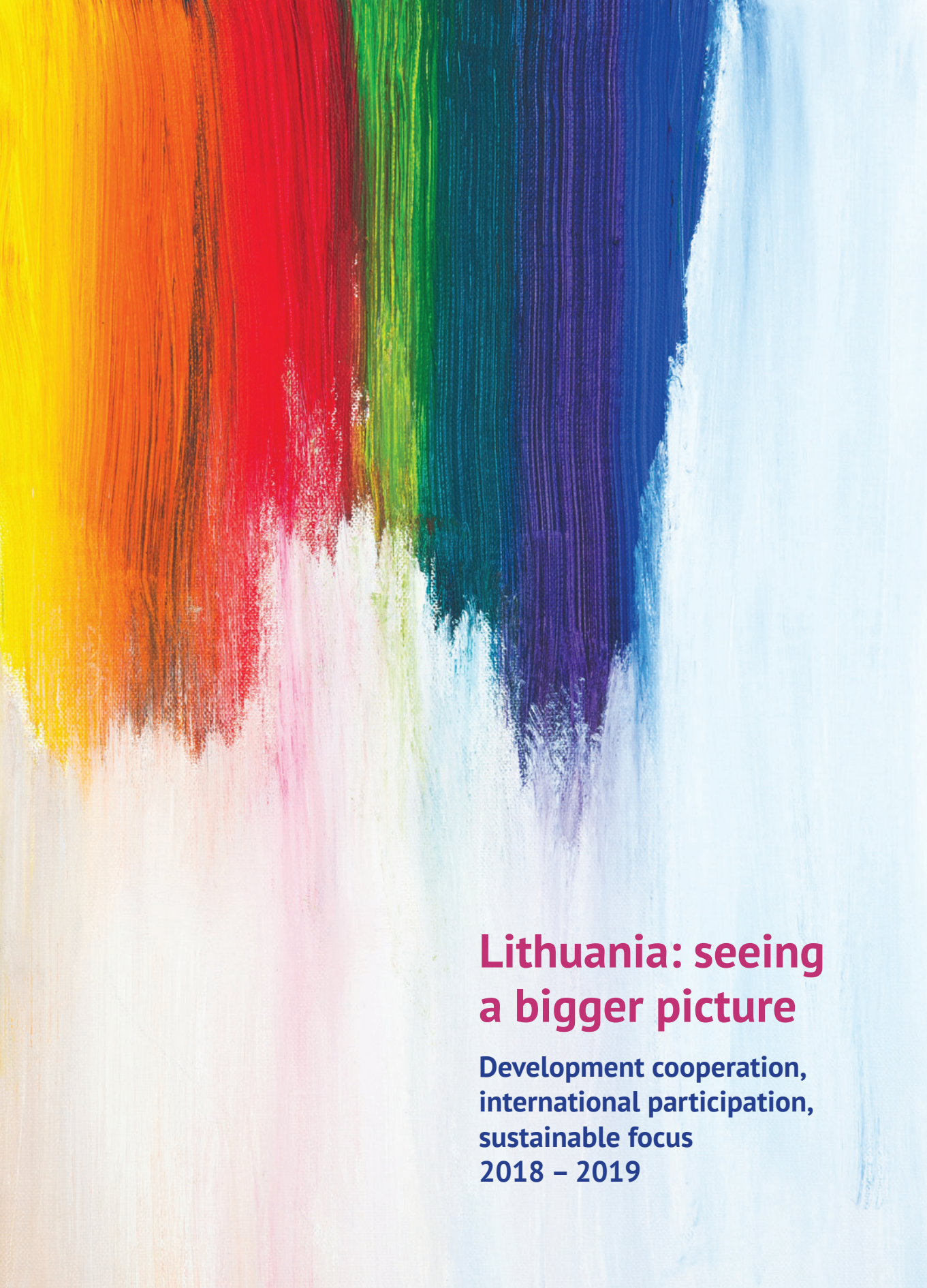


Lithuania: seeing a bigger picture

Development cooperation, international participation, sustainable focus 2018 – 2019

Justina Kaluinaite
National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform (Lithuanian NGDO Platform)
Lithuania, 2019

Designed by Eglė Jakelaitytė
Cover photo @ Markus Spiske

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Nacionalinė
Nevyriausybinių
Vystomojo
Bendradarbiavimo
Organizacijų
Platforma

SOCIALINĖS APSAUGOS IR DARBO MINISTERIJA



@ Tobi Feder, Lalitpur, Nepal

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Glossary

CONCORD European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development

CSOs Civil Society Organizations

DAC OECD's Development Assistance Committee

EC European Commission

EU European Union

FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation

FDI Foreign Direct Investment

IO International organization

LDCs Least developed countries

MDGs (UN) Millennium Development Goals

MFA Lithuanian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

MINUSMA Multinational Integrated Stabilization Mission

OCHA UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

ODA Official Development Assistance

OSCE Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe

OECD Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

SDGs (UN) Sustainable Development Goals / Agenda 2030

UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNISEF United Nations Children Fund

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organisation

"We are very pleased to welcome Lithuania as a member of this 'house of best practices,' joining us in our collective endeavour to provide answers to the leading economic, social and environmental challenges of our time."

Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General

The most recent country to join the OECD was Lithuania. OECD Countries finally agreed to formally invite Lithuania to become a member of the Organization on May 2018. Lithuania opened its OECD accession talks in April 2015 and the negotiating process was finalized in April 2018. **Lithuania officially became the 36th member of the Organization.**

The finalization of OECD membership process was a step further for Lithuania. Lithuania was the last country from neighborhood EU countries to join OECD (Poland joined 1996, Estonia - 2010, Latvia – 2016).



3 May 2018 - OECD Secretary-General and the President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė

What are the benefits of OECD membership?

By meeting international standards, countries that become OECD members are seen as potentially more attractive recipients of foreign investment, more trusted for economic partnership and collaboration. The OECD is a group of 36 countries which have in common the fact that they have democratic systems of government and market economies. It has been labeled as the "rich-country club" because its members represent around 70% of the global market.

The OECD was created in 1961 with the goal of promoting policies that improve people's economic and social well-being. The OECD creates a forum where governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems, challenges as well as sharing the best know how and peer reviews. Its tasks also include developing indicators of productivity and global trade and investment flows, analyzing and comparing data to predict trends, and setting international standards for a wide range of public policy issues.

OECD focused no only on cooperation but on being very instrumental. Members become participating countries that set quality standards in various aspects of trade, investment and as well setting standards and instruments for development cooperation and aid. In this organizational framework, the OECD creates policy recommendations, following the assessments that its experts carry out in member countries.

Becoming an OECD member also leads to broader specter of statistics being available on the country: the organization publishes information regarding its members on variety on themes, f.e. such as agriculture and food, development, education, gender studies, macro economy, social aspects. This statistics forms not only greater engagement, participation and accountability of member states to set up a common standard, but also trust in integrity and transparency of the member being open to analyze, evaluate and work peer-to-peer to seek for the best developing policies.

POLICY MAKERS AND POLICY SHAPES



II.1 OECD Structure. Source OECD

However, one of the points that is most significant for countries such as Lithuania is the international recognition that comes with membership, in particular the possibility of attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). For some organizations, OECD membership is one of the necessary conditions for investing in a chosen country.

Other benefits of OECD membership include:

- Better opportunities for international economic cooperation: by adopting OECD standards, companies become more competitive and countries more attractive to foreign investors;
- Exchange of experience and good practices, especially in preparing and implementing structural reforms;
- Reviews, reports, workbooks and analyses from selected fields: economic and labour market reviews, territorial review, reports and recommendations on public administration reform;
- Inclusion in comparative expert analysis publications, such as OECD Employment Outlook, Health at a Glance, Pensions at a Glance, Innovation Scoreboard, Taxing Wages, Going for Growth, OECD Economic Outlook;
- Inclusion in OECD statistical and information databases for international comparisons and rankings;
- Free direct access to OECD databases and publications for users from public administration (OLIS restricted website);
- Exchange of expert opinions, e.g. visits of OECD experts;
- Possibility for employment of Lithuanian experts in the OECD.

Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

As stated in OECD's convention in Paris, 1960 the ground principles and Articles refers to working standards, values and framework for organization.

CONSIDERING that economic strength and prosperity are essential for the attainment of the purposes of the United Nations, the preservation of individual liberty and the increase of general well-being;

BELIEVING that they can further these aims most effectively by strengthening the tradition of co-operation which has evolved among them;

RECOGNISING that the economic recovery and progress of Europe to which their participation in the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation has made a major contribution, have opened new perspectives for strengthening that tradition and applying it to new tasks and broader objectives;

CONVINCED that broader co-operation will make a vital contribution to peaceful and harmonious relations among the peoples of the world;

RECOGNISING the increasing interdependence of their economies;

DETERMINED by consultation and co-operation to use more effectively their capacities and potentialities so as to promote the highest sustainable growth of their economies and improve the economic and social well-being of their peoples;

BELIEVING that the economically more advanced nations should co-operate in assisting to the best of their ability the countries in process of economic development;

RECOGNISING that the further expansion of world trade is one of the most important factors favouring the economic development of countries and the improvement of international economic relations;

These main principles indicate the high priority of cooperation and partnership for global development and interdependent relations.

While various countries are connected in diverse economical relation and partnership it could contribute to ethical and more prosperous way of cooperation and global development in term of assistance, and both sides relationships. The above statements leads to holistic approach of partnership in economic relationship which influence also other global factors as peace and stability, governance and social, cultural, human capacity development. As OECD Convention article states, the key aims are:

Article 1

The aims of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (hereinafter called the „Organisation") shall be to promote policies designed:

(a) to achieve the highest **sustainable economic growth** and employment and a rising standard of living in Member countries, while maintaining financial stability, and thus to contribute to the **development** of the world economy;

(b) to contribute to sound economic expansion in Member as well as non-member countries in the process of **economic development**; and

(c) to contribute to the expansion of world trade on a multilateral, non-discriminatory basis in accordance with international obligations.[1]

These important aims again outlines importance of **global cooperation and partnership in global aspects** connecting other holistic aspects together. Having in mind the Convention text and aims the regulations and frame of OECD closely connects with **development cooperation** sector in terms of:

- Sustainable Development Goals and Targets should be met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society
- Policies, practices and partnerships that could ensure the sustainable global development
- Researched based development and monitoring
- Opportunities for equality and inclusion

[1] Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 1960 France

OECD member countries account for approx. 70 percent of world GDP, three-quarters of world trade, 95 percent of world official development assistance, over half of the world's energy consumption, and 18 percent of the world's population. Organization helps countries – both members and non-members – reap the benefits and confront the challenges of a global economy by promoting sound energy policies that further: economic growth; energy security; free markets; the increasingly safe, clean, and efficient use of resources to reduce environmental impacts and preserve our climate; and science and technology innovation.

OECD Overview of Lithuania 2018

Overview prepared by OECD in 2018 June contains key findings from conducted survey and recommendations. [2] OECD's recommendations and findings (more information Annex 1 "Main findings and key recommendations, OECD 2018) mentions low efficiency of education and need to focus more on educational aspects. As in line with global education, development education, global citizenship approach which is not yet integrated in national curriculum we do believe it affects arising issues of global understanding, perception of Lithuania in a global context and low participation and support for foreign relationship including development cooperation.

OECD states that Lithuania's regulatory environment is overall business-friendly and open to foreign investment. In World Bank Doing Business index[3] Lithuania is placed among the top 20 and ranked among the top 10 countries with the most open markets for services trade (OECD, 2018a). However, they key barriers come when we focus on regulations for the employment of non-EU workers. **The positive achievement from recent laws improved the employment possibilities for non-EU students (part-time) and graduates, while introducing a simplified start-up Visa scheme for non-EU entrepreneurs planning to establish a high-tech business in Lithuania.**

As Lithuania is still facing a Migration Challenge OECD recommends that Migration policy should rest on three pillars:

1) Taking care of those living in the country,

2) Reaching out to those living abroad;

3) Attracting skilled immigrants.

From economical point of view within development cooperation policy Lithuania's tight immigration policy for non-EU workers closes the opportunities for shifting more holistic policies for partner countries (developing countries) in restricting specialist not only from employment but also from internship and capacity building.

Development cooperation is an integral part of OECD. Official development assistance (ODA) is defined as government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Loans and credits for military purposes are excluded. Aid may be provided bilaterally, from donor to recipient, or channeled through a multilateral development agency such as the United Nations or the World Bank.

RECOMENDATIONS:

Focus on OECD recommendations and policies in drafting and reshaping existing instruments and policy decisions

Have a strategic aim to foster and advance in research based development and exchanges with researches in the framework of development cooperation

[2] OECD, Economic Survey of Lithuania, 2018 www.oecd.org/eco/surveys/economic-survey-lithuania.htm
[3] The World Bank, Data in Doing Business 2018

Global situation and ODA

The preliminary Official development assistance (ODA) statistics published on April 2019 by OECD[4] states that **foreign aid from official donors in 2018 fell 2.7% from 2017, with a declining share going to the neediest countries**, according to preliminary data collected by the OECD.

Source: OECD Development Cooperation Profiles: Global Trends

ODA is **rising too slowly** to meet commitments

+7% share of ODA as **loans** between 2008 and 2017

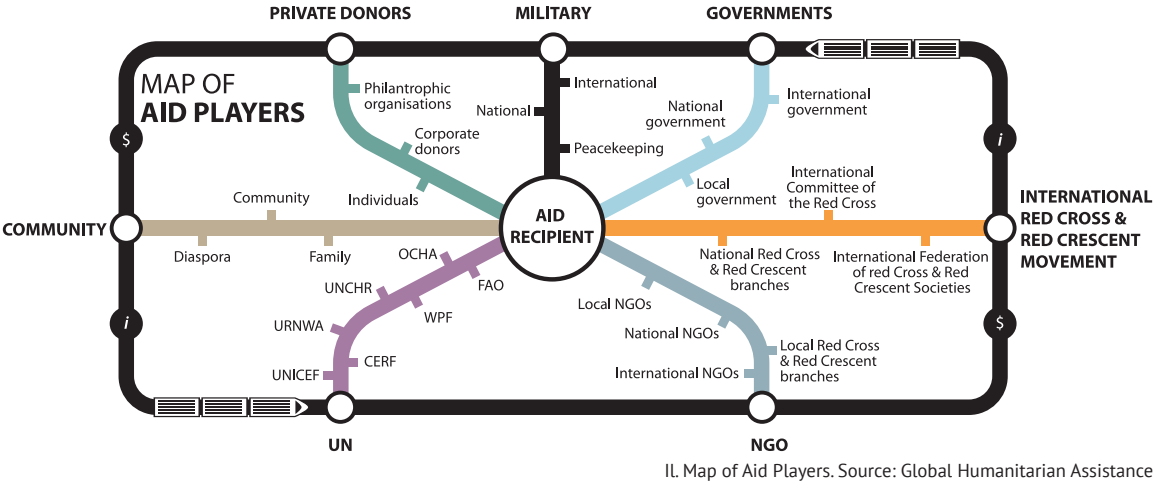
+8% ODA from DAC countries to **fragile contexts** between 2016 and 2017

USD **152,1 billion** was mobilised by ODA from the **private sector** in 2012-2017

30 members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) total USD 153.0 billion in 2018 as calculated using a new "grant-equivalent" methodology adopted from today as a more accurate way to count the donor effort in development loans. Under the "cash-flow basis" methodology used in the past, 2018 ODA was USD 149.3 billion, down 2.7% in real terms from 2017. Excluding aid spent on processing and hosting refugees, ODA was stable from 2017 to 2018.

The United States continued to be the largest donor (USD 34.3 billion), followed by Germany (USD 25.0 billion), the United Kingdom (USD 19.4 billion), Japan (USD 14.2 billion) and France (USD 12.2 billion). G7 countries provided three-quarters of total ODA on the grant equivalent basis. DAC-EU countries provided 56.5% of the total, which represented 0.47% of their combined GNI .

The number of refugees entering Europe has dropped since it speak in 2015 and 2016. DAC countries reported USD 10.6 billion in 2018 for in-donor refugee costs, a fall of 28.4% in real terms compared to 2017.These costs represented 7.1% of total net ODA compared to 9.6% in 2017 and 11.0% in 2016, when in-donor refugee costs were at their highest. For seven countries, these costs represented more than 10% of their total ODA and for two of them it was over 20%.[5]



Il. Map of Aid Players. Source: Global Humanitarian Assistance

[4] OECD, Official Development Assistance 2018 – Preliminary Data
[5] OECD Development aid drops in 2018, especially to neediest countries, Paris, 10 April 2019

Lithuanian and development cooperation

We view development cooperation, or the international obligation to support less developed countries, as an opportunity rather than an obligation or a burden.

Seimas of The Republic of Lithuania[6]

The first legal framework for Lithuanian development cooperation and humanitarian assistance was set in May 2003 when the government adopted a concept paper on Lithuania's development cooperation for 2003-2005. Lithuanian Law on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, adopted in 2013 and updated in 2016, envisages main principles of development cooperation: partnership with partner countries, partner country's ownership, solidarity, efficiency, transparency and responsibility, coordination and complementarity, and policy coherence. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania is responsible for implementing and co-ordinating Lithuania's development co-operation.

Multilateral development assistance is defined as obligatory and voluntary contributions and payments to the funds, international organizations and international financial institutions carrying out or coordinating development cooperation activities, including the EU budget part.

Bilateral development assistance is defined as support provided from state and municipal budgets to the partner country's institutions or civil society, including non-governmental organisations, according to their needs.

Humanitarian aid means the aid and action designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain and protect human dignity during and in the aftermath of man-made crises and natural disasters, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.[7]

Lithuania's development cooperation policy is an integrated part of Lithuania's foreign policy and focus on:

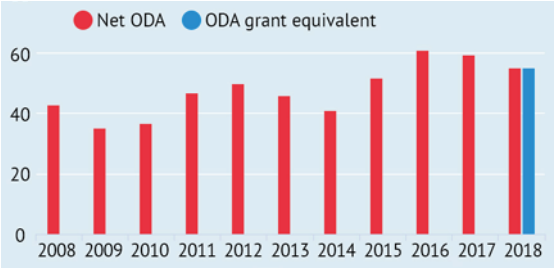
- **Reducing poverty in developing countries**
- **Contribute to sustainable development**
- **Security**
- **Democracy and stability in partner countries.**

In additional it focuses on promoting gender equality, elaboration of human rights; strengthen political, economic, social and cultural relations with developing countries[8].

Nationally focused awareness raising, global education / development education awareness raising is focused on promoting the development principles and aims, strengthen awareness about various humanitarian actors and partner countries, seek global understanding and support / active participation in development cooperation activities together with society.

But can development cooperation be supported by the society if it hardly finds a place in decision maker's priority focus and policy decisions?

Lithuania - ODA volume
Disbursements, million USD, 2017 constant prices



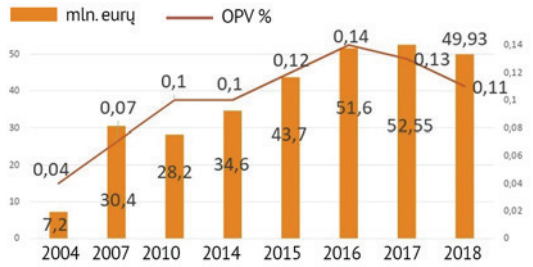
Graph No. 1. Lithuania – Lithuania ODA Volume, USD, 2017. Source: OESC Development cooperation database. Found at: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org

The Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme[9] is an integral implementing measure for official development assistance ('ODA') of Lithuania financed with

[6] Seimas of The Republic Of Lithuania, Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (Foreign Policy part), RESOLUTION No XIII-82, 13 December 2016
[7] MFA https://orangeprojects.lt/en/official-development-assistance
[8] MFA https://orangeprojects.lt/en/goals/implementation-of-lithuanian-development-cooperation-policy
[9] Vystomojo bendradarbiavimo ir paramos demokratijai Programos įgyvendinimo tvarkos aprašas 2019 m. birželio 12 d. Nr. V-170, https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/90ad9b408cfa11e9ae2e9d61b1f977b3

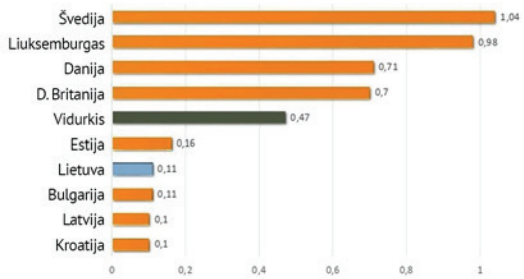
special budget allocations for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ODA means assistance and humanitarian aid for partner countries (developing countries) and territories funded from the state and municipal budgets.

According to preliminary statistics[10], in 2018 Lithuania's ODA constituted about 50.0million Eur, i.e. 0.11% of gross national income (GNI) (52.55million Eur or 0.13% of GNI in 2017, and 52.1millionor Eur 0.14% of GNI in 2016). Despite the change in the overall volume of ODA, the reduction of ODA in terms of percentage was mostly influenced by GNI growth. **Lithuania is committed to ensure that the value of this indicator should reach 0.33% of GNI by 2030.**



Graph No. 2. Lithuanian ODA Allocations (preliminary data). Source MFA Lithuania.

OECD confirms that total ODA for 2018 represented a decrease of 7.3% in real terms from 2017, due to a decrease in its bilateral aid projects. While a slightly increase of allocated amounts for ODA was for a period of time till 2016 the current situation brings the challenges of achieving the 0,33 of GNI by 2030 again.



Graph No. 3. Lithuanian ODA and GNI (preliminary data). Source MFA Lithuania. Found at https://orangeprojects.lt/en

The worrying reason is not only that ODA decreased in 2018 but that from EU countries Lithuania stands at the end of the countries' list being just slightly in front of Latvia and Croatia (0,01 % difference).

Lithuania committed to ensure that the value of ODA should reach 0.33% of GNI by 2030.

2018 Lithuania's ODA constituted about 50.0million Eur, i.e. 0.11% of gross national income (GNI) (52.55million Eur or 0.13% of GNI in 2017, and 52.1million Euro or 0.14% of GNI in 2016)

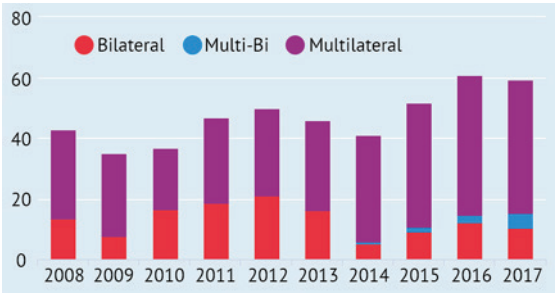
The majority of Lithuania's aid is channelled through multilateral agencies: through contributions to the EU budget as well as to international organisations and UN agencies like the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the World Meteorological Organisation, the International Labour Organisation , International Telecommunication Union and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development .

In its bilateral aid efforts Lithuania focuses on areas where it has a comparative advantage, in other words sharing its own reform experiences in transition to a democracy and market economy with countries that are willing to draw on that experience. Priority sectors include democracy, human rights, good governance and the rule of law; economic development; European integration processes; and administrative capacity-building.


@ Lenny Miles, Ejiba, Nigeria

[10] Development Co-operation Profiles, Lithuania – June 2019, OECD

Lithuania - Bilateral and multilateral ODA allocations
Gross disbursements, million USD, 2017 constant prices



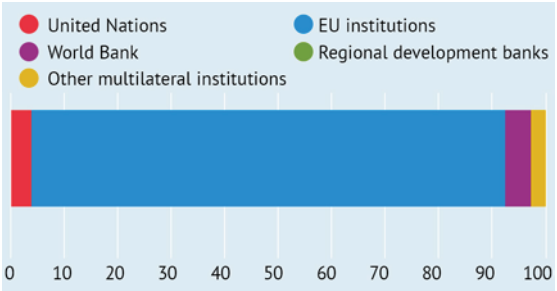
Graph No. 4. Lithuania – Bilateral and multilateral ODA allocations, 2017. Source: OESC Development cooperation database. Found at: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org

In 2017, 26% of gross ODA was provided bilaterally, of which 31% was channelled through multilateral organisations Lithuania allocated 74% of total ODA as core contributions to multilateral organisations.

In 2017, 21.8% of bilateral ODA was programmed with partner countries, making Lithuania's share of country programmable aid higher than the average for development providers beyond the DAC of 27.4% (see the methodological notes for further details on country programmable aid).

With a view to further strengthening the role and capacities of Lithuania in the practical implementation of the EU development cooperation policy, the function of the Central Project Management Agency (hereinafter referred toas 'the CPMA'), which in the current year joined the network of the EU development cooperation agencies, has been increasing.

Lithuania – Overview of ODA allocations to and through multilateral organisations 2016-2017 average
Gross disbursements, per cent



Graph No. 5. Lithuania – Overview of ODA allocations to and through multilateral organizations 2016-2017 average. Source: OECD Development cooperation. Found at https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org

In 2017, 1% of Lithuania's gross bilateral ODA (USD 0.2 million) was allocated to the least developed countries (LDCs). This is up from 0.5% in 2016 and significantly lower than the average of providers beyond the DAC of 12.3% in 2017. Lower middle-income countries received 12.9% of bilateral ODA in 2017, while upper middle-income countries received 9.6%, noting that 76.4% was unallocated by income group.

At 0.02% of GNI in 2017, total ODA to the LDCs was lower than the UN target of 0.15-0.20% of GNI. This includes imputed multilateral flows, i.e. making allowance for contributions through multilateral organisations, calculated using the geographical distribution of multilateral disbursements.

Lithuania – top 10 recipient 2017
Gross disbursements, million USD, current prices

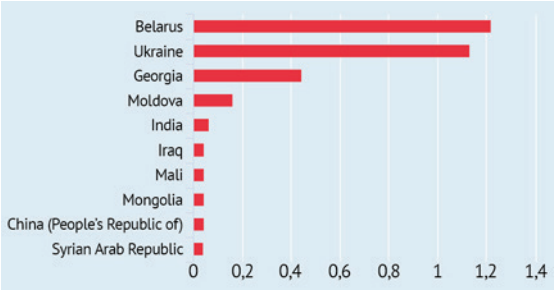


Table No.1. Lithuania – Top 10 recipients 2017. Source: OECD Development Cooperation. Found at (https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org

Lithuania joined the **Busan Agreement on Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation** in the beginning of 2014. Lithuanian law on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, adopted in 2013, envisages main principles of aid effectiveness: partnership with partner countries, partner country's responsibility; solidarity; efficiency, transparency and responsibility; coordination and complementarity; policy coherence.

Countries in fragile and conflict situation: Lithuania has a specific policy for such countries.

Humanitarian aid

In 2018, Lithuania allocated 2 697 258 Eur (from the MFA's Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme – 370.000 EUR) for humanitarian aid. Main area of support was humanitarian aid and rehabilitation in Ukraine and East Ukraine region and support for refugees. Humanitarian aid reached Ukraine, Yemen, Syria Somalia, Mali, Guatemala, Palestinian refugees and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In providing humanitarian aid, Lithuania coordinates its own actions with the humanitarian actions of the EU, UN and other humanitarian actors.

Lithuanian Development Cooperation – priorities and regions

Geographically focus most on Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) and Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) but assistance is also provided to 'countries recovering from conflicts", such as the Yemen, Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan). The Guidelines do not exclude other countries either: 'according to the priorities of the European Union, bilateral and trilateral assistance shall be provided, where possible, to the countries in other regions, in particular, to the poorest African states.'

Since the EU Association Agreements were signed with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia on 27 June 2014, the relevance of assistance that helps implement these Agreements increased, therefore Lithuanian experts provide consultations and technical assistance for the purpose of properly implementing these Agreements.

Lithuania reinforces its role in the United Nations, the European Council, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Trade Organisation, and other international organisations and strengthens its political, economic and cultural relations with various countries.

Development cooperation projects under the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme (MFA) had up to 745 000 EUR funding for all 2019 projects . Due to MFA statistics provided total values of applications submitted for 2019 call for application was 5 304 117,96 Eur. Project applications for the implementation actions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine were announced and calls for EU Eastern Partnership Region, West Africa region. As separate call on theme Public education and awareness about development cooperation was announced focusing on Documentary film festival on the development cooperation theme and Public education on UN Sustainable Development Goals and promotion of volunteering.

RECOMENDATIONS:

Lithuania committed to ensure that the value of ODA should reach 0.33% of GNI by 2030. To achieve this target we need to ensure policy coherence for development, specifically the need to strengthen the institutional responsibility. Strategic plan of actions for ODA targets should be considered.

For dual benefit in partnership for development we encourage to promote and implement more possibilities for expert exchange in cross – sectoral levels

Although main development cooperation policy if focused on The Eastern Partnership focus to enhance partnerships with diverse actors should be taken into account: expand the total resource flows to developing countries

Humanitarian aid network should be encouraged in a national level for possible national instrument for aid allocation including national CSOs and humanitarian aid actors

Strengthen—policy capability in the global level

Share the information and create a tool to disseminate effective development practices



@ Jack Young, Mekong Delta



@ Rohan Reddy, Mozambique

Lithuanian Development Cooperation – international memberships and agreements

International organizations, from the beginning of their existence, have played an important role in the increasing the interaction between the states. International organizations have an important role and function in pushing forward different objectives and to create a standard in different fields such as: education, health care, economic development, environmental protection, human rights, humanitarian efforts, cooperation, establishment of norms and principles among member states, contacts and intercultural conflict resolution. These are generally benefits of Lithuania that derive from the international organizations as a way to help on security and standardization of goods. In this context, it is recommended that countries to stimulate, namely to develop, special relationship with international organizations.

Currently Lithuania is a member of approx. 49[13] international organizations and takes part in approx. 150 various committees, conventions, partnership, committees and etc.

OSCE became the first international organization, which Lithuania joined after the restoration of its Independence which was accessed on September, 1991. On 10 September 1991, Lithuania, together with Latvia and Estonia, joined the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the predecessor of the OSCE, which played an important role in the Russian troop withdrawal from the Baltic States.

According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius speech on 2006, the new challenges to European security encourage us to make a more active use of Lithuania's membership of the OSCE to protect democracy in the region, enhance respect to human rights and the rule of law.

The rotating OSCE chairmanship was granted to Lithuania in 2011. Among the specific directions for Lithuania's foreign policy the OSCE was also mentioned – – 'setting and pursuing ambitious goals in the United Nations, the OSCE and other multilateral forums"[14] were formulated as being among the most important future tasks for Lithuania's foreign policy.

Lithuania currently dedicates a lot of attention to conflicts in Ukraine and Georgia, energy and


@ Arūnas Naujokas

[13] Lietuvos Respublikos užsienio reikalų ministerija, Lietuvos Respublikos narystės tarptautinėse organizacijose 2018 m. sąvadas Atnaujinta 2019.05.08

[14] Janeliūnas, Tomas "The Lithuanian OSCE chairmanship 2011: Ambitions and results", 2017

cyber security, women's rights, freedom of the media and freedom of expression. Lithuania also seeks the OSCE's joint action to combat war propaganda, which due to Lithuania's and other Nordic and Baltic countries efforts was included on the OSCE's political agenda last year.

Week after joining OSCE Lithuania accessed membership in United Nations (UN). The United Nations (UN) were founded in 1945, in the aftermath of the WWII. Up until this day almost all the states in the world are members of the UN (currently – 193 states). The main document regulating the work of the UN is the UN Charter. In accordance to the Charter, six main UN bodies have been established: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Secretariat – these are located in the UN headquarters in New York, US, and the International Court of Justice – in The Hague, Netherlands. (Trusteeship Council suspended its operation on 1 November 1994).

"Organizations created to abolish weapons of mass destruction are toothless against dictators who develop nuclear arms and chemical weapons on civilians in our cities. We cannot let the voices of nationalism and division win over dialogue and cooperation. On all major challenges – terrorism, climate change, and achieving women empowerment – there is simply no alternative to working together." Dalia Grybauskaite, President of Lithuania from 2009 until 2019, 73rd session of the UN General Assembly.

Lithuania's membership in rotating boards:

United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Executive Board 2019-2021

UNESCO Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2015-2019

UNESCO Executive Board (EB) 2015-2019

UNESCO Intergovernmental Bioethic Committee, IBC 2017-2021

UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication, IPDC 2017-2021

World Tourism Organization Executive Board 2018-2021

NESCO Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) 2017-2021

UNESCO Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) 2017-2021

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) 2019-2022

Spotlight

• On 7 May in New York, the United Nations Economic and Social Council elected Lithuania for the first time ever to the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) for the period 2020-2022. Lithuania's election to this important entity of the United Nations will provide the opportunity to further intensify its level of engagement in addressing the issues of gender equality and women's empowerment that are among the priorities of all international organizations, including the United Nations

• The UN goal is to maintain at least 15% of women in operational headquarters and 5.25% in military contingents. Lithuania exceeds the objective indicators: Lithuanian women in operational headquarters amount to 20% and in military contingents – to 5.8%.

[15] UN Women http://www.unwomen.org/en/executive-board

Lithuania Military Expenditure and international missions

The Lithuanian Armed Forces are given the mandate to participate in international operations by means of a resolution adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. Lithuania's military contribution is subject to the needs of a specific operation and the available military capabilities.

Lithuania has adopted the standard of military personnel able to take part in international operations until the end of 2019 as follows:

- in NATO-led operation in Afghanistan – up to 50 military and civilian personnel members;
- in NATO-led operation in Kosovo – up to 5 military and civilian personnel members;
- in EU-led anti-piracy operation ATALANTA – up to 30 military and civilian personnel members;
- in UN-led operation in the Republic of Mali MINUSMA – up to 40 military and civilian personnel members.
- in EU-led operation EUNAVFOR MED SOPHIA – up to 20 military and civilian personnel members; in US-led operation in Iraq – up to 40 military and civilian personnel members;
- in NATO programs in Iraq and The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – up to 10 military and civilian personnel members;
- in Operation for training Ukrainian Armed Forces – up to 60 military and civilian personnel members.

By the order of the Minister of National Defence the Lithuanian troops are sent to international training and advisory missions:

- in Operation for training Ukrainian Armed Forces – up to 60 military and civilian personnel members

By the order of the Minister of National Defence the Lithuanian troops are sent to international training and advisory missions:

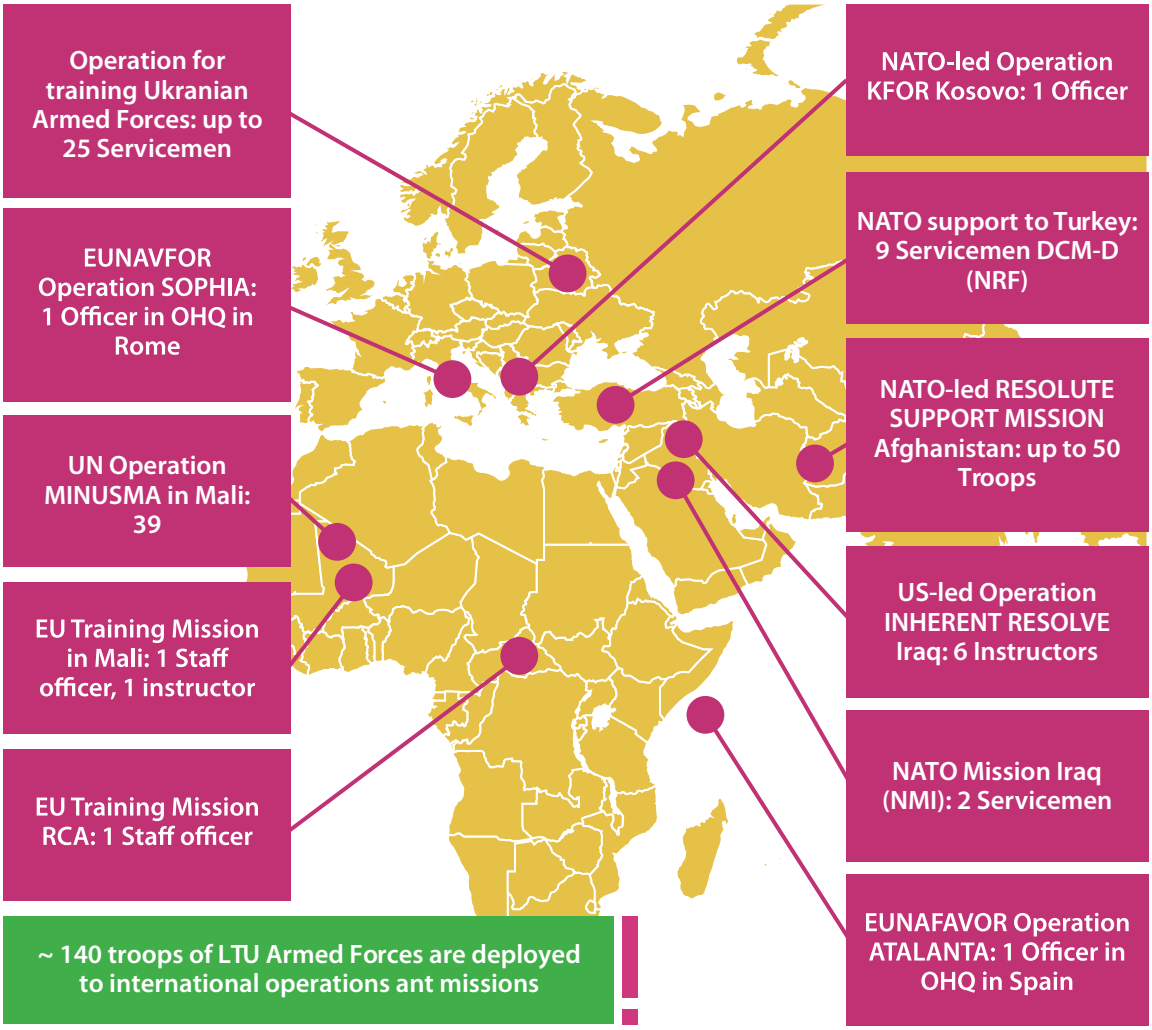
- EU training mission in Mali (EUTM MALI) – 2 servicemen;
- EU training mission in Central African Republic (EUTM RCA) – 1 staff officer.

The UK-led Joint Expeditionary Force was established at the NATO Summit in 2014 and became operational after one year. The force reached Full Operational Capability in June 2018. The Joint Expeditionary Force is a pool high-readiness forces that can respond quickly to a range of issues, using combat power, conventional deterrence or humanitarian assistance. Participation in the JEF will provide Lithuanian troops with additional opportunities for national forces to train in a multi-national environment, sharing knowledge, skills, and, where appropriate and seek better interoperability and operational readiness.



@ Karim Manjra

Lithuania's participation in international operations and EU training missions



Il. Ministry of National Defence Republic of Lithuania



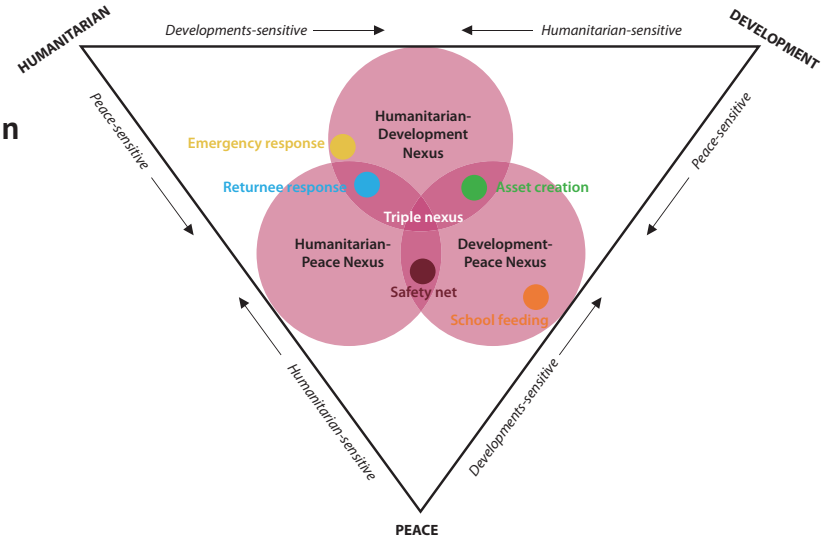


@ Pura Comunicacao, Siberut Island, Indonesia

Triple Nexus: The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Initiative

The "triple nexus" refers to the interlinkages between humanitarian, development and peace actors. In the UN's "New Way of Working (NWoW)[16]," these actors are expected to work towards collective outcomes over multiple years, when appropriate. The United Nations ongoing reform process envisions UN agencies working in humanitarian, development and peace realms be working together more "cohesively."

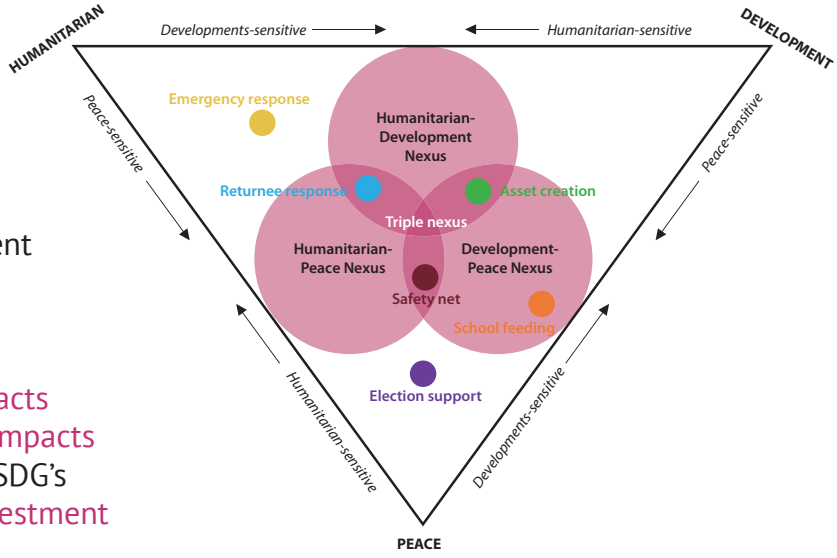
Triple Nexus Approach: In Practice



Triple Nexus Approach: Achieving the SDG's

Collective Outcome:
Sustainable Development Goal 2 – Zero hunger

Benefits:
1. Magnified direct impacts
2. Reinforcing indirect impacts on SDG 2 and other SDG's
3. Greater return on investment



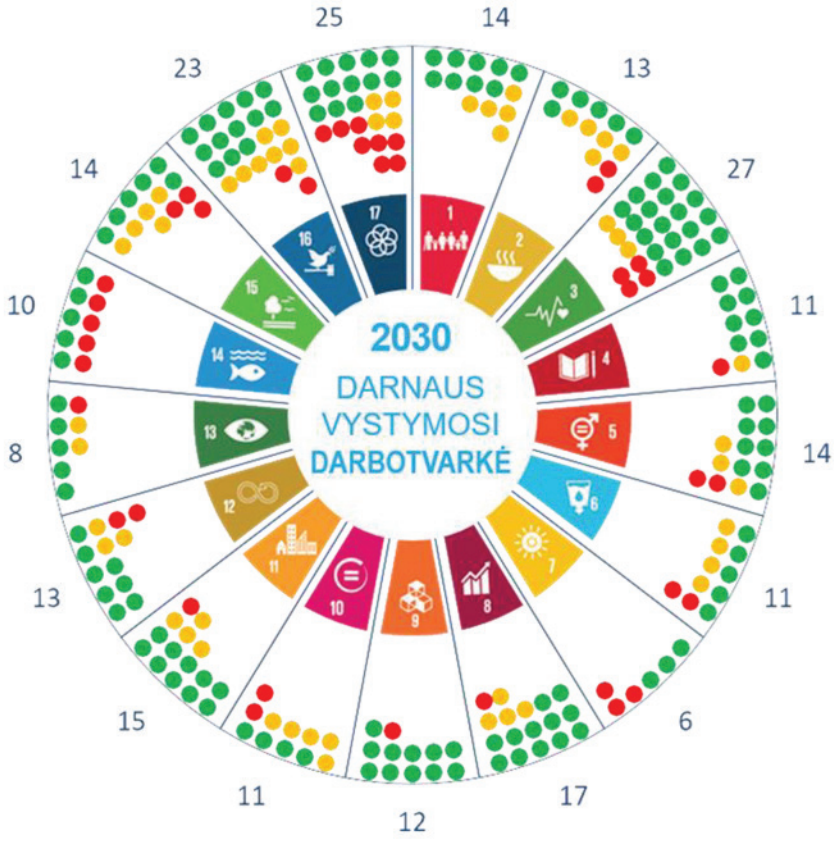
The approach seeks to capitalize on the comparative advantages of each sector to reduce need, risk and vulnerability following the recommendations of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and in accordance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda.

The concept of the "nexus" is not new. It has been proposed many times under many different names ("linking relief, rehabilitation and development"), humanitarian development nexus etc. Some actors have considered adding other elements in the nexus (like migration, human rights, security, stabilization, etc.)

[16] OCHA, New Way of Working, PDSB 2017

SDGs and Lithuania

In 2015, UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda – which consists of a Declaration, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets – seeks to ensure that **all nations and all people everywhere are reached and included** in achieving the SDGs.



UN SDGs indicators:

- Announced – 148
- Methodology is needed
- Does not refer to the country – 40

Chart No. 3. Lithuanian Voluntary National Report. SDGs presented in 2018. Source: VNR Lithuania

It offers a universal, integrated, transformative and human rights-based vision for **sustainable development, peace and security**, which is applicable to all people and all countries, including the most developed.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include an internationally agreed target (SDG 17.14) that calls on all countries to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) as a means of implementation that applies to all SDGs. Countries are increasingly recognizing the need to break out of institutional and policy silos to fully realize the benefits of synergistic actions and effectively manage unavoidable trade-offs across SDGs. The proposedglobal indicator to measure progress on the PCSD target aims to capture the "number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development. (SDGS 17).

The Agenda 2030 is nationally coordinated by the Lithuanian Ministry of Environmental Affairs but there is no clear policy on the implementation of SDGs.

There is no Lithuanian CSO coalition working on the SDGs. First step for public movement (not yet legal entity) called "SDGs localization Forum[17]" was agreed on February 2019, during the high level expert trainings organized by Lithuanian NGDO Platform, Lithuanian Ministry of Environmental Affairs and other actors.

Lithuania has distinguished the following priority areas: **reduction of poverty, social exclusion and income inequality, promotion of employment; strengthening of public health; increasing the quality of health care and accessibility of health services; development of innovative economy and smart energy; quality education; development cooperation[18].**

Despite the challenges arising at the national level, Lithuania has distinguished **development cooperation** as one of the priorities. Lithuania contributes to poverty reduction and implementation of other SDGs by providing multilateral and bilateral assistance to partner countries worldwide. One of the fundamental principles of the Lithuanian development cooperation policy is partnership with a partner country, the international community of donor countries, international organisations, international financial institutions, local government authorities, civil society, including non-governmental organisations, and the domestic and foreign private sector.

In addition, Lithuania devotes much attention to the sustainable development of cities and communities. The new general plan of the territory of Lithuania is being developed. It will become the key instrument for ensuring inclusive and sustainable urban development, reducing the socio-economic exclusion of cities and the negative impact of built-up territories on the environment, and securing the protection of natural and cultural heritage.

Resolution "No. XIIIP-2564" "Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Lithuania[19]" was adopted just few months after UN HLPF meeting on 2018. The Resolution outlines:

- Integration of SDGs and its indicators into national strategic plans and documents
- Support for innovations and research / evidence based policy decision making
- Inclusive society and adult live long learning
- Focus on budget and assignations for long term sustainable solutions
- Increase funding for development cooperation
- Include SDGs indicators into annual national reports

Lithuania is one of the first countries to have ratified resolution on SDGs in a national parliament although national strategic SDGs implementation / integration plan is not officially introduced yet.

[17] http://vbplatforma.org/LT/projektai/make_europe_sustainable_for_all_darni_europa_visiems/411
[18] Sustainable Development Goals, 2030. National Voluntary Report 2018
[19] Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania - Resolution No XIIIP-2564 on the Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Lithuania. https://www.lrs.lt/sip/portal.show?p_r=119&p_k=1&p_t=261138



@ Usukhbayar Hankhuyag, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The Sustainable Development Report 2019 presents the SDG Index and Dashboards for all UN member states and frames the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in terms of six broad transformations. Sustainable Development Report 2019 is not an official SDG monitoring tool. It is complementary to efforts conducted by National Statistical Offices and International Organizations to collect and standardize indicators to monitor the SDG.

The Sustainable Development Report 2019 generates seven major findings:

1. High-level political commitment to the SDGs is falling short of historic promises

Out of 43 countries surveyed on SDG implementation efforts, including all G20 countries and countries with a population greater than 100 million, 33 countries have endorsed the SDGs in official statements since January 1st, 2018. Yet in only 18 of them do central budget documents mention the SDGs. This gap between rhetoric and action must be closed.

2. The SDGs can be operationalized through six SDG Transformations

SDG implementation can be organized along the following Transformations:

1. Education, Gender, and Inequality;
2. Health, Wellbeing, and Demography;
3. Energy Decarbonisation and Sustainable Industry;
4. Sustainable Food, Land, Water, Oceans;
5. Sustainable Cities and Communities; and
6. Digital Revolution for Sustainable Development.

The transformations respect strong interdependencies across the SDGs and can be operationalized by well-defined parts of governments in collaboration with civil society, business, and other stakeholders. They must be underpinned and guided by the principles of **Leave No One Behind** and **Circularity and Decoupling** of resource use from human wellbeing.



II. Global Trends, Sustainable Development Report 2019. Source SDG Index report

3. Trends on climate (SDG 13) and biodiversity (SDG 14 and SDG 15) are alarming

On average, countries obtain their worst scores on SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Trends on greenhouse gas emissions and, even more so, on threatened species are moving in the wrong direction.

4. Sustainable land-use and healthy diets require integrated agriculture, climate and health policy interventions

Land use and food production are not meeting people's needs. Agriculture destroys forests and biodiversity, squanders water and releases one-quarter of global greenhouse-gas emissions. In total, 78% of world nations for which data are available obtain a "red rating" (synonym of major SDG challenge) on sustainable nitrogen management; the highest number of "red" rating across all indicators included in the report. At the same time, one-third of food is wasted, 800 million people remain undernourished, 2 billion are deficient in micronutrients, and obesity is on the rise. New indicators on nations' trophic level and yield gap closure highlight the depth of the challenge. Transformations towards sustainable land-use and food systems are required to balance efficient and resilient agriculture and forestry with biodiversity conservation and restoration as well as healthy diets.

5. High-income countries generate high environmental and socio-economic spillover effects

Domestic implementation of the SDGs should not undermine other countries' ability to achieve the goals. Tolerance for poor labour standards in international supply chains harms the poor, and particularly women in many developing countries.

6. Human rights and freedom of speech are in danger in numerous countries

Under SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), fair and transparent institutions are recognized as objectives in themselves but also as important levers for sustainable development. Yet, conflicts in many parts of the world continue to lead to reversals in SDG progress. Modern slavery and the share of unsentenced detainees in prison remain high, in particular in low-income countries. Trends on corruption and freedom of press are worsening in more than 50 countries covered in the report – including in a number of middle and high-income countries.

7. Eradicating poverty and strengthening equity remain important policy priorities

Eradicating extreme poverty remains a global challenge with half of the world's nations not on track for achieving SDG 1 (No Poverty). More timely data is needed to inform policy interventions. In middle- and high-income countries rising income inequalities and persistent gaps in access to services and opportunities by income or territorial areas remain important policy issues. Women in OECD countries continue to spend an average of 2 hours more than men a day doing unpaid work.

The SDG Index tracks country performance on the 17 SDGs as agreed by the international community in 2015. As such, all 17 goals are weighted equally in the Index. The score signifies a country's position between the worst (0) and the best or target (100) outcome.. Denmark's overall Index score (85) suggest that the country is on average 85% of the way to the best possible outcome across the 17 SDGs. To ensure transparency and encourage further analyses, all underlying data is made available publicly.

All countries in the top 20 are OECD countries. However, even countries that perform well on the Index score perform significantly below the maximum score of 100.

From Index of 162 countries Lithuania ranked on 32nd place by current performance and trends on the 17 SDGs. As major challenges for Lithuania SDG 2, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 13 are outlined. SDG 4, SDG 8 and SDG 15 are marked as "on track" and decrease is noticed in sectors of SDG 10, SDG 13 and SDG 17.

RECOMENDATIONS:

As SDG 17 is often outline as key grounding element to focus on all the Agenda we encourage to pay more crucial attention to SDG 17 and its indicators.

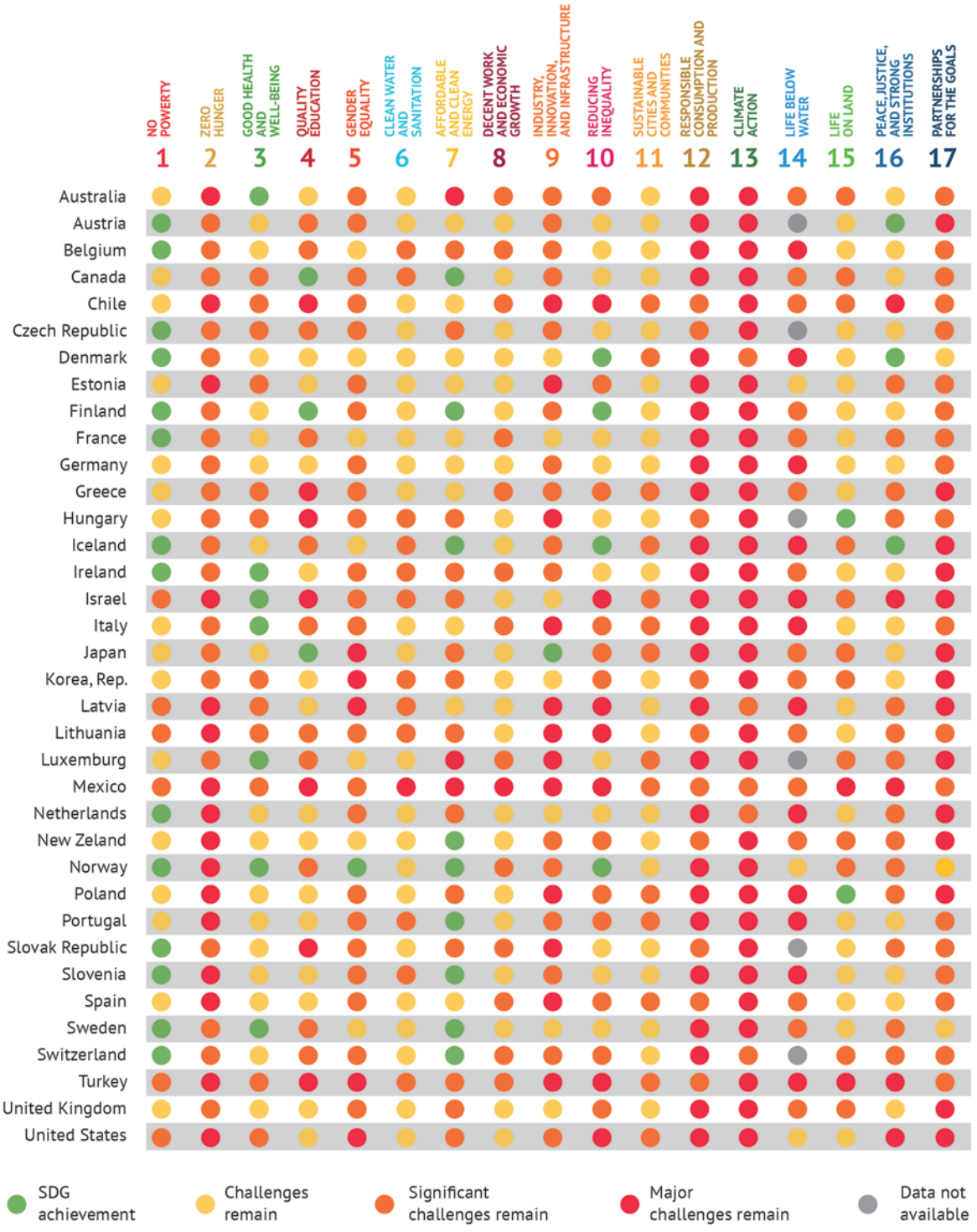
Develop transparent, forward looking and results-oriented policies and strategies for working with CSOs.

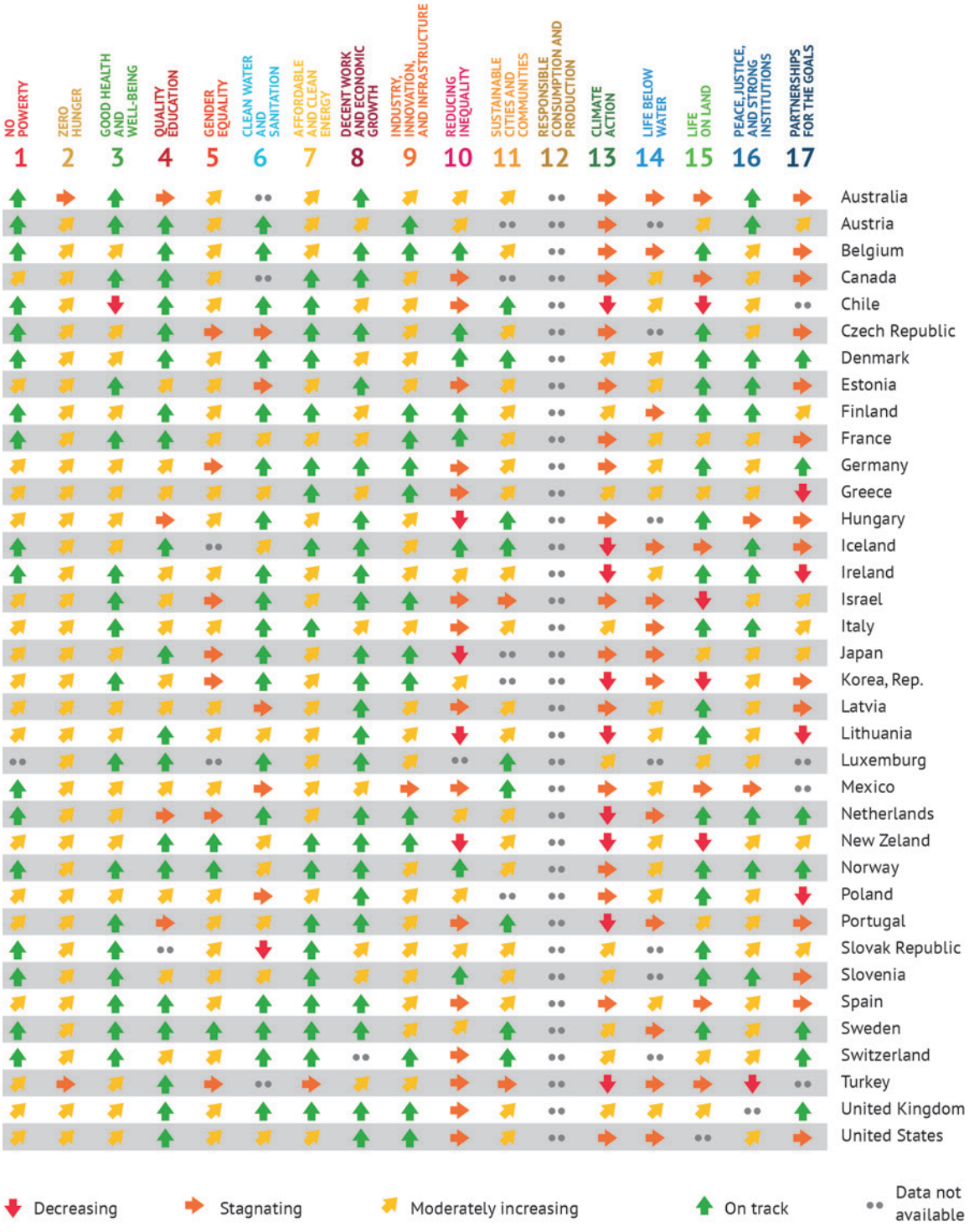


@ Clem Onojeghuo, London

Rank	Country	Score	Rank	Country	Score
1	Denmark	85.2	42	Romania	72.7
2	Sweden	85.0	43	Uruguay	72.6
3	Finland	82.8	44	Serbia	72.5
4	France	81.5	45	Argentina	72.4
5	Austria	81.1	46	Ecuador	72.3
6	Germany	81.1	47	Maldives	72.1
7	Czech Republic	80.7	48	Kyrgyz Republic	71.6
8	Norway	80.7	49	Israel	71.5
9	Netherlands	80.4	50	Greece	71.4
10	Estonia	80.2	51	Peru	71.2
11	New Zealand	79.5	52	Uzbekistan	71.1
12	Slovenia	79.4	53	Algeria	71.1
13	United Kingdom	79.4	54	Vietnam	71.1
14	Iceland	79.2	55	Russian Federation	70.9
15	Japan	78.9	56	Cuba	70.8
16	Belgium	78.9	57	Brazil	70.6
17	Switzerland	78.8	58	Iran, Islamic Rep.	70.5
18	Korea, Rep.	78.3	59	Azerbaijan	70.5
19	Ireland	78.2	60	Albania	70.3
20	Canada	77.9	61	Cyprus	70.1
21	Spain	77.8	62	Fiji	70.1
22	Croatia	77.8	63	Tunisia	70.0
23	Belarus	77.4	64	Dominican Republic	69.8
24	Latvia	77.1	65	United Arab Emirates	69.7
25	Hungary	76.9	66	Singapore	69.6
26	Portugal	76.4	67	Colombia	69.6
27	Slovak Republic	76.2	68	Malaysia	69.6
28	Malta	76.1	69	Bosnia and Herzegovina	69.4
29	Poland	75.9	70	North Macedonia	69.4
30	Italy	75.8	71	Tajikistan	69.2
31	Chile	75.6	72	Morocco	69.1
32	Lithuania	75.1	73	Georgia	68.9
33	Costa Rica	75.0	74	Jamaica	68.8
34	Luxembourg	74.8	75	Armenia	68.8
35	United States	74.5	76	Bahrain	68.7
36	Bulgaria	74.5	77	Kazakhstan	68.7
37	Moldova	74.4	78	Mexico	68.5
38	Australia	73.9	79	Turkey	68.5
39	China	73.2	80	Bolivia	68.4
40	Thailand	73.0	81	Jordan	68.1
41	Ukraine	72.8	82	Nicaragua	67.9

Rank	Country	Score
83	Oman	67.9
84	Bhutan	67.6
85	Trinidad and Tobago	67.6
86	Paraguay	67.5
87	Montenegro	67.3
88	Suriname	67.0
89	El Salvador	66.7
90	Panama	66.3
91	Qatar	66.3
92	Egypt, Arab Rep.	66.2
93	Sri Lanka	65.8
94	Lebanon	65.7
95	São Tomé and Príncipe	65.5
96	Cabo Verde	65.1
97	Philippines	64.9
98	Saudi Arabia	64.8
99	Gabon	64.8
100	Mongolia	64.7
101	Turkmenistan	64.3
102	Indonesia	64.2
103	Nepal	63.9
104	Ghana	63.8
105	Mauritius	63.6
106	Kuwait	63.5
107	Honduras	63.4
108	Venezuela, RB	63.1
109	Belize	62.5
110	Myanmar	62.2
111	Lao PDR	62.0
112	Cambodia	61.8
113	South Africa	61.5
114	Guyana	61.4
115	India	61.1
116	Bangladesh	60.9
117	Iraq	60.8
118	Vanuatu	59.9
119	Namibia	59.9
120	Botswana	59.8
121	Zimbabwe	59.7
122	Guatemala	59.6
123	Syrian Arab Republic	58.1
124	Senegal	57.3
125	Kenya	57.0
126	Rwanda	56.0
127	Cameroon	56.0
128	Tanzania	55.8
129	Côte d'Ivoire	55.7
130	Pakistan	55.6
131	Gambia, The	55.0
132	Congo, Rep.	54.2
133	Yemen, Rep.	53.7
134	Mauritania	53.3
135	Ethiopia	53.2
136	Mozambique	53.0
137	Comoros	53.0
138	Guinea	52.8
139	Zambia	52.6
140	Uganda	52.6
141	Burkina Faso	52.4
142	Eswatini	51.7
143	Papua New Guinea	51.6
144	Togo	51.6
145	Burundi	51.5
146	Malawi	51.4
147	Sudan	51.4
148	Djibouti	51.4
149	Angola	51.3
150	Lesotho	50.9
151	Benin	50.9
152	Mali	50.2
153	Afghanistan	49.6
154	Niger	49.4
155	Sierra Leone	49.2
156	Haiti	48.4
157	Liberia	48.2
158	Madagascar	46.7
159	Nigeria	46.4
160	Congo, Dem. Rep.	44.9
161	Chad	42.8
162	Central African Republic	39.1


NO POWERTY 1
ZERO HUNGER 2
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 3
QUALITY EDUCATION 4
GENDER EQUALITY 5
CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 6
AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 7
DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 8
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE 9
REDUCING INEQUALITY 10
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 11
RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 12
CLIMATE ACTION 13
LIFE BELOW WATER 14
LIFE ON LAND 15
PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 16
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Greece
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Italy
Japan
Korea, Rep.
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxemburg
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zeland
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States
SDG achievement
Challenges remain
Significant challenges remain
Major challenges remain
Data not available


NO POWERTY 1
ZERO HUNGER 2
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 3
QUALITY EDUCATION 4
GENDER EQUALITY 5
CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 6
AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 7
DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 8
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE 9
REDUCING INEQUALITY 10
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 11
RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 12
CLIMATE ACTION 13
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Japan
Korea, Rep.
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxemburg
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zeland
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Slovak Republic
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Switzerland
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States
Decreasing
Stagnating
Moderately increasing
On track
Data not available

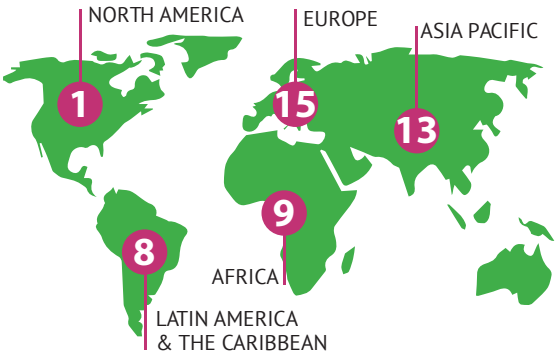


@ Trust Tru Katsande-Harare, Zimbabwe



The High-level Political Forum, United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, provides for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies.

Voluntary national reviews 2018



Il. HLPF in numbers 2018. Source UN

Forty-six countries presented their Voluntary National Reviews on their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The Forum also reviewed in depth six out of the 17 SDGs: Water and sanitation for all (SDG 6); sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7); cities and human settlements (SDG 11); sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12); sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (SDG 15); and global partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17).

Lithuania presented its first VNR report on 2018. A group of experts has been established for drawing up the voluntary national review of 2030 Agenda implementation, it involved representatives of various ministries, non-government organizations and municipalities. NGOs were invited to coordination meeting on the VNR report. During the preparation process NGOs were presented with draft version and given time for comments and remarks. Remarks were partly taken into account and included in the VNR.

Lithuania presented its National Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN High-level Political Forum that took place on 9–18 July 2018 in New York. During the reporting period, the greatest attention and efforts were devoted to the protection of Lithuania's interests in negotiations launched on financing EU external action under the EU multiannual financial framework for the years 2021-2027.

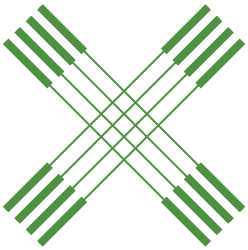
Important documents:

1. VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN 2030 AGENDAFOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LITHUANIA (EN) - https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19673VNR_Lithuania_EN_updated.pdf
2. VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN 2030 AGENDAFOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LITHUANIA (LT) / JT DARNAUS VYSTYMOSI DARBOTVARKĖS IKI 2030 M. ĮGYVENDINIMO LIETUVOJE ATASKAITA
3. http://am.lrv.lt/uploads/am/documents/files/ES_ir_tarptautinis_bendradarbiavimas/Darnaus%20vystymosi%20tikslai/DV%20ataskaita/ataskaita%20LT.pdf
4. Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania - Resolution No XIIIP-2564 on the Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Lithuania - https://www.lrs.lt/sip/portal.show?p_r=119&p_k=1&p_t=261138
5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS (LT/ EN) - https://osp.stat.gov.lt/nacionaliniai-darnaus-vystymosi-rodikliai
6. Sustainable development Goals 2017 (LT) -http://vbplatforma.org/LT/projektai/make_europe_sustainable_for_all_darni_europa_visiems/309



@ Anton Ivanchenko

Lithuanian NGDO Platform and CSO



Lithuanian National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organizations' Platform

National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform (Lithuanian NGDO Platform) brings together 21 Lithuanian non-governmental organisations working in the field of development cooperation (DC) and development/global education. NGDO Platform was established on March 2007.

Thematic professional focus – development cooperation, global education, humanitarian aid, CSOs, sustainable development goals.

Development cooperation and humanitarian aid

Policy coherence / Research, case studies and policy papers / Awareness raising actions / Traineeships, internships and job shadowing / Global actions and projects / AidWatch / Advocacy

Global education

Awareness raising / Non-formal education practises / Toolkits and educational materials / Policy making /

CSOs

Increasing opportunities for Lithuanian NGOs to participate in international development cooperation / Developing and strengthening the capacities of the NGDO Platform and its member organisations / Information exchange

SDGS / Agenda 2030

National SDGs coalition / Policy and Advocacy / Research and monitoring / Policy papers and recommendations / Educational and awareness raising tools and actions

Lithuanian NGDO Platform also focus on:

- Public awareness raising and civic education on sustainable development issues;
- Representation of the NGDO Platform and its members at national and international organisations, decision makers, educational bodies and networks;
- Active participation in shaping and implementing Lithuanian, EU and UN development cooperation policies;

Lithuanian NGDO Platform's members represent different types and sizes of organizations. What unites these actors are shared values and work or interest in global development issues. Lithuanian NGDO Platform's role is to make members stronger civil society actors by offering training, advisory services and opportunities for networking and cooperation.

Member organizations' fields of expertise include such areas as:

good governance, anti-corruption, law, tolerance, inclusive public policy, education policy, global and development education, intercultural and bilingual education, lifelong learning, sexual and reproductive health rights, HIV/ AIDS, mental health, children's rights, youth advocacy, local development and sustainable environment, gender equality, social work, ICT and technologies, migration, non-formal education, social inclusion, research, humanitarian assistance, human trafficking

Lithuanian NGDO Platform often is the initial contact point for NGOS, local and national governments of other countries for awareness raising, best practices, cooperation, research and active inclusion for development cooperation sector. Lithuanian NGDO Platform seeks not only to provide Lithuanian NGOs capacity building and favorable environment for development cooperation and related topics but also to foster and ensure qualified opportunities in development co-operation both at national and international levels and dialogue.

Lithuanian NGDO Platform members

Center for Equality Advancement

Economic Research Centre (ERC)

Five Senses Sensory Box

NGO Law Institute

Mental Health Perspectives

Baltic Charity Foundation

Eastern Europe Studies Centre (EESC)

Lithuanian Children's Fund

Trust in Development

The Network of Local Action Groups

Lietuvos žmogaus teisių centras

Order of Malta Relief Organisation in Lithuania

Moterų informacijos centras

Afri|Ko

Global Citizens' Academy

Diversity Development Group

Lithuanian Women's Society

Lithuanian Red Cross

Humana People to People Baltic

Save the Children Lithuania



@ Avel Chuklanov, South Sudan

National / International membership and partnership

• Non-Governmental Organisations
Information and Support Centre, Lithuania

Unite the non-governmental organizations of the country for the sake of the own interests' representation and strengthening of the NGO sector at all levels.

http://www.3sektorius.lt

• SDGs Expert Coalition, Lithuania

CSO Movement

Expert network focused on advocacy, awareness raising of SDGs, implementation and integration SDGs into national strategies, partnership and best practise exchange, monitoring.

• CONCORD

European confederation of Relief and Development NGOs.

https://concordeurope.org

• SDGs Watch

A Civil Society Alliance to make the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda a reality.

https://www.sdgwatcheurope.org/

• FORUS

Global network of National NGO Platforms and Regional Coalitions making a major collective contribution to development, peace, democracy, sustainability and justice.

http://forus-international.org/

• Anna Lindh Foundation

International organization working from the Mediterranean to promote intercultural and civil society dialogue in the face of growing mistrust and polarization.

https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/about

• GLEN – Global education network

Global education and cooperation

https://asa.engagement-global.de/index-en.html

Lithuanian NGDO Platform unite the international development and humanitarian sector to inspire local and global change in three ways:

Connect people in the sector so that they can share expertise and develop their skills through events, training and communities of practice.

Influence governments and policy-makers at national and international levels through our collective advocacy with partners and civil society.

Strengthen organizations to be sustainable through our expertise, training, resources and support services.

Lithuanian NGDO Platform's work is funded by grants, membership fee, income generated through paid-for service.

Spotlight 2018 - 2019

Partnership in SDGs Expert Network creation

Expert volunteers program Uganda and Nepal (2018); 2019 Iraqi Kurdistan and Kenya (2019).

GLEN internships Gana, Uganda, India (2018), Senegal and Kenya (2019)

Cooperation with NOHA network (Network on Humanitarian Action

International Association of Universities) – 6 scholarships for Spring School (2018 and 2019)

Inputs on "Voluntary National Review On The Implementation Of The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development In Lithuania"

Educational and awareness raising activities during large scale events "Picnic of Liberty 2018 / 2019", National Study Fair 2018

Further development of Lithuanian NGDO Platform's network "SDGs Ambassadors" – national network of educators and CSO organizations working towards SDGs awareness raising, action oriented initiatives

Policy and advocacy actions towards development cooperation policy framework and national strategic documents

Trainings and capacity building of Lithuanian NGDO Platform's members

Accreditation process for EU AID Volunteers program

Coordination of cultural festival "African days" 2018 and 2019

Sub-granting for 4 local initiatives working towards SDGs localization

The main challenge Lithuanian NGDO Platform faces is limited funding as umbrella organization which would allow to focus more or capacity development of members, policy and advocacy actions, research and evidence based practices. Lithuanian NGDO Platform also implements direct projects and activities related to global education, awareness raising, monitoring, public trainings and actions due to sustainability.

Lithuanian NGDO Platform increasingly operates through a developing global, regional, sub-regional and national level civil society networks. Lithuanian NGDO Platform sees a clear need for civil society organizations, academia, decision makers and other actors to promote greater levels of cross-sectoral partnerships, public awareness and support for international cooperation. This requires building a trust based and inclusive framework where we focus on sharing the expertise and initiating dialogue. Development cooperation is very complexed field which includes economic, cultural, social, political, environmental and other sectors where us as a global society cooperate and partnership. To ensure our contribution (locally and internationally) to peace and stability from individual actions to global initiatives it is more a responsibility rather than an ethical question.

RECOMENDATIONS:

For CSOs networks as Lithuanian NGDO Platform to be able and to have a qualified human resources for advocacy, policy and research / evidence based development practices for CSOs specific funding for umbrella organizations focus on capacity development should be considered

National calls for actions as awareness raising and / or direct activities in national / global level without having a separate call for umbrella organizations leads to competition for grants with its members

CSOs (focus on members of Lithuanian NGDO Platform) have a long lasting expertise experience in national and development sector. CSOs should be encouraged and integrated in joint expertise initiatives

Lithuanian NGDO Platform recommends include “Co-financing” project proposal call into national MFA CSOs funding plan. This would strengthen existing partnerships in EU and global level and also would foster more impactful development work.

Develop transparent, forward looking and results-oriented policies and strategies for working with CSOs.


@ Sagar Dani


@ Anton Lecock

CSOs and Development Cooperation

A central task for CSOs is to strengthen their people to actively take part in the decision making processes in society and in that way influence their own lives. A well functioning civil society offers channels to civic engagement and may at its best even promote possibilities for people to break free from the shackles of poverty.

Lithuanian NGDO Platform conducted pilot questioner for members about opportunities for CSOs and operational activities.

An active civil society is one of the founding pillars in a democratic society. The requirements for development cooperation such as stable social circumstances, peace, an independent judicial system and strong state institutions are based on a strong civil society and the people's chances and rights to organize themselves. From the positive side we do see that CSOs evaluate the political and policy space as one of the factors leading to more impactful work and operational. In line with policy framework capacity building and continuation of successful actions goes in line with same reasons for development of CSOs.

CSOs also have a comparative advantage in certain areas. They work closely with beneficiaries and bring different perspectives to those of official donors to policy discussions. In emergencies they have the ability to respond rapidly. Seeing that more CSOs have partnerships and actions in or with partner countries (development regions) and operate in the sector brings more capacity for national and international advocacy, positive impact and increased networking and collaboration among CSO.

Lithuanian NGDO Platform and it's members currently are implementing projects with and / or in Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Iraqi Kurdistan and EU partnerships.

Your organization has more opportunities to work in development cooperation for 2018-2019 compared with 2017-2016

YES 8 **NO 2** Equal opportunities 1

Reasons why CSOs have a better opportunities to work in development cooperation network in 2018-2019

- Better political space and policy for Development cooperation (3 answers)
- Continuation of successful projects (4 answers)
- Stronger and more qualified human resources (3 answers)
- International networking and partnerships (1)
- Thematic national calls (1)
- Thematic EU calls (1)

Do you have any direct activities in partner countries for period of 2018-2019?

YES 7 **NO 3** Currently not active 1

Do you implement any global education or awareness raising activities for 2018-2019?

YES 8 **NO 3**

Do you see more opportunities for CSOs work in development cooperation sector in the future?

YES 8 **NO 3**



Il. Ten principles of FairTrade. Source: World Fair Trade Organization

Fairtrade is a global system that represents more than 1.6 million farmers and workers around the world. By the end of 2017, Fairtrade had grown to almost 1,600 certified producer organizations in 75 countries[21].

Not all trade is fair Farmers and workers at the beginning of the chain don't always get a fair share of the benefits of trade. Fairtrade enables consumers to put this right. Fairtrade is an alternative approach to conventional trade and is based on a partnership between producers and consumers. When farmers can sell on Fairtrade terms, it provides them with a better deal and improved terms of trade. This allows them the opportunity to improve their lives and plan for their future. Fairtrade offers consumers a powerful way to reduce poverty through their every day shopping.

More recently, in 2018 the General Assembly reiterated the importance of actions to address climate change and improve working conditions and farmer incomes. It also approved a set of safeguarding standards to protect whistleblowers in the Fairtrade system[22].

Estimated Volume of products sold by Fairtrade Producers in 2017. Source: Fairtrade International.

UTZ and Rainforest

In 2002, Nick Bocklandt and Ward de Groote officially launched UTZ Kapeh to bring sustainable coffee certification to a global market and spread the impact of sustainable farming practices worldwide. In 2007, the UTZ Kapeh name was changed to UTZ Certified to reflect this broader scope. In 2016, as our scope continued to widen and we started to collaborate more and more with different stakeholders to work on complex issues like child labor, living wage and climate change, our name changed again to better reflect our business. Currently, the UTZ program is the largest certification program for coffee and cocoa in the world.

In 2018, UTZ and the Rainforest Alliance merged. Until the launch of the new certification program in 2020, the two programs will run in parallel.

Lithuania has no Fair Trade representation or legal contact office neither one officially accredited Lithuanian based company holding fair trade accreditation. Fairtrade Finland promotes Fairtrade and licenses the FAIRTRADE Marks in Lithuania.

ESTIMATED VOLUME OF PRODUCTS SOLD BY FAIRTRADE PRODUCERS IN 2017

PRODUCT[1]	VOLUME	UNITG	ROWTHC	ONVENTIONALO	RGANIC
Bananas	641,727	MT	↑ 11%	38%	62%
Cocoa (Cocoa bean)	214,662	MT	↑ 57%	85%	15%
Coffee (Green bean)	214,106	MT	↑ 15%	43%	57%
Cotton (Cotton lint)[2]	8,311	MT	---	27%	73%
Flowers ant Plants	834,750	1,000 items	↑ 1%	100%	
Sugar (Cane sugar)[3]	207,222	MT	↑ 30%	77%	23%
Tea (Camellia sinensis)	10,222	MT	↓ -12%	71%	29%

Table No. 2. Estimated Volume of products sold by Fairtrade Producers in 2017. Source: Fairtrade International. Found at: https://fairtrade.net

[21] World Fair Trade https://wfto.com/
[22] https://www.fairtrade.net/fileadmin/user_upload/content/2009/about_us/annual_reports/2017-18_FI_AnnualReport.pdf

Market research of supermarket shows that the main in common certified goods in Lithuanian market are coffee, cacao, chocolate. Facing challenge over finding certified tropical fruits, tea, spices, rice or wine makes a greater question for us as consumers on our responsibility and impact to the global development.

A simple choice as fair trade coffee machine (LIDL supermarket sample) or Fair Trade / certified products during the policy, CSOs events, sharing and promotion could increase not only interest but also positively influence consumer's habits.

Lithuanian Consumer Institute holds an informational web page from the previous projects about the Fair Trade (http://www.vartotojai.lt/lt/fairtrade/kas-yra-sazininga-prekyba) with information related to fair trade.

Approximate Fair Trade / UTZ / Rainforest Alliance product' brands in supermarket in pilot research store in Lithuania

Category	Certificate	Count of Material
Oil	Fairtrade/UTZ	**0**
Tea	Fairtrade/UTZ	**0**
Sugar	Fairtrade	**2**
	Not assigned	**24**
Coffee, Cacao	Fairtrade	**6**
	Not assigned	**326**
	Rainforest Alliance	**3**
	UTZ Certified	**15**
Spices	Not assigned	**0**
Rice	Not assigned	**0**
Fruits	Not assigned	**0**
Banana		
Wine	Fairtrade	**1**
	Not assigned	**560**
Chocolate	Fairtrade /	**3**
	Not assigned	**263**
	UTZ Certified	**3**

Table No 3. Approximate Fair Trade / UTZ / Rainforest Alliance product' brands in supermarket in pilot research store in Lithuania.



@ Pablo Merchan, Colombia



@ Rodrigo Flores, Antiguo Cuscatlan, El Salvador

Best practise example from Latvia

" The Fair Trade Award is an initiative of the Foreign Ministry to give credit to companies observing in their foreign trade and manufacturing the principles of corporate social responsibility established by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). For the fourth consecutive year, the award is presented to the company with the highest scores on the fair trade criteria. It is encouraging to note that the leader comes from a different sector each year," said Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica as she presented the award.

The Fair Trade Award was established in 2015 as one of the activities jointly implemented by the Foreign Ministry, the Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility and the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry during the European Year for Development. Companies are assessed according to criteria laid down by experts from the Institute for Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility in line with the Sustainability Index.[21]

RECOMENDATIONS:

Working towards development support of responsible consumption should be an important aspect in personal and national level. Encouragement of decision makers to take action and turn into fair trade goods use (as simple as coffee, tea and etc).

Establish more encouraging and supportive market place and benefits for fair trade products promotion.

Create and support thematic programmes for responsible consumption.



Il. the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, presented a Fair Trade Award, 2018. Source: Latvian MFA



[23] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Republic of Latvia, https://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/news/latest-news/60431-parliamentary-secretary-presents-fair-trade-award

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@ Tobi Feder-Patan, Nepal



@ Swapnil Dwivedi-Haridwar, India