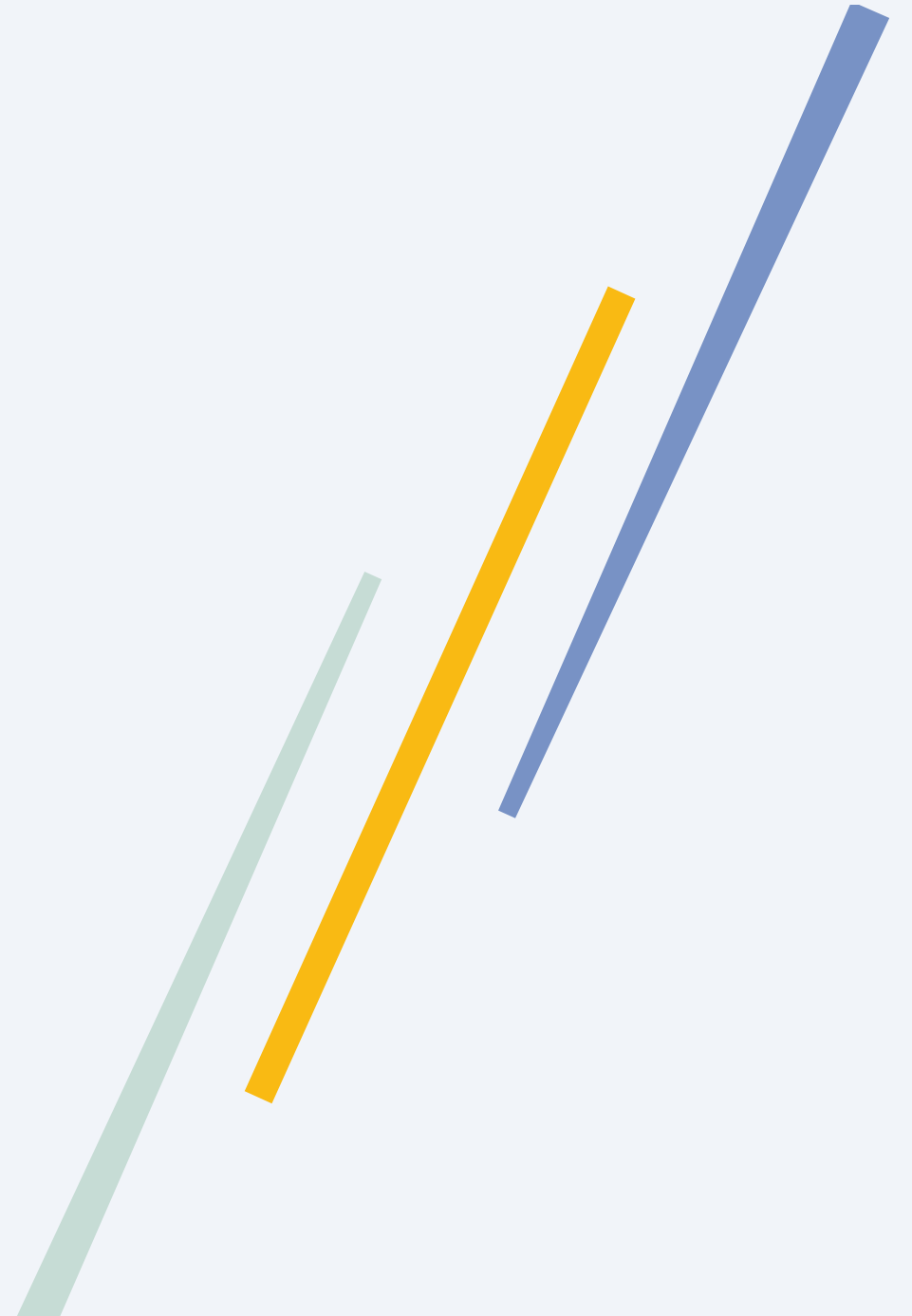


R&D in Lithuania

2026-06-08

Tadas Juknevičius
Head of Science Division
Ministry of Education, Science and Sports



Lithuania in numbers



2.89 million

population, beginning of 2026



61,8 %

with tertiary education
of 30-34 years-old, 2025



14 764

working in R&D (FTE), 2024



10 682

researchers (FTE), 2024



49.3 %

women researchers, 2024



17 universities

11 state, 6 private

13 colleges

7 state, 6 private

16 research institutes

11 state, 5 private



Lithuania - 35th

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024



15th out of 121

Digital Lifestyle Index 2024

Top 5.

+17.4 %p.

European Innovation
Scoreboard 2025

Long-term progress (2018-
2025) in science and
innovation index:

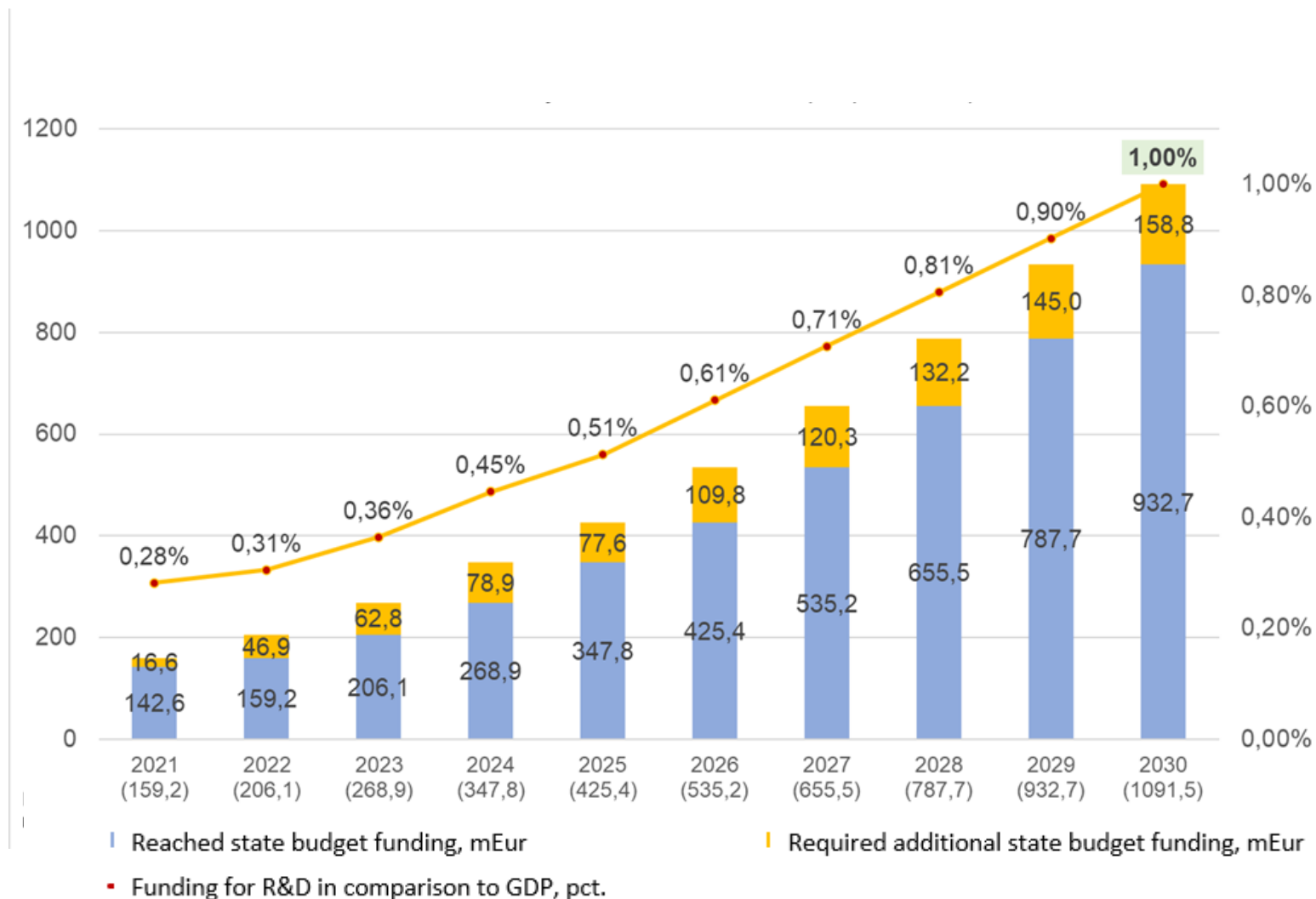
- ✓ LT – 17.4 %p.
- ✓ EU average – 12.6 %p.



PLANNED STATE BUDGET FUNDING FOR R&D, MEUR

SB TOTAL,
mln. Eur

Pct. of GDP



Science –
one of the
TOP priorities

Research Development Programme

Commitment and Key Success Condition:

- ✓ 1% of GDP allocated to R&D from the state budget in the higher education and government sectors by 2030



Talents

International-level R&D

Knowledge transfer

- Quantity: number of PhD graduates, total number of researchers
- Quality: researchers' salaries
- Funding from Horizon Europe
- RHEI funding from business sector

Integrated Objective:

- ✓ Ensure relevance, addressing societal and national challenges – integrating science into all areas of governance

Smart Specialization



2021–2027 thematic priorities

1. Health technologies and biotechnologies
2. New production processes, materials and technologies
3. Information and communication technologies

International Competence Centres

<p>①</p> <p>Plant phenotyping for healthy food and sustainable agrobiological resources (PhenoPlantCC)</p>	<p>②</p> <p>Microbiome Research Institute</p>	<p>③</p> <p>The Center for Advanced Disease Modelling (CADM)</p>	<p>④</p> <p>Centre of Competence for Terahertz and Hybrid Semiconductor Chips</p>	<p>⑤</p> <p>Competence Centre for Autonomous, Remotely Operated, and Connected Systems (ComARC)</p>
<p><i>Partners from LT:</i> The Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry & VDU</p> <p><i>International Partner:</i> University of Copenhagen (Denmark)</p>	<p><i>Partners from LT:</i> LSMU & LSMU Kaunas Hospital</p> <p><i>International Partner:</i> Kiel University & Institute of Clinical Molecular Biology</p>	<p><i>Partners from LT:</i> VU & VU Hospital Santaros Klinikos</p> <p><i>International Partner:</i> Utrecht University and University Medical Center Utrecht (The Netherlands)</p>	<p><i>Partners from LT:</i> VU & FTMC</p> <p><i>International Partner:</i> Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands) & the Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre IMEC (Belgium)</p>	<p><i>Partners from LT:</i> Vilnius TECH & KTU</p> <p><i>International Partner:</i> Fraunhofer FKIE (Germany)</p>

LT in Horizon Europe

	EU contribution	Grants signed	Participations	Position in participation	Position in budget share	Success rate	SME participations	ERC PIs in host organisations
HE	€184.98m	438	640	23	22	17,0%	176	6
H2020	€94.45m	506	623	26	27	14,5%	137	1

Research Council of Lithuania:

- One-stop-shop for science
- One-stop-shop for Horizon Europe

European Horizon Acceleration Plan:

- Co-funding for participation in international coordination initiatives;
- Funding for research and SME projects awarded the EC Seal of Excellence;
- Strengthening of the NCP network and R&I officers;
- Funding for preparatory R&D projects and feasibility studies;
- Support for membership in international R&I networks;
- Activities advancing European Research Area priorities;
- Capacity-building for proposal preparation;
- Upgrading of research infrastructure and laboratory equipment

ERC grants



a. ERC Proof of Concept Grant (+ ERC Advanced Grant in 2017):

1. (2024) Prof. **Saulius Klimašauskas**, 0.15 mEur, „Functional Cofactors for Targeted Modification of Biomolecules (CoMBi)“ (**Vilnius University (VU) Life Sciences Center**) (+ (2017) ERC Advanced Grant, 2,5 mEur, “Bridging the gap in our understanding of genomic methylation (EpiTrack)”).

b. ERC Starting Grant:

2. (2022) Dr **Stephen Knox Jones Jr**, 1.2 mEur, „Profile nucleases and Repurpose Off-Targets to Expand Gene Editing“ (**VU Life Sciences Center**);
3. (2024) Prof. **Patrick Pausch**, 1.5 mEur, “Jumbo Phages in Translational Enzyme Research (JUPITER)” (**VU Life Sciences Center European Molecular Biology Laboratory Partnership Institute (EMBL)**);
4. (2024) Prof. **Mantas Šimėnas**, 2.5 mEur, ‘Strongly Enhanced Sensitivity EPR through Bimodal Resonators and Quantum-Limited Amplifiers (Strong-ESPRESSO)’ (**VU Faculty of Physics**).

c. ERC Consolidator Grant:

5. (2022) Dr **Giedrė Motuzaitė Matuzevičiūtė Keen**, 2 mEur, “Past & Future Millet Foodways” (**VU Faculty of History (Bioarchaeology Research Centre)**).
6. (2024) Prof. **Urtė Neniškytė**, 2 mEur, “Sugars Maketh the Brain: Investigating the Role of Neuronal Glycocalyx in Shaping the Architecture of Emerging Circuits (GlycoCirc)” (**VU Life Sciences Center European Molecular Biology Laboratory Partnership Institute (EMBL)**).

Teaming for Excellence

Granted projects (2022):

1. Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) – *Forest 4.0 Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Forest Bioeconomy*

With Linnaeus University (SE), KTU & industry partners. Funded by Horizon Europe and ERDF (10 mEur from EC + 10 mEur co-funding from LT).

2. Kaunas Technology University (KTU) – *Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development*

With Vilnius Tech, VMU, LSMU, Tampere University (FI) & Hamburg University of Technology (DE). Funded by Horizon Europe, ERDF & Lithuanian universities (15 mEur from EC + 15 mEur co-funding from LT)

Granted projects (2026):

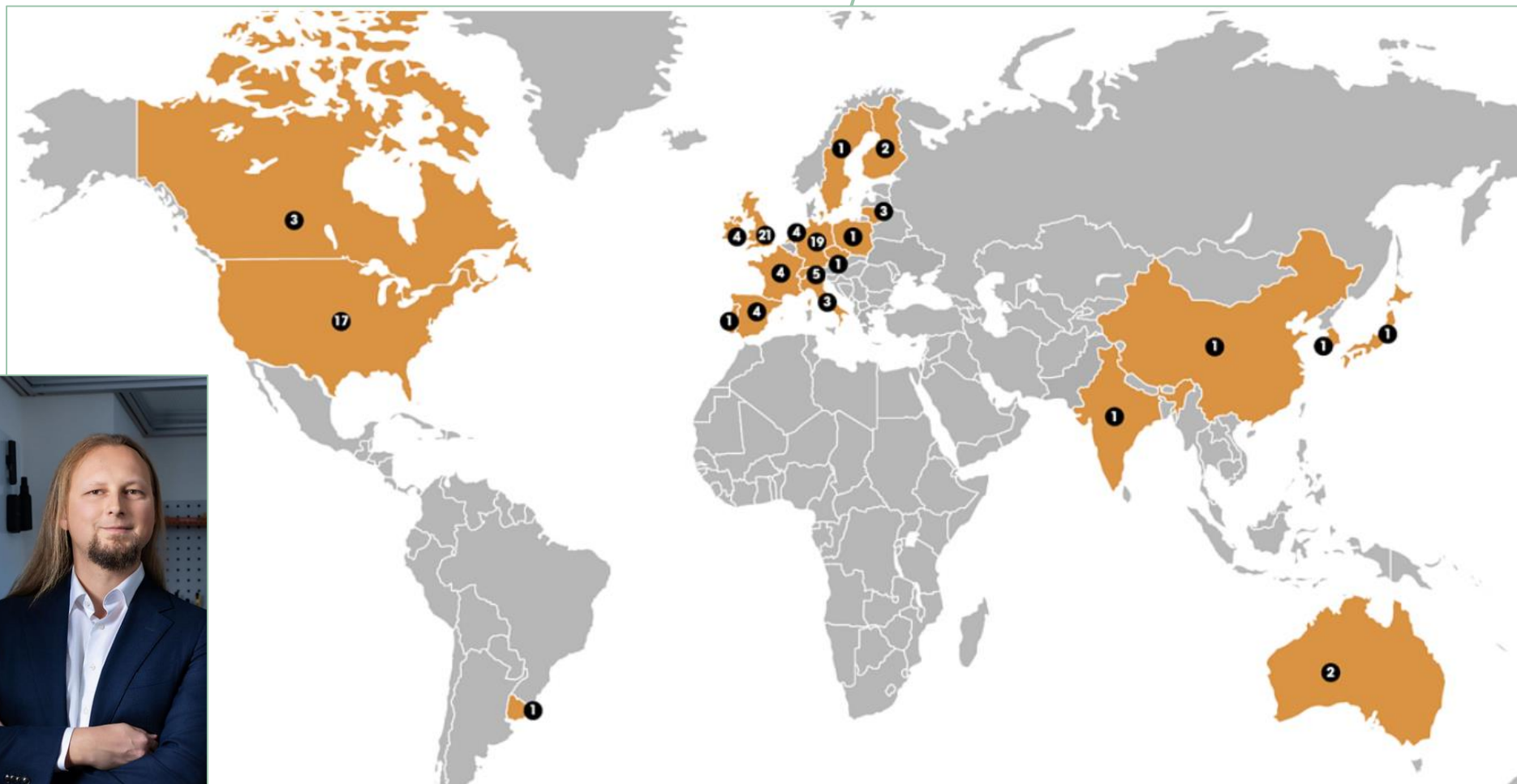
3. National Cancer Institute - Competence Center for Theranostics and Radiopharmaceutical Excellence in the Baltic Region (Thera-Balt).

With VU, VU Hospital Santaros Klinikos, Vilnius Tech, Oslo University Hospital (NO), University of Oslo (NO), Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (IT), National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (TW) (possibly 15 mEur from EC + 15 mEur co-funding from LT).

Photonics100 (2026 list)

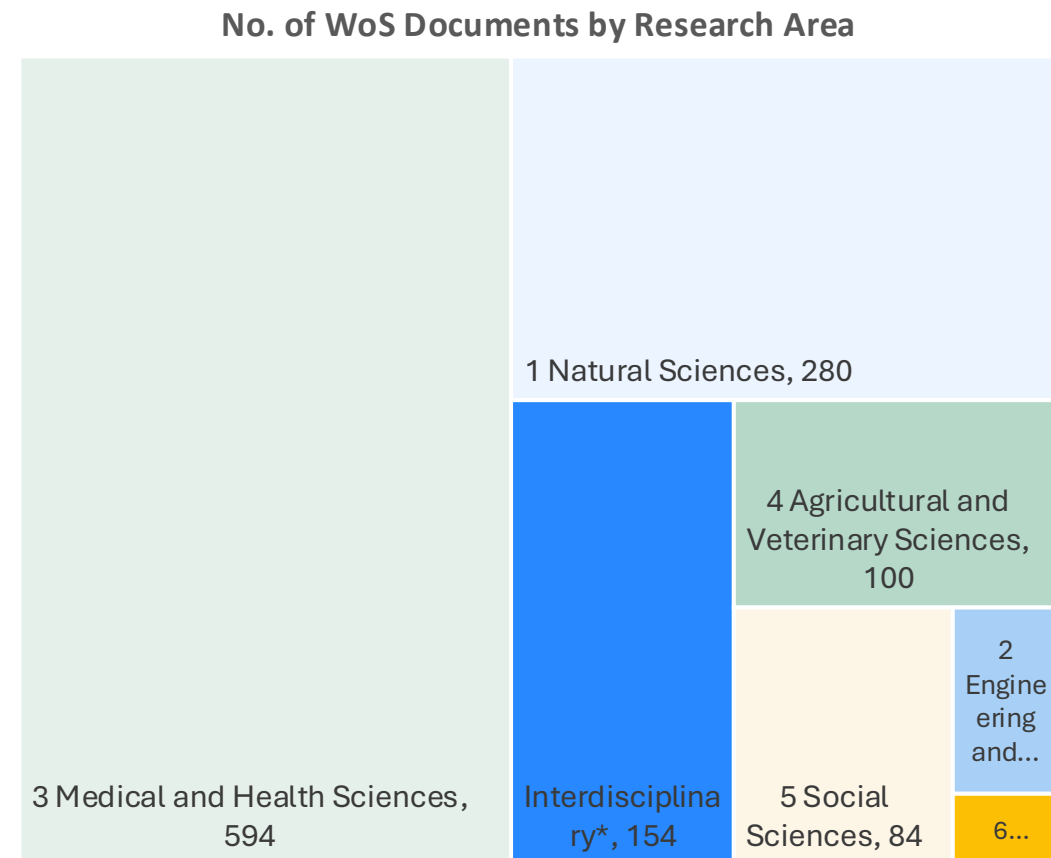
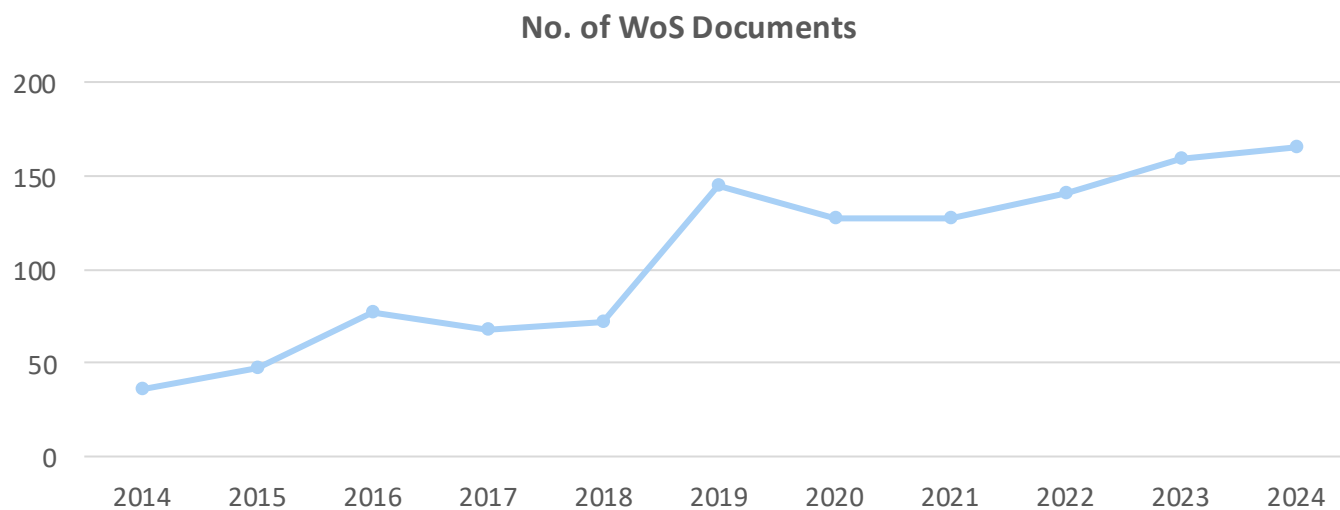
3 Lithuanians among the world's top 100 photonics leaders:

- ✓ Gediminas Račiukaitis (Center for Physical Sciences and Technology (FTMC))
- ✓ Sabina Kuprėnaitė („Optoman“)
- ✓ Rimantas Budriūnas („Light Conversion“)



Lithuania–Canada collaboration

WoS Documents	1164
% Documents Cited	91,3%
% Documents in TOP10%	37,7%
% Documents in Q1 Journals	66,4%
% Industry Collaborations	12,7%
% All Open Access Documents	75,9%



- 1 Natural Sciences
- 2 Engineering and Technology
- 3 Medical and Health Sciences
- 4 Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences
- 5 Social Sciences
- 6 Humanities and the Arts
- Interdisciplinary*

"Interdisciplinary" here refers to variations of two or more research areas (e.g., natural sciences and engineering and (or) medical and (or) agricultural sciences, social sciences and (or) medical sciences, etc.)

Tadas Juknevičius
tadas.juknevicius@smsm.lt

