Lithuania – National Embedment

1. RI definition

In which points does the National Roadmap deviate from the ESFRI Roadmap?

Categories	National Roadmap
Funding	
Categorisation of RI	
Access to RI	
Organisation within national procedure	

Facilities, resources and services that are used by the research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields. They include major scientific equipment (or sets of instruments), knowledge-based resources such as collections, archives or scientific data and e-infrastructures such as data and computing systems and communication networks. Such infrastructures may be 'single-sited', 'virtual' or 'distributed'.

The tools that provide essential services to the research community for basic or applied research. They may concern the whole range of scientific and technological fields, from social sciences to astronomy, going through genomics or nanotechnologies.

Examples include libraries, databases, biological archives, laboratories, clean rooms, communication networks, research vessels, satellite and aircraft observation facilities, coastal observatories, telescopes, synchrotrons, accelerators. They may be "singlesited", "distributed", or "virtual". What we are dealing with are the necessary tools for the future to do research in many areas at the cutting edge, in accordance to ESFRI definition. (Higher Education Authority, p. 58)

2. RI players in the national R&I system

The RI players within the R&I system are displayed in figure 14.

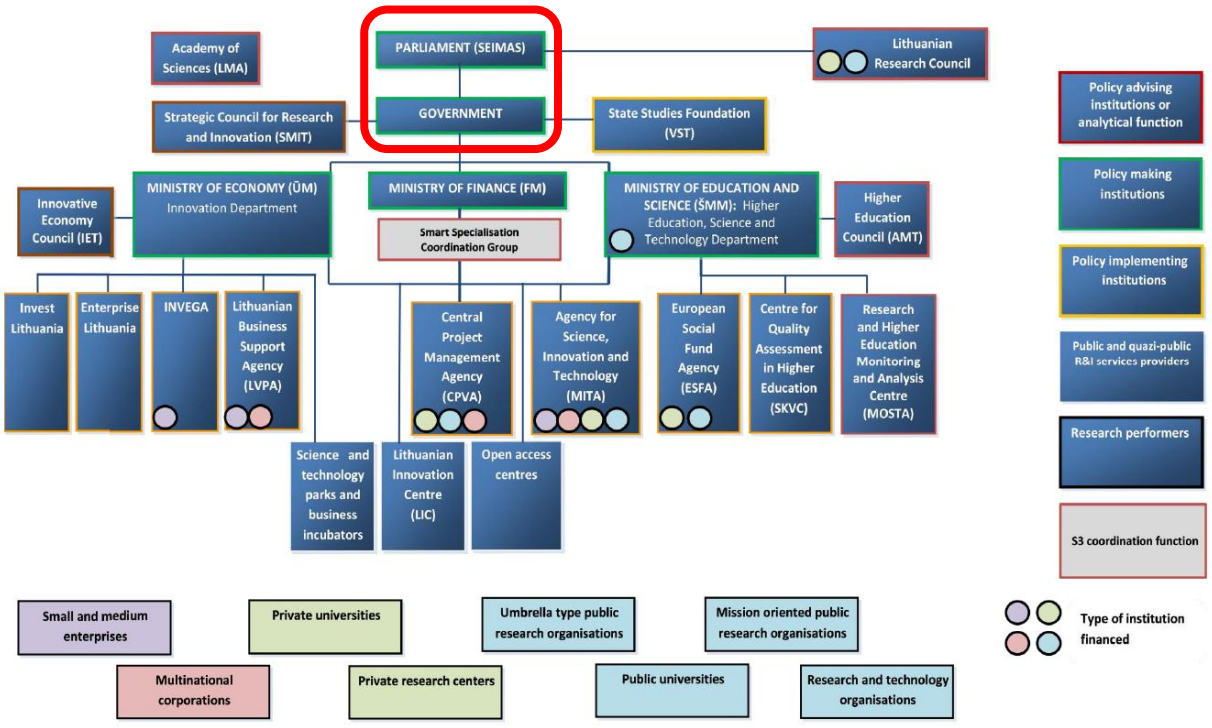

Figure 14: Organisational chart of the R&I system of Lithuania (Paliokaitė, 2015, p. 17). Red colour indicates the bodies with the main decision power regarding RI.

InRoad has been funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement No 730928.

InRoad synchronising research infrastructure roadmapping in Europe

National relevance of RI

In April 2009, the Ministry of Education and Science set up a working group consisting of Lithuanian and émigré researchers and innovative business representatives and tasked with drafting guidelines for the development of the Lithuanian RI. With a view to identifying the main directions in the development of the national RI for the coming 10 to 15 years, the working group suggested that its members, in cooperation with the scientific community, identify the most viable projects.

Following the draft guidelines on the development of the RI, in 2011 the Research Council of Lithuania drew up and published the first Roadmap for Research Infrastructures of Lithuania designed to identify the strategic directions of the long-term development of the national RI.

The Lithuanian Roadmap for Research Infrastructures presents the Lithuanian RI projects that are prioritised in relation to Lithuania's progress towards the membership of the European research infrastructures included in the ESFRI Roadmap, as well as other international RI. The Roadmap introduces 15 national infrastructure projects considered important for the national research and development, and specifies international RI that Lithuania should seek to join. In 2012, the Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania approved the Description of the procedure for the participation in international infrastructures. In the same year, the Research Council of Lithuania approved the Description of the procedure for the initiation of the participation of Lithuanian institutions in international RI, according to which the Research Council of Lithuania set up a Commission for Research Infrastructures of the Research Council of Lithuania. The Commission evaluates the plans on the membership in European RI consortia drawn up by Lithuanian research institutions or their groups. (Research Council of Lithuania, 2015)

Embedding of RI in the national R&I system

The Strategic Council for Research, Development and Innovation is responsible for the overall coordination of the R&I policy.

When implementing the programmes for the development of integrated science, higher education and business centres (valleys) during 2007–2013 ESIF funding period, significant investments were made into development and upgrading of R&D and innovation infrastructure in research and higher education institutions. Modern infrastructure and resulting growth in scientific potential served as a basis for identifying Priority R&D&I development areas and their priorities and will provide prerequisites for their implementation by developing new knowledge, technology, products, processes and methods. Modern R&D and innovation infrastructure because of its unique possibilities and exclusiveness also enabled research and higher education institutions and their scientists to strengthen relations with science centres and their scientists of other countries. With respect to continuity of investments, Lithuania is in a process of allocation of funding for RI in the 2014-2020 ESIF funding period. The measure "Joining international research infrastructures (ESFRI) and upgrading and development of open access R&D infrastructure needed for joining international research infrastructure (ESFRI)" is going to be fully implemented in 2018.

3. RI in the National R&I System

The R&I system in Lithuania is centralised and regional governance plays a minor role in public policy as **R&I policy decisions are made at the national level**. Comparing funding sources, **the Lithuanian R&I system is mainly funded from the EU ESIF and the national budget**. The 14 State universities are the core of the Lithuanian research system. The higher education sector is the main R&D performer. (Paliokaitė et al., 2016, p. 15.)

Lithuania has a stable centre-of-government R&I structure, which provides predictable policy and budgetary framework. Approved legislative documents define how R&I funding will be distributed, so there is less uncertainty about budgetary procedures.

In Lithuania the institutional **system for the formation and implementation of research and innovation policy is rather fragmented**. **The two principal governing bodies, shaping R&D and innovation policy in Lithuania, are the Ministry of Economy**, which is responsible for innovation policy, and the **Ministry of Education and Science**, responsible for higher education and (mainly public) R&D policy. The role of R&I Council is played by the Strategic Council for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation (SMIT). The five main agencies (MITA, LVPA, ESFA, LMT, CPVA) are responsible for funding of research and innovation. (Paliokaitė et al., 2016, p. 15)

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4. Major national strategies for international cooperation in R&I and strategic integration of RI

The National Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030' which broadly defines the direction of the country's development also covers R&I even if in general terms. Overall, six key long-term and midterm policy documents were introduced or revised since 2012: the National Progress Strategy 'Lithuania 2030', the "National Progress Programme for Lithuania for the period 2014-2020 (NPP)", the "Programme for Development of Studies and R&D for 2013-2020", the updated "Concept of the Establishment and Development of Integrated Science, Studies and Business Centres (Valleys)", the "Lithuanian Innovation Development Programme for 2014-2020" and the "Programme on the Implementation of the R&D&I Priority Areas and their Priorities" which comes together with separate Action Plans for each priority. The priorities will be reviewed in 2017-2018. The principles of coordination and monitoring provide that a Coordination Group formed by key stakeholders will be established to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the priorities. (Paliokaitė et al., 2016, p. 18)

The Ministry of Economy launched an update of the broad "Lithuanian Innovation Strategy for 2010-2020" and replaced it by a new strategic document in the form of the "Lithuanian Innovation Development Programme for 2014-2020" which was approved by the Government in December 2013. (Paliokaitė 2016 et al., 2016, p. 18)

International cooperation is emphasised in programmes such as the "National Progress Programme for Lithuania for the period 2014-2020 (NPP)". At the same time, bilateral or multilateral agreements as well as programmes with third countries are in force, both in Europe and outside. Most policy documents apply similar measures towards R&I cooperation with EU and third countries.

References

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Further links

- International Research infrastructure evaluation was organised in 2016. Output of the evaluation-ranking of LT RI, which is the basis for upcoming RI funding decisions and recommendations for RI politics formation. International Research infrastructure evaluation report is available online: <http://www.smm.lt/uploads/documents/darbo%20grupes/Lietuvos%20mokslini%C5%B3%20tyrim%C5%B3%20infrastrukt%C5%ABr%C5%B3%20projekt%C5%B3%20ve> [Last access: 08/2017].

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