

## COUNTRY PROFILES

### Lithuania

The research into literature on Lithuania's approach to international cultural policy suggests a positive attitude to cooperation with other European countries vis-à-vis the rest of the world.

Culture for Lithuania represents an important strategic dimension of conducting international relations through diplomacy. According to the former Minister of Culture, Roma Zakaitiene, culture is "a constituent of political, social, economic development of society, very often culture itself stimulates developments and is contributing towards the country's rapid social and economic change."

Lithuanian's international cultural policy is based on the view that the EU is not only about political, economic and social integration leading to the creation of the common European market, but that the European project is also about building common values and a community of culture and civilisation. It values its national culture, but argues that national culture expresses itself only in interaction with other cultures.

The Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is responsible for Lithuania's international cultural policy. In addition, the Ministry of Education and Science contributes to the implementation of Lithuania's international cultural policy through international educational activities and participation in EU educational programmes.

#### M i n i s t r y o f F o r e i g n a f f a i r s

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasises values of democracy, human rights, peace and stability in its cultural diplomacy. Other actors that contribute to the development and implementation of Lithuania's international cultural policy are Lithuanian embassies and consulates, cultural attachés, the Lithuanian Institute and national institutions. Municipalities also engage in international cultural activities.

#### M i n i s t r y o f C u l t u r e

The Ministry of Culture's Department for International Relations and European Integration manages Lithuania's bilateral and multilateral international cultural cooperation and membership in international organisations. Lithuania has signed bilateral agreements on cultural cooperation with twenty-eight countries. The department also coordinates the activities of the cultural attachés that implement the goals of the Ministry by promoting Lithuanian culture and arts abroad and by encouraging cultural exchanges with third countries. The Ministry encourages Lithuanian cultural organisations and institutions to develop international contacts within the framework of bilateral cultural agreements.

#### T h e L i t h u a n i a n I n s t i t u t e

The Lithuanian Institute is a public organisation that was established in 2001 by the Ministries of Culture, Foreign Affairs, and Education and Science. Its task is to acquire and distribute information about Lithuania, organise cultural exchanges and support cultural programmes abroad in consideration of the top priorities of the country's foreign policy. It collaborates with Lithuanian embassies, consulates and cultural attachés to implement these tasks. It also seeks to introduce Lithuania to more distant countries. National institutions play an important role in implementing international cultural agreements. The Ministry of Culture has founded seven such institutions, while the Ministry of Finance provides their budgets.

Furthermore, émigré communities in the United States, Canada, Russia, Germany and Australia have established Lithuanian cultural centres through which Lithuanian culture is disseminated.

#### P o l i c y   f o c u s

Lithuanian cultural policy is conducted within the framework of the Lithuanian constitution, international agreements and treaties on culture. The government's policy programme provides a separate chapter on cultural diplomacy. Its strategic goals include:

- promoting Lithuanian culture abroad and forming a positive image of Lithuania;
- contributing to the openness of Lithuanian culture by encouraging participation in international cultural dialogue;
- undertaking obligations in the sphere of European cultural cooperation.

The Government also aims to develop a long-term strategy on relations with émigré communities, strengthening state information policy abroad, and aims to prepare a national Public Relations Strategy.

As a member of the EU, Lithuania strongly supports effective multilateralism and the protection of human rights and democracy regionally and worldwide. It pursues a vision of a united European community governed by the principle of solidarity. Its goal is to enhance regional cooperation, thereby strengthening the EU and promoting European values across the EU's borders.

Lithuania is committed to share its knowledge and transition experience with the neighbours of an enlarged Union, and stimulate democracy and good governance, human rights and the eradication of poverty in a still-widening EU neighbourhood.

#### G e o g r a p h i c a l   f o c u s

Lithuanian geographical priorities are focussed upon the EU, neighbouring non-EU countries (particularly Russia) and countries where large émigré communities exist.

This policy is reflected in the fact that all of Lithuania's cultural attachés are posted in EU Member States and Russia (France, Poland, Russia (Kaliningrad and Moscow), Sweden, Germany and at the European Commission in Brussels.

Émigré communities in Germany and Russia have set up a Lithuanian cultural centre supported by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Finance. Through these centres Lithuanian culture is disseminated.

Enhanced interregional Baltic and European cooperation provides a clear focus of Lithuania's international cultural policy. Its interregional cooperation within the Council of Baltic Sea States is firmly established, as it participates in *Ars Baltica*. Furthermore it participates in the Nordic Baltic Eight, the Nordic Council of Ministers, and e-Pine ("Enhanced partnership in Northern Europe," 8+1).

Lithuania has established strategic partnerships with Poland and Ukraine, enjoys cooperative relations with Russia and pursues a pragmatic dialogue with Belarus. It cooperates with the region of Kaliningrad and supports the EU's Wider Europe/New Neighbours Initiative as a way to intensify the dialogue with the Kaliningrad region, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova, and to reach out to the countries of the South Caucasus.

Lithuania also has observer status in the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

Relations with the United States, Canada and Australia also provide a focus, through émigré communities. Émigré communities in these three cases have set up Lithuanian cultural centres supported by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Finance. Through these centres Lithuanian culture is disseminated.

## H i g h l y   r e c o m m e n d e d   r e a d i n g

Dapsiene, D., (2003) Foreign Cultural Policy in Europe: The Case of Lithuania,  
E-Doc Link: [http://www.ifa.de/europa-akp/konferenz/download/eu\\_dapsiene.pdf](http://www.ifa.de/europa-akp/konferenz/download/eu_dapsiene.pdf)  
Lithuanian contribution to the conference "Europe-a Union for Culture?" of the German Institut fuer Auslandbeziehungen, Berlin, October 2003. Includes abstract.

Firkaviciute, K., (2003) Foreign Cultural Policy in Lithuania. An Outline,  
E-Doc Link: [http://www.ifa.de/europa-akp/konferenz/download/eu\\_firkaviciute.pdf](http://www.ifa.de/europa-akp/konferenz/download/eu_firkaviciute.pdf)  
Lithuanian contribution to the conference "Europe-a Union of Culture?" of the German Institut fuer Auslandbeziehungen, Berlin, October 2003. Includes English abstract.

Government of the Republic of Lithuania, (2004) Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2004-2008 (Foreign Policy Chapter),  
E-Doc Link: [http://www.urm.lt/popup2.php?item\\_id=256](http://www.urm.lt/popup2.php?item_id=256)  
Describes the government programme of the Republic of Lithuania on national security and foreign policy. Contains eighteen articles.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Regional Cooperation of the Republic of Lithuania,  
E-Doc Link: [http://www.urm.lt/popup2.php?item\\_id=256](http://www.urm.lt/popup2.php?item_id=256)  
Describes Lithuanian regional cooperation activities within: 1) Nordic Baltic Eight (NB8); 2) Council of Baltic Sea States; 3) Nordic Council of Ministers; 4) e-Pine (Enhanced partnership in Northern Europe, 8+1).

Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, (2004) Resolution on Directions in Foreign Policy,  
E-Doc Link:  
[http://www.urm.lt/popup2.php?nr=1&item\\_id=8500&\\_m\\_e\\_id=4&\\_menu\\_i\\_id=162;240&no\\_cache=1](http://www.urm.lt/popup2.php?nr=1&item_id=8500&_m_e_id=4&_menu_i_id=162;240&no_cache=1)  
Describes Lithuania's main policy priorities in foreign policy following the accession to the EU and NATO

Political parties of the Republic of Lithuania, (2004) Agreement between Political Parties of the Republic of Lithuania on the Main Foreign Policy Goals and Objectives for 2004-2008,  
E-Doc Link:  
[http://www.urm.lt/popup2.php?nr=1&item\\_id=255&\\_m\\_e\\_id=4&\\_menu\\_i\\_id=163&no\\_cache=1](http://www.urm.lt/popup2.php?nr=1&item_id=255&_m_e_id=4&_menu_i_id=163&no_cache=1)  
Describes the agreement between thirteen Lithuanian political parties on: 1) the main principles of Lithuania's foreign policy; 2) long-term goals of Lithuanian foreign policy; 3) the main goals of Lithuanian foreign policy for 2004-2008; 4) the main objectives of Lithuanian foreign policy for 2004-2008.

## G e n e r a l   /   b a c k g r o u n d   r e a d i n g

Dufton, B., (1997) Cultural policy in Lithuania, Strasbourg., Council of Europe (Report European panel of examiners), ISBN: CC-Cult(97) 24B prov., Lithuania  
Provisional version, not for publication.

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports – Lithuania,  
E-Doc Link: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources\\_info/pdf-word/annex1\\_national\\_reports2.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1_national_reports2.pdf)  
Background to structures, competencies and institutes in the field of cultural cooperation.

Government of the Republic of Lithuania, (2004) Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for 2004-2008 (Full programme),  
E-Doc Link: [http://www.lrv.lt/engl/en\\_13\\_programa.pdf](http://www.lrv.lt/engl/en_13_programa.pdf)  
Details on Government programme of the Republic of Lithuania for 2004-2008.

Lithuanian Institute, (2005) Official website,  
E-Doc Link: [www.li.lt](http://www.li.lt)

The Lithuanian Institute is a public institution founded in 2001 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. The Institute started its work on May 15 2002. The establishment of the Lithuanian Institute was strongly supported by the Swedish Institute.

Liutkus, Viktoras, (2005) Chapter 2.4, International Cultural Cooperation, Lithuania: Compendium of Cultural Policies,  
E-Doc Link: [www.culturalpolicies.net](http://www.culturalpolicies.net)  
Introduction to the main actors and principle institutions working in the field of international cultural cooperation in Lithuania.

Ministry of Culture, (2005) Official website,  
E-Doc Link: [www.lrkmlt.lt](http://www.lrkmlt.lt)  
English version is under construction and at time of printing was not yet available.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Official website,  
E-Doc Link: [www.urmlt.lt](http://www.urmlt.lt)  
Official website explaining the structure of the Ministry and key foreign policy areas.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (2005) Bilateral cooperation of the Republic of Lithuania,  
E-Doc Link: <http://www.urmlt.lt/index.php?585303655>  
Start-page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website section on bilateral cooperation. Details on bilateral cooperation per country.

□