.

To support its tourism sector reform, Azerbaijan selected an Austrian and Lithuanian consortium (Lithuania as the junior project partner) in 2013. The implementation of the project has involved close cooperation between the Azerbaijani Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Lithuanian State Department of Tourism. The experience of Lithuania and Austria serves as a basis for the development of new recreational spaces, establishment of the tourism fund and increase of cultural tourism opportunities. Lithuanian experts have shared the successful experience of development of Druskininkai resort with the representatives of Naftalan resort in Azerbaijan. The activities of this 15-month Twinning project will be completed by the middle of 2014.
CONSULTATIONS ON THE USE OF SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR MONTENEGRO

In 2013, a Dutch, Lithuania and Estonian consortium began implementing the EU Twinning Programme project aimed at developing the capacity of Montenegro to administer support for agriculture and rural development under IPARD (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development). In the period of 18 months, over 30 various specialists from the Netherlands, Lithuania and Estonia will participate in the project implementation. The National Paying Agency of Lithuania is the junior project partner in Montenegro and has shared its experience in successfully using more than LTL 0.5 billion of SAPARD (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development) support in 2002–2006.

KOSovo ONCE AGAIN Chooses LITHUANIA AS PARTNER

The second EU Twinning Programme project for the reorganisation of the Kosovo food safety and veterinary system was completed in 2003. As in the case of the first project, it was implemented by the State Food and Veterinary Service of Lithuania acting as the junior partner of Germany. The cooperation of German and Lithuanian partners with Kosovo began in 2007. Each Twinning project lasted for two years. The decision of Kosovo authorities to reform food and veterinary control drawing on the experience of Germany and Lithuania illustrates the successful cooperation of the Lithuanian and German consortium and respect for the work of the State Food and Veterinary Service of Lithuania.

CROATIA HIGHLY APPRECIATES THE EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORT OF LITHUANIAN INSTITUTIONS

The project aimed at improving the management of EU cohesion funds, which was implemented by Lithuanian and Hungarian institutions, was designated as the success story of 2013 in the Annual Report of the EU Twinning Programme. Croatia has demonstrated its high appreciation of the work of the Ministry of Finance of Lithuania and the Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) choosing to continue cooperation with these institutions. The CPMA has been awarded 6 projects and the Ministry of Finance 2 projects in Croatia.

In 2013, the proposal prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the CPMA was selected from 9 proposals submitted for the strengthening of the national EU affairs coordination system of Croatia.

SUCCESS OF JOINT UK AND LITHUANIAN PROJECTS IN MOLDOVA

Lithuanian institutions took part in the implementation of two EU Twinning Programme food safety and consumer protection projects in Moldova in 2013. Lithuania acted in the capacity of the junior partner of the United Kingdom.

For almost two years experts of the State Food and Veterinary Service and State Plant Service of Lithuania participated in the development of the National Food Safety Agency of Moldova improving the capacity of its staff to plan the activities of the agency, control of food production standards and risk prevention. The outcome of the project is the effective operation of the National Food Safety Agency of Moldova raising the awareness of producers about the use of pesticides and fertilisers. The project contributed to the reduction of environmental pollution, ensuring of the higher quality of food products for consumers in Moldova and protection of consumer health.

The Twinning project aimed at supporting the Consumer Protection Inspectorate of Moldova lasted for 18 months. The model of cooperation between the State Non-food Products Safety Inspectorate of Lithuania (SNFPSI) and Lithuanian Customs was adapted in Moldova. The support and training provided by toy and electrical device safety experts of the SNFPSI contributed greatly to building the capacity and performance of the staff of the Moldovan institution.

SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL LAW REFORM IN UKRAINE

Since 2013, Lithuania has supported the development of the Ukrainian agricultural land market. The Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania, the National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Centre of Registers will participate in the project for two years as junior partners of the Netherlands and Germany. The project is aimed at increasing the transparency of the Ukrainian agricultural land market, strengthen its legal framework and control.
Public awareness of development cooperation

In 2013, 7 projects were implemented in Lithuania to raise public awareness of the latest course of events in development cooperation in Lithuania and abroad.

A methodical educational kit on development cooperation (2 publications and a CD) was published, 3 educational seminars on development cooperation were held for students and teachers, events of the European Development Week were organised, 2 virtual games were offered to the public enabling young people to take personal interest in development cooperation, 30 shows on development cooperation were broadcast on the radio and 3 public surveys were carried out.

During the events to honour partisans and unity between the military and public held on 18 May 2013 in Klaipėda, the Lithuanian development cooperation activities in Afghanistan Ghor Province were presented to the public. Visitors were able to learn about the development cooperation projects implemented in Ghor Province with the help of Lithuania as well as Afghan culture such as Dari characters, Afghan clothing, snacks and drinks, videos and photographs. The results of civilian activities of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Ghor Province and prospects of partnership with Afghanistan were also presented during the conference held on 9 October in the Parliament.

The documentary film festival Ad Hoc: Inconvenient Films 2013 supported under the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme was a huge success. A total of 42 documentaries were shown in eleven Lithuanian cities and educational events highlighting the problems in developing countries were attended by 14,700 people. The website of the project www.nepatoguskinas.lt had 25,500 online visitors.

The database of Lithuanian non-governmental organisations working in the area of development cooperation was created (www.pagalba.org/partnerships). Visitors can search the database looking for information about non-governmental organisations and descriptions of projects implemented by them.

According to the 2013 Eurobarometer survey in Lithuania (1,023 respondents):

- 81% of the respondents believe that it is extremely important to help the populations of the developing countries;
- 48% believe that the European Union must keep its promise to increase support to the developing countries;
- 7% believe that the European Union must provide even more support to the developing countries than promised;
- the main development cooperation goals after 2015 should be: economic growth (47% of the respondents), health care (38%) and energy (29%).
In 2013, the Parliament adopted the Law on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (the “Law”). It was the first time that development cooperation activities and provision of humanitarian aid were regulated at national level.

The Law opened broad opportunities to all state and municipal authorities and institutions to cooperate with partner countries in support of their long-term and sustainable development.

The Law defined the goals, principles and methods of humanitarian aid provided by Lithuania. It also raised the status of the National Development Cooperation Commission to the new level. The ranks of its members were joined by the representatives of development cooperation non-government organisations. The purpose of the Commission laid down in the Law is to coordinate development cooperation activities to ensure the compatibility of Lithuanian development cooperation policies.

In addition, legal acts implementing the Law were also drafted in 2013. These were the resolutions of the government approving the specification of procedures for the implementation of development cooperation activities by state and municipal authorities and institutions, approving the specification of procedures for the provision of humanitarian aid by state and municipal authorities and institutions, approving the development cooperation policies of the Republic of Lithuania for 2014–2016 and the formation of the National Development Cooperation Commission and approval of its Regulations. Their adoption in 2014 will mark the completion of the new Lithuanian development cooperation infrastructure.
Associations:
• Young Leaders Forum
• Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights
• National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform
• Intangible Assets Foundation
• Parliamentary Forum for Democracy
• Association of Rural Internet Access Points
• Dieveniškės School of Technology and Business
• Financial Crime Investigation Service under the Ministry of the Interior
• Parliamentary Forum for Democracy
• Association of Rural Internet Access Points
• Administration of the Klaipėda District Municipality
• Charity and Sponsorship Foundation Voluntas
• Lithuanian Labour Exchange
• Association of Lithuanian Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Crafts
• Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania
• Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Lithuania
• Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania
• Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania
• Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania
• Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania
• European Affairs Department and EU Council Presidency Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania
• National Audit Office of the Republic of Lithuania
• Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Lithuania
• Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
• Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania
• Pagava, Lithuanian Association of Families with Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children
• Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania
• Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre
• Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance
• National Paying Agency under the Ministry of Agriculture
• National Courts Administration
• National Land Service under the Ministry of Agriculture
• Youth Academy, non-formal education association
• NGO Catholic Relief Services (USA)
• NGO Dobrochyn Center (Ukraine)
• Administration of the Panevėžys District Municipality
• Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior
• Radiation Protection Centre
• Centre of Registers
• Oginskiai Museum of Cultural History in Rietavas
• Administration of the Rokiškis District Municipality
• Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence, Border Guard School of the State Border Protection Service under the Ministry of the Interior
• State Plant Service under the Ministry of Agriculture
• State Road Transport Inspectorate under the Ministry of Transport and Communications
• State Food and Veterinary Service
• State Non-Food Products Inspectorate under the Ministry of Economy
• State Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Economy

Public establishments:
• Baltic Institute of Agribusiness
• Central Project Management Agency
• Centre for Democratic Initiatives
• Centre for European Integration Studies, Lviv Branch (Ukraine)
• European Social Fund Agency
• Academia Memoriae Historiae
• Institute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania
• Lithuanian Institute of Public Administration
• Centre for Equality Advancement
• Metų Projektais
• National Development Institute
• New Ideas
• Eastern Europe Studies Centre
• Vienasąją Šalis
• Jewish Culture and Information Centre
• Gender Studies Centre of Vilnius University
• Lithuanian Kolping Society, community support and charity organisation
• Vytautas Magnus University

* and other state institutions and non-governmental organisations of partner countries