



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

MINISTER

ORDER

**ON THE APPROVAL OF DIRECTIONS, PRIORITIES AND MEASURES FOR THE PROMOTION
OF THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF
LITHUANIAN (BALTIC STUDIES) ABROAD IN 2024-2026**

14 May 2024 No. V-556

Vilnius

In accordance with Paragraph 4 of Article 3 of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Higher Education and Research:

1. I approve the directions, priorities and measures for the promotion of the internationalisation of higher education and the development of Lithuanian (Baltic) studies abroad in 2024-2026 (attached).
2. I establish that the priorities for the promotion of internationalisation in higher education for 2021–2022, approved by the Order of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania No. V-1821 "On the Approval of the Priorities for the Promotion of the Internationalisation of Higher Education for 2021–2022", shall be applied to the actions for the promotion of internationalisation of higher education initiated prior to the entry into force of this Order.

Minister for Social Security and Labour, acting

Minister of Education, Science and Sports

Monika Navickienė

APPROVED by

Order No. V-556

of the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania

14 May 2024

DIRECTIONS, PRIORITIES AND MEASURES FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF LITHUANIAN (BALTIC STUDIES) ABROAD IN 2024–2026

1. The purpose of this document is to identify the priorities that guide the implementation of the actions to promote internationalisation of the 2021-2030 Education Development Programme in order to increase the quality of higher education, the international competitiveness of higher education institutions, the attraction and integration of foreign students in Lithuania, the development of Lithuanian (Baltic) studies abroad and to strengthen relations with Lithuanians abroad.

2. The concepts used in this document shall be understood as defined in the Law on Higher Education and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. This document complies with the principles of studies and science established in the Law on Higher Education and Research and is reflected in the National Progress Plan for 2021–2030, approved by Resolution No. 998 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 9 September 2020 "On the Approval of the National Progress Plan for 2021–2030", and in the Programme of the Eighteenth Government of the Republic of Lithuania, which was approved by Resolution No. XIV-72 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 11 December 2020 "On the Eighteenth Republic of Lithuania Government Programme" (hereinafter referred to as the Programme of the Government of the Eighteenth Republic of Lithuania).

4. Directions and priorities for the promotion of the internationalisation of higher education in Lithuania:

4.1. Participation of Lithuania in the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area in the implementation of these measures:

4.1.1. carry out projects and commitments in line with national priorities related to the Bologna Process;

4.1.2. to encourage Lithuanian higher education institutions ensuring a high level of research and quality of studies to participate in or join European university networks and to create

conditions for strengthening the internationalisation and competitiveness of Lithuanian higher education institutions;

4.1.3. to represent the interests of Lithuania in the European Union and other international organizations, institutions, networks, and other structures;

4.1.4. to improve the results of Lithuania's participation in the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation;

4.1.5. to promote the development of automatic recognition of foreign qualifications and digitalisation of issued educational documents;

4.2. Strengthening the quality of the internationalisation of Lithuanian higher education by implementing the following measures:

4.2.1. to effectively use the mobility opportunities offered by Erasmus+, Nordplus, other international and national academic exchange programmes;

4.2.2. To develop the system of assessment and recognition of qualifications acquired in accordance with the educational programmes of foreign countries and international organisations in Lithuania;

4.2.3. to strive for effective inter-institutional cooperation in addressing the migration of students, teachers and researchers coming from abroad;

4.2.4. to ensure the availability and systematic dissemination of information about studies, scientific research in Lithuania, reception and living conditions for foreign students, lecturers and researchers;

4.2.5. to raise awareness of Lithuanian higher education, to organise a targeted and consolidated presentation of Lithuanian higher education in Lithuania's target export markets, in the Nordic and Baltic countries, in third countries identified by the Eastern Partnership, Erasmus+ programme, which are not associated countries of the programme, in the Asia-Europe region cooperating in the format of the Asia-Europe meeting, and in other countries named in the programme of the Government of the Eighteenth Republic of Lithuania and in other legal Acts;

4.2.6. In order to ensure the quality of studies for foreign students and to assess it, to provide an opportunity to assess the internationalisation of higher education institutions and the study process for foreign students during external evaluation, linking a positive external assessment of internationalisation with the quality mark of internationalisation of studies;

4.2.7. to form a system for monitoring the success rates of foreign students, which includes enrolment, graduation and post-graduate employment rates;

4.3. Strengthening of academic relations and inbound academic mobility by attracting talented foreign students and lecturers who can lead to progressive changes in the study process by implementing these measures:

4.3.1. to provide targeted state support for part-time studies and courses in Lithuanian language and culture for foreign students of all levels, as well as for studies of second and third cycle students, taking into account the state's priorities in the fields of studies, research, development of Lithuanian studies abroad and in order to strengthen relations with Lithuanians abroad, in particular, for studies of the Lithuanian language, culture or studies in other fields related to Lithuania;

4.3.2. to provide support to higher education institutions where highly qualified guest lecturers, trainee lecturers and researchers from foreign countries come to carry out academic activities;

4.3.3. In order to expand regional marketing, identify the regions most relevant to the higher education sector where the expansion of the network of migration services is needed;

4.3.4. in order to increase the availability of migration services in priority regions, to cooperate with the institutions (the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania and the Migration Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania) responsible for the planning and development of the network of external service providers;

4.3.5. In order to popularize Lithuanian higher education and taking into account the current network of external service providers, to draw up regional plans for increasing the attractiveness of Lithuanian higher education for specific regions and to cooperate with diplomatic missions, consular offices of the Republic of Lithuania, and Lithuanian communities abroad;

4.4. strengthening outbound academic mobility through the implementation of the following measures:

4.4.1. To provide state support for the academic mobility of students and teachers, taking into account the priorities of state studies and science set out in the strategic documents;

4.4.2. to provide support to those who have received scholarships under the mobility programmes for the Republic of Lithuania of foreign countries, for which the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania is responsible, as well as in accordance with the measures provided for in international agreements, programmes, inter-departmental agreements, strategic partnership programmes approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the competence of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports;

4.4.3. to provide support for mobility to foreign higher education institutions that have gained international recognition;

4.5. Promotion of the development of Lithuanian (Baltic) Studies centres abroad by implementing the following measures:

4.5.1. to provide support to students of Lithuanian (Baltic) Studies centres who come to Lithuanian higher education institutions to learn the Lithuanian language;

- 4.5.2. to support the students of the Lithuanian (Baltic) Studies Centres who have achieved the best study results by awarding the Kazimieras Būga State Scholarship of Lithuania;
- 4.5.3. to provide students of Lithuanian (Baltic) Studies Centres with the opportunity to participate in the common Lithuanian language testing system for Lithuanians and foreigners abroad;
- 4.5.4. to provide support to Lithuanian language teachers of Lithuanian (Baltic) Studies;
- 4.5.5. to encourage Lithuanian research and higher education institutions to invite lecturers of Lithuanian (Baltic) Studies Centres to come to Lithuania to give lectures, do internships, improve qualifications, present the latest research in Lithuanian Studies, etc., encourage Lithuanian (Baltic) Studies Centres to invite lecturers and researchers of Lithuanian research and higher education institutions to give lectures, internships, and present the latest research in Lithuanian Studies;
- 4.5.6. to promote cooperation between Lithuanian research and higher education institutions and centres of Lithuanian (Baltic) studies abroad, using the opportunities provided by Erasmus+ and other international programmes;
- 4.6. Support for Lithuanians abroad in the implementation of these measures:
- 4.6.1. to involve foreign Lithuanian lecturers more actively in the study process in Lithuanian higher education institutions;
- 4.6.2. to promote relations between scientists living abroad and Lithuania by awarding scientific prizes to Lithuanians abroad for scientific achievements of high international level and cooperation with Lithuania;
- 4.6.3. to encourage Lithuanians abroad to study in Lithuania by carrying out targeted presentation of higher education in Lithuanian communities abroad and Lithuanian schools;
- 4.6.4. to provide subject-specific and methodological assistance to the implementers of Lithuanian education abroad, encouraging them to study according to non-formal adult education programmes or to study individual study subjects (modules) in Lithuanian higher education institutions;
- 4.6.5. to support internships of Lithuanian higher education students in Lithuanian schools and Lithuanian communities abroad;
- 4.7. Attraction and integration of foreign students by implementing the following measures:
- 4.7.1. Strengthen support measures for foreign students:
- 4.7.1.1. to enable foreign students to use the instrument of public loans to pay the cost of their studies, transferring part of the risk of non-repayment of loans to the European Investment Fund;

4.7.1.2. to provide an opportunity for foreign students from third countries enrolling in second cycle studies in priority fields of study to enroll in part of the state-funded places, committing to learn the Lithuanian language;

4.7.2. to strengthen measures for the integration of foreign students in Lithuania:

4.7.2.1. by forming a model of internship support applied to foreign students and graduates;

4.7.2.2. in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania by strengthening the model of teaching the Lithuanian language and culture, by coordinating measures implemented by higher education institutions, the Employment Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and other institutions;

4.7.2.3. strengthening the link between higher education institutions, the Education Exchange Support Fund, "I Choose Lithuania" and other institutions' initiatives, ensuring the dissemination of information, tools and initiatives through targeted channels, which would promote the transition of foreign students from studies to the labour market and further integration in Lithuania;

4.7.2.4. by getting involved in the system of integration of foreigners developed by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, by providing proposals that meet the needs of the Lithuanian higher education sector.