

## THE PROGRAMME FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PRIORITY OF LITHUANIAN STUDIES FOR 2025-2030

### SECTION I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Programme for Implementing the Priority of Lithuanian Studies for 2025–2030 (hereinafter – the Programme) is intended to support, through competitive funding, research of Lithuanian studies in the fields of the humanities, social sciences, and arts, including interdisciplinary research of Lithuanian studies, as well as the dissemination of the results.

2. The Programme aims to contribute to the implementation of the priority of Lithuanian studies as set out in Article 3 of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Science and Studies by:

2.1. enabling competitive research and experimental development of Lithuanian studies on diverse topics, strengthening global recognition of research of Lithuanian studies;

2.2. increasing the societal impact of research of Lithuanian studies by fostering critical thinking, civic engagement, and resilience to crises;

2.3. disseminating the results of research of Lithuanian studies at national and international levels;

2.4. bringing together scientists and other researchers for interdisciplinary research of Lithuanian studies and encouraging the development and application of new research methods and approaches;

2.5. forming research groups and strengthening long-term international cooperation, increasing the number of international researchers involved in research of Lithuanian studies;

2.6. encouraging the involvement of first stage and experienced researchers in Lithuanian studies, creating conditions for sustainable academic careers;

2.7. developing and expanding Lithuanian scientific terminology and digital datasets of the Lithuanian language and culture;

2.8. promoting the culture of citizen science;

2.9. encouraging applied research of Lithuanian studies abroad and promoting the culture of Lithuanian studies and knowledge in the field of Lithuanian studies in Lithuania and beyond.

3. Terms used in the Programme:

3.1. **Lithuanian studies** – a set of research and educational activities covering all aspects relevant to Lithuania, Lithuanians, and Lithuanian identity, encompassing the full spectrum of phenomena important to Lithuania and its identity, including (but not limited to) history, language, literature, culture, arts, philosophy, and societal life;

3.2. **Dissemination** – the preparation and publication of research results in Lithuania and abroad, various science communication activities, and the publication of scientific journals;

3.3. **Interdisciplinary research** – research integrating data and/or methods from two or more science fields, aiming to achieve new and/or relevant scientific results in the involved disciplines, with participation from researchers in all integrated fields. Interdisciplinary research includes these aspects: interdisciplinary content (what is integrated within), type of interdisciplinary interaction (how it is integrated within), and the goal (what is pursued through integration). Interdisciplinary

research may entail closely related fields (different fields within the same science area) or distant research fields (different fields belonging to different science areas);

3.4. **Applied research of Lithuanian studies conducted abroad** – applied activities of Lithuanian studies carried out in Lithuanian (Baltic) centers and other foreign scientific and educational institutions, aimed at strengthening and promoting the knowledge of the Lithuanian language, science, and culture, integrating these into academic activities, and ensuring the sustainability and continuity of these activities;

3.5. Other terms used in the Programme correspond to the terms defined in the General Rules of the Research Council of Lithuania for the Competitive Funding of Research and Dissemination Projects, approved by the Chairperson of the Research Council of Lithuania.

## **SECTION II PROGRAMME GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES**

4. The goal of the Programme is to bring together scientists and other researchers to conduct research of Lithuanian studies by promoting internationality and interdisciplinarity of research, aiming to generate new and competitive knowledge, increase the visibility and recognition of Lithuanian scientists and other researchers worldwide, and contribute to the strengthening of the safe and critically thinking society through research results.

5. The objectives and measures of the Programme:

5.1. To bring together researchers to conduct research of high significance in Lithuanian studies:

5.1.1. To carry out research in Lithuanian studies, including interdisciplinary research and experimental development;

5.1.2. To create and develop digital datasets covering Lithuanian studies topics;

5.1.3. To promote citizen science with the aim of involving society in the processes of research of Lithuanian studies (only in combination with other measures under this objective);

5.2. To increase the accessibility and public awareness of the results of research of Lithuanian studies:

5.2.1. To publish the results of research of Lithuanian studies in Lithuania and abroad;

5.2.2. To translate Lithuanian scholarly works published in the Lithuanian language into other languages or those published in other languages into Lithuanian and/or prepare them for publication (only in combination with other measures under this objective);

5.2.3. To promote the publication of scholarly journals on Lithuanian studies;

5.3. To promote the results of research of Lithuanian studies:

5.3.1. To prepare and disseminate popular science material based on research of Lithuanian studies (events, publications, broadcasts, etc.);

5.4. To promote applied activities of Lithuanian studies carried out abroad and/or aimed at international audiences:

5.4.1. To carry out inter-institutional applied activities of Lithuanian studies.

6. Objective 5.1 of the Programme is implemented through research projects, while objectives 5.2–5.4 are implemented through dissemination projects.

## **SECTION III TOPICS OF THE PROGRAMME**

7. Proposed Programme Topics (presented in random order, i.e., not by priority):

7.1. Identity, historical and cultural memory (narratives of the past, present, and future of the Lithuanian state, society, and its various groups; monuments, symbols and sites of memory; heritage and memory institutions; local, regional, and global challenges; the dimension of European identity, etc.);

7.2. Traditions of thought and the development of self-reflection in Lithuanian society (forms of societal thinking, their distinct features, internal tensions, relations with other traditions of thought, reinterpretation from philosophical, historical, literary, cultural, art studies, and other perspectives);

7.3. The relationship between globalism, European identity, and Lithuanian identity (the European component within Lithuanian identity; European values in Lithuanian thought; Europeanism as part of Lithuanian identity and future perspectives; Lithuania in the European Union and other European bodies);

7.4. Studies of everyday life and mentality in the context of Lithuanian studies (phenomena experienced in everyday life, such as freedom, work, domestic life, sexuality, love, family, death, trauma, (in)justice, suffering, guilt, hope, etc. and their transformations; understanding of Lithuanian identity and societal diversity from perspectives of different disciplines);

7.5. Research on Lithuania's social and economic development (economic progress and crisis management; dynamics of industry, technology, and innovation and their impact on society and the environment; challenges and changes in social integration and social policy, and their impact on communities and individuals; aging; the development of education and healthcare systems);

7.6. Political and legal challenges in Lithuania's past and present (development of the Lithuanian legal system; changes in legal regulation; administration of justice; civil rights and freedoms; evolution of domestic politics; political relations with foreign countries and international organizations; circulation of legal and political ideas);

7.7. Research on Lithuanian art (reception and interpretation of creative and performing arts; interdisciplinary art studies; artistic research highlighting interactions between art and society; the power of art and art criticism, etc.);

7.8. Research on Lithuanian demography and societal diversity (historical family demography; gender studies; intersecting identities; demographic scenarios; studies of minorities; public attitudes; challenges of exclusion and integration);

7.9. Lithuanian studies, artificial intelligence, and new media (digitally based Lithuanian studies; Lithuanian datasets, including those for training neural networks);

7.10. History of science and ideas (intellectual history; circulation of significant ideas in Lithuania and globally; historical research on various scientific disciplines; history of scientific institutions and personal biographies; major discoveries, inventions, and technological developments and their societal impact; paradigms of human education);

7.11. Baltic studies and research on the Baltic region (comparative studies of Lithuania and other Baltic countries, societies, and individuals; interrelations and interactions; processes of regional integration; regional history and development; studies of Baltic languages and writing; language use and linguistic norms);

7.12. Research on the Lithuanian language and literature (synchronic and diachronic studies of the Lithuanian language; contrastive studies, intercultural studies, and studies of translation challenges; language heritage, development, and change; sign language and other forms of Lithuanian language; history, societal impact and contemporary processes of Lithuanian literature);

7.13. Research on Lithuania's prehistory and history (phenomena that affected society; anthropology of events; microhistory; history of economic, political, and social phenomena; archaeology; auxiliary sciences of history);

7.14. Research on human mobility, environment, and diaspora (migration; migrants and their journeys; identity transformations; adaptation processes);

7.15. Research on stateless Lithuania (studies from various humanities and social science perspectives on periods when Lithuania or parts of its territory were incorporated into other states);

7.16. Ecosystem changes, the Anthropocene, and geopolitics (pressing global challenges; understanding ecosystem change, Anthropocene processes, and geopolitical developments from a Lithuanian studies perspective; involvement of Lithuanian society in the scenarios of global dynamics);

7.17. Security of the Lithuanian state and individuals (historical and contemporary threats and their management; hybrid warfare; soft power; impact on society, individuals, and identity; human rights protection; societal resilience; history of war and diplomacy and current challenges);

7.18. Systematic exploration and research of Lithuanian heritage (historical and cultural phenomena and symbols important to the formation and preservation of Lithuanian identity abroad; representation of Lithuanians and Lithuania in foreign academic historiography, documentary works, literature, cinema, and visual arts);

7.19. Ethnological and folkloristic research on Lithuanian ethnic culture (research on traditions and customs in Lithuanian regions; studies of tangible and intangible ethnic heritage; reception of ethnic culture in contemporary society);

7.20. Studies of historical religions in Lithuania, secular and post-secular society (ancient Baltic religion and mythology; Christianity in its various denominations; Judaism; Islam; contemporary diverse religious and religion-like movements; processes of secularity, secularism, and postsecularism; religious studies; hermeneutics of sacred texts; theology; philosophy, sociology, and psychology of religion);

7.21. Research on Lithuania's public communication and journalism ecosystem (branches, institutions, market, community; legal regulation of the sector; historical development of media and journalism; public communication content, its production, circulation, and reception; public communication audiences and their behavior; media literacy and education).

8. The list of topics may be adjusted during the implementation of the Programme.

## **SECTION IV PROGRAMME RESULTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA**

9. The implementation of the Programme is evaluated based on qualitative criteria and quantitative indicators:

9.1. Qualitative evaluation criteria:

9.1.1. Originality and relevance of implemented research and experimental development projects and formulated ideas; insights into new scientific challenges; innovativeness of applied methods and approaches; the establishment of preconditions for the emergence of new research directions in Lithuania and globally;

9.1.2. Significance of the contribution to unexplored or insufficiently explored issues; highlighting the relevance and reusing research results through innovative interpretation and creative continuation;

9.1.3. Diversity and effectiveness of research dissemination forms; attention from the public and governmental institutions to the research results; the use of the said results in shaping evidence-based policy;

9.1.4. Impact and applicability of research results in addressing issues relevant to individuals and/or society; the potential of the results to encourage new ideas and further research, and to increase public interest; and the duration of the impact of such potential (short-term, medium-term, and/or long-term);

9.1.5. Stability and sustainable development of applied research of Lithuanian studies conducted abroad; the level of cooperation between international researchers and Lithuanian research and higher education institutions;

9.1.6. Effectiveness in uniting the research community: intensity and coherence of collaboration between first stage and recognised researchers from Lithuania and abroad across various research areas (fields); creation of new networks and partnerships; development of researchers' competencies, etc.

9.2. Quantitative indicators of Programme implementation:

9.2.1. Publications in Lithuanian and international peer-reviewed scientific journals generated in at least half of all research projects;

9.2.2. Non-periodical scientific publications prepared in at least a quarter of all research projects;

9.2.3. Presentations at international scientific conferences delivered in at least half of all research projects;

9.2.4. Presentations at other academic events delivered in at least half of all research projects;

9.2.5. Students (of all cycles), first stage and/or established researchers taking the role of project implementers in at least one-fifth of all Programme projects;

9.2.6. International researchers (whose primary workplace is a foreign institution) taking the role of project implementers in at least one-fifth of all Programme projects;

9.2.7. Project partners involved in at least one-fifth of all Programme projects;

9.2.8. Events, publications, broadcasts, or other initiatives aimed at popularizing research results to the public organised in at least two-thirds of all Programme projects.

10. Each scientific project under the Programme should aim to contribute to at least three of the quantitative indicators listed in Item 9.2, and each dissemination project should aim to contribute to at least one.

## **SECTION V POTENTIAL RISKS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT**

11. The following risks may arise during the implementation of the Programme:

11.1. A shift in priority away from Lithuanian studies topics due to political, financial, social, or science policy changes. This risk can be mitigated through regular reviews of the proposed Programme topics, as well as through updating and adapting the profile of the projects;

11.2. An insufficient number of proposals offering new, relevant, and innovative research. This risk can be mitigated by promoting the Programme and issuing additional calls for proposals;

11.3. Inadequate quality and dissemination of the completed research and its results. This risk can be mitigated by ensuring ongoing cooperation with project implementers (including providing consultations) and with the experts evaluating project reports (ensuring their accountability for the quality of their evaluations);

11.4. Limited international cooperation. This risk can be mitigated by informing researchers about opportunities for identifying potential partners;

11.5. Limited engagement of first stage and recognised researchers in the Programme's activities. This risk can be mitigated by launching separate calls for researchers at different stages of their careers and by implementing targeted communication aimed at specific researcher groups;

11.6. Insufficient interest in applied Lithuanian studies conducted abroad. This risk can be mitigated by proactive measures: promoting the idea of applied research in Lithuanian studies, cooperating with ministries, other institutions, and the Lithuanian diaspora, and providing information on funding opportunities for this type of research.

## **SECTION VI FINAL PROVISIONS**

12. The implementation period of the Programme is 2025–2030.

13. The Programme is administered and monitored in accordance with the Description of the Procedure for the Development and Implementation of the Programme for the Priority of Lithuanian Studies, as approved by the Chairperson of the Research Council of Lithuania.

14. The Programme is financed from the appropriations allocated to the Research Council of Lithuania from the state budget of the Republic of Lithuania. The preliminarily planned budget for the Programme is 22.2 million euros. Funds for the implementation of the Programme during the specified period are annually allocated in the Council's budget, taking into account contractual obligations of Programme projects and planned new calls for proposals.

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