

0.12% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.13% TOTAL AID/GNI

LITHUANIA



Lithuania's development cooperation strategy needs to include steps on how we will implement the commitment to allocate 0.33% of gross national income to official development assistance by 2030."

Gitanas Nausėda,
the President of the Republic of Lithuania

MAIN CHANGES IN 2021

Lithuania's development cooperation policy reflects its national foreign policy priorities by focusing on the Eastern Partnership countries, in particular Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine. The largest share of Lithuania's bilateral aid went to Ukraine (17%) and Belarus (11%). In 2021, support to Ukraine focused on education and health reforms in eastern Ukraine, and the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in the field of law and justice. Support for Belarus focused on supporting civil society and strengthening its political activism, as well as supporting independent media.

The number of war refugees and migrants arriving in Lithuania across the Lithuanian/EU border with Belarus has increased sharply since mid-2021. Refugees from war-stricken Ukraine are welcome in Lithuania; however, refugees from Africa and Middle Eastern countries are being pushed back across the border to Belarus. A three-storey high barrier made of razor wire is under construction along the 502-kilometre border with Belarus. The financial cost and the environmental damage of this are enormous.

In 2021, Lithuania's ODA constituted about EUR 70 million (0.13% GNI), up from EUR 63 million in 2020. This was an increase of 10.7% in real terms in volume and the same share of GNI as in 2019 and 2020. Lithuania is committed to achieving the lower ODA target of 0.33% of GNI by 2030. Lithuania's bilateral assistance has increased to EUR 15 million or 21% of Lithuania's ODA in 2021.

The key mechanism for implementing ODA is the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme of the MFA. The projects are managed by the Central Project Management Agency. In 2021, the

government-imposed quarantine and anti-pandemic restrictions negatively affected the implementation of projects. There were very few small-scale calls for proposals. The Development Cooperation website and its database are not accessible, and the new website is currently under construction. There is only a Facebook account for LTaid.

At the end of 2021, the Strategic Directions for Development Cooperation of the Republic of Lithuania were adopted. With the military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022, this strategy document has lost its practical relevance, but has not been updated or amended. Since the invasion, Lithuania's aid flow to Ukraine has grown exponentially. At the Lugano conference on 5 July 2022, the Prime Minister of Lithuania stated that Lithuanian aid for Ukraine already exceeded EUR 500 million and that they would add a further EUR 10 million. The government's unprecedented scale of aid to Ukraine is not linked in any way to its development cooperation strategy.

The MFA recognises the importance of and need for education to achieve greater public support for development cooperation, but limits itself to public information about the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the importance and benefits of developing cooperation. In 2021, the development cooperation programme contributed to implementing three NGO development cooperation education projects, designed and delivered in partnership with organisations and programmes in other countries.

The Fund for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid was approved at the end of 2021. It was set up to ensure that Lithuania's future official development assistance is in line with its international commitments. The Fund's provisions set out how the funds will be allocated and used, but not their sources.

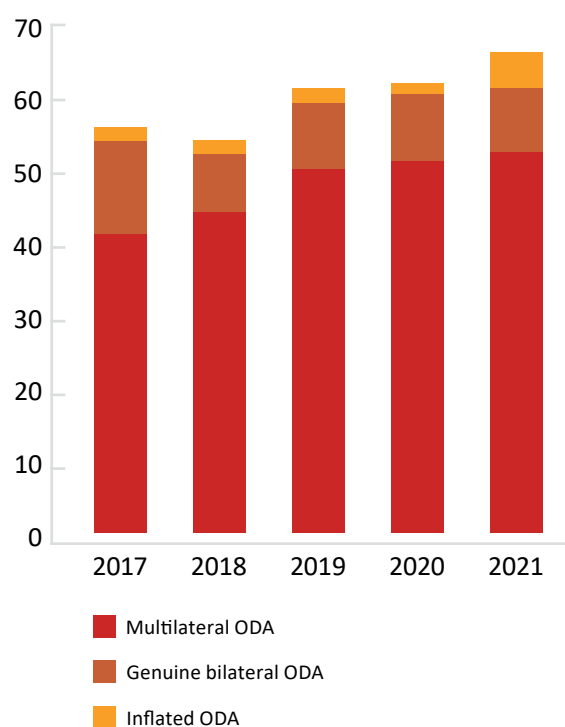
The Fund's seven-member council, comprises a chairperson appointed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and includes one NGO representative. The Central Project Management Agency acts as the Fund's administrator and secretariat.

As an observer since 2013, Lithuania has continued to strengthen its engagement with the OECD, and has announced its intention to apply for DAC membership. In 2021, Lithuania was awarded six EU Twinning Projects. These projects will be implemented in Georgia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Serbia and North Macedonia. In 2021, Lithuanian experts shared their experience at 58 EU Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) programme events, nine of which were held in Lithuania. Since 2004, the Lithuanian authorities have already participated in 125 twinning projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT

- Boost the competence of the National Development Cooperation Commission and ensure a balance with the activities and competence of the Fund for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid.
- Open the website of the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme www.LTaid.lt.
- Publish an annual report on the implementation of the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme, including information from other public entities and NGOs.
- Publish a separate report on Lithuania's aid to Ukraine.
- Report in-donor refugee costs and student costs in Lithuania separately from aid flows.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Education, develop a meaningful national development and global education strategy and raise the level of its funding to 2% of aid flows.

LITHUANIA – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA (€ million, constant 2020)



ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2020)

	ODA to LDCs	%GNI	% ODA
2017	8.8	0.0	15.4
2018	9.1	0.0	16.5
2019	9.7	0.0	15.6
2020	10.7	0.0	16.9

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2020)

	Bilateral (gross)	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2017	14.8	14.8	0.0	0.0
2018	10.3	10.3	0.0	0.0
2019	11.1	11.1	0.0	0.0
2020	10.4	10.4	0.0	0.0

ODA TO CLIMATE FINANCE (€ million, constant 2020)

	ODA for mitigation	ODA for adaptation	Total climate finance	Adaptation finance as % of climate finance	Climate finance as % of ODA
2017	0.1	0.1	0.2	50.2	0.4
2018	0.1	0.0	0.2	16.0	0.3
2019	0.3	0.2	0.5	43.7	0.9
2020	0.6	0.3	0.8	33.3	1.3

ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2020)

	Bilateral allocable	Total screened	Not screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2017	8.8	4.7	4.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.9
2018	6.8	3.8	3.0	1.5	2.1	0.2	55.4	4.1
2019	6.5	3.5	3.0	1.1	2.1	0.3	60.9	7.4
2020	7.7	7.7	0.0	5.5	2.0	0.2	25.6	2.7

ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2020)

	Non-CSO	CSO Earmarked	CSO Core funding	Total bilateral CSO support (% bilateral)	Total bilateral CSO support (% ODA)	Core bilateral CSO support (% bilateral)	Core bilateral CSO support (% ODA)
2017	14.3	0.4	0.0	3.2	0.8	0.2	0.1
2018	9.7	0.6	0.0	5.8	1.1	0.1	0.0
2019	10.3	0.8	0.0	7.3	1.3	0.4	0.1
2020	9.4	0.9	0.1	9.8	1.6	1.2	0.2