



LITHUANIA

“ Improve how we work together to tackle new challenges ”

VBP

Main trends

In 2023, Lithuania's ODA amounted to EUR 197 million, or 0.28% of GNI. EUR 111.42 million was allocated for bilateral assistance and EUR 85.37 million for multilateral aid.

In 2023, support decreased by 20% compared to the previous year. Lithuania's official support declined from EUR 231.31 million to EUR 196.79 million in 2023 compared to the preceding year. Nevertheless, the reduction was not as significant as might have been anticipated. The spectacular increase in 2022 is mostly explained by IDRC resulting from the war in Ukraine. Despite record high figures in 2022, ODA in 2023 did not return to the 2021 level. However, this erratic increase-decrease indicates that Lithuanian ODA is not subject to a structured plan and varies according to unpredictable factors.

Most of Lithuania's ODA was allocated to humanitarian and financial assistance to Ukraine, amounting to EUR 52 million: 60% of bilateral Lithuanian ODA, or 30% of total Lithuanian ODA. Considering the heightened emphasis on security and the substantial deployment of resources, Lithuania's total bilateral assistance to Ukraine has reached EUR 1.2 billion. Combined with Lithuania's support through the EU, this represents 2% of the country's GDP, as reported at the Reconstruction Conference of Ukraine on 11 June 2024 in Berlin.¹

The war in Ukraine has led to changes in development cooperation policy in recent years. The involvement of new partners has increased. By decision of the Lithuanian Government, the MFA coordinates the reconstruction of Ukraine. A roadmap for

Reported ODA: EUR 162.5 million
0.28% GNI (↓ from 0.36% in 2022)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 150.6 million
0.26% GNI (↑ from 0.25% in 2022)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 11.9 million
7% of total



Lithuania's engagement in the recovery and rebuilding of Ukraine is currently being prepared.

The MFA, the OECD, and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) launched the two-year project "Strengthening Lithuania's Development Cooperation Ecosystem: coherence, partnerships, impact". The project aims to strengthen the effectiveness of Lithuania's development cooperation system. Together with OECD experts, a draft action plan has been prepared. Priority actions include civil society engagement (consultation, capacity building, tools) and monitoring, evaluation, and results (capacity building, monitoring and evaluation framework, communication of results). However, the focus will be on involving the private sector (raising awareness and understanding; business incentives; financial instruments).

Government's relationship with civil society

The Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund provides a broader scope for civil society projects. A call for project proposals is intended to identify and support projects that align with the strategic priorities of Lithuanian development cooperation and the concepts approved by the Council of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund. Furthermore, there is room for improvement in the current

¹ "Lithuania's bilateral support to Ukraine amounts to 1.2 billion euros, together with Lithuania's support provided through the EU, it accounts for 2%. GDP of the country, in Lithuanian, accessed 2 October, 2024.



cooperation with social partners. For CSOs to transition from their current role as implementers to that of policymakers, it would be beneficial for them to have an action plan in place to enable them to fully utilise their two seats on the National Development Cooperation Commission. It would appear that NGOs in Lithuania can raise more funds than the National Development Cooperation Programme.

As global education has not been a priority for many years, it would be beneficial to implement an efficient and responsive system for public consultations with CSOs on this matter.

The Lithuanian government should:

- **Integrate non-governmental donors into the national development cooperation system as key stakeholders.**
- **Prepare a separate report on IDRC and scholarships in Lithuania, with the figures presented separately from the overall ODA figures.**
- **It is imperative that the tasks of global education and general public awareness about global development cooperation are no longer neglected and that systemic measures are employed for their implementation.**
- **In light of the ongoing political and social developments in Ukraine, it is crucial to comply with the principles, standards and aims of liberal democracy when making investments in the country. A key aspect of this is to prioritise the strengthening of civil society and the enhancement of understanding of the actual political and social developments in Ukraine.**