



MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
AND DEMOCRACY PROMOTION
PROGRAMME

2024



MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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Overview

In 2024, Lithuania maintained its strategic focus in development cooperation on providing comprehensive support for Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery, as well as assisting the EU's Eastern Partnership countries. Lithuania's growing involvement, tangible results, and project support in Ukraine were increasingly recognized by international partners, many of whom joined initiatives launched by Lithuania. Notably, Taiwan, Ireland, and Andorra contributed to the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund, reinforcing global trust in Lithuania as a reliable development partner.

Using resources from the Fund, a school and kindergarten were rebuilt in Borodyanka, a school in Snihurivka was renovated, and a radiation shelter was installed at a kindergarten in Irpin. A bilateral project, aimed at supporting Ukraine's EU accession, enabled Lithuania to assume the role of coordinator for a major EU-financed programme. Additionally, 2024 marked the launch of a new initiative for the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals injured or affected by the war in Ukraine.

To ensure effective and coordinated engagement across sectors, Lithuania developed and approved guidelines of its involvement in Ukraine's recovery for 2024 -2027. These guidelines aim to mobilize the efforts of Lithuanian institutions, businesses, and civil society organizations in helping rebuild the country ravaged by Russia's aggression. Lithuania also actively advocated for support to Ukraine during both bilateral and multilateral meetings.

Lithuania continued to play a leading role in the EU Twinning programme, providing expert assistance to partner countries and ranking among the top EU member states in terms of project implementation. In 2024, Lithuanian institutions secured seven new Twinning projects in areas such as healthcare, environmental protection, competitiveness, food safety, education, financial supervision, and phytosanitary standards.

Through its bilateral assistance, Lithuania consistently contributed to strengthening institutional capacity, supporting EU integration reforms in Eastern Partnership countries, promoting gender equality, improving education, combating disinformation, and advancing environmental and healthcare initiatives.

This report covers activities falling within the competence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Official development assistance

Lithuania's Official Development Assistance (ODA) refers to aid and humanitarian support funded through the budgets of national and municipal governments, including their subordinate institutions, and directed toward developing countries and territories. The targeted budget allocations managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs form an integral part of Lithuania's ODA.

The Ministry remains committed to steadily increasing Lithuania's ODA in line with its international obligations. Upon joining the European Union, Lithuania pledged to allocate at least 0.33% of its Gross National Income (GNI) to development assistance.

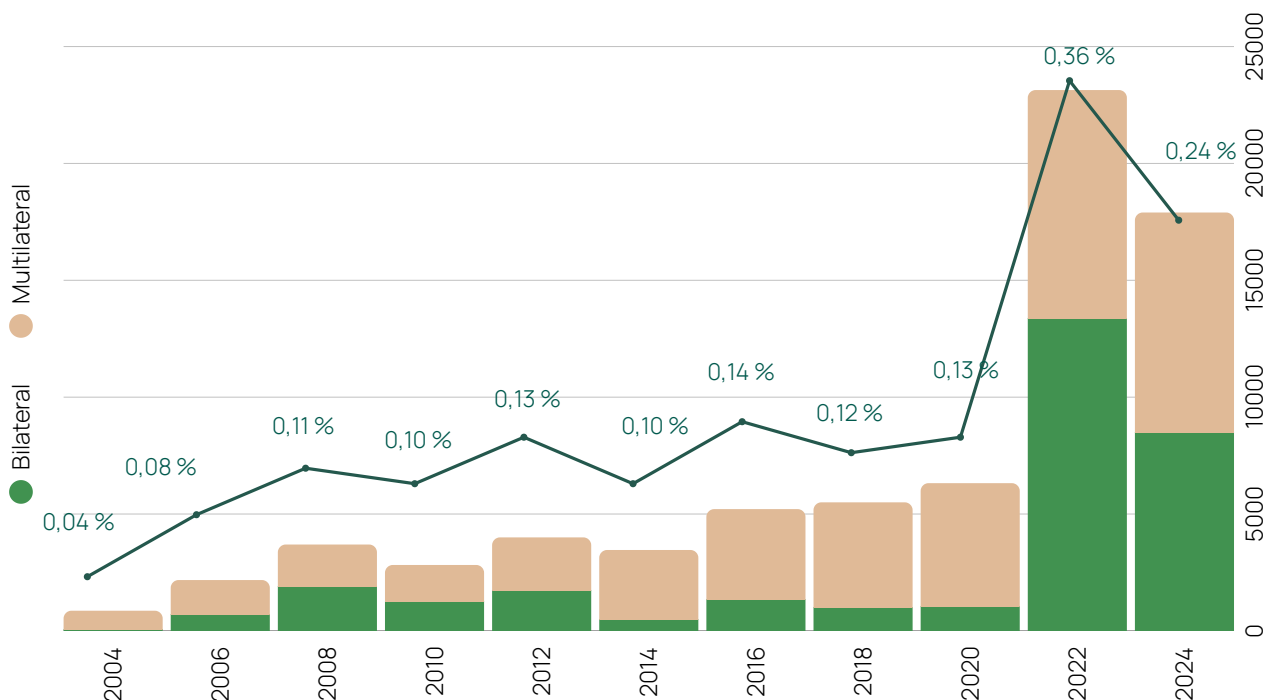
According to preliminary data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Lithuania's ODA amounted to €179 million in 2024, representing 0.24% of GNI.

Ukraine remained the largest recipient of Lithuania's bilateral aid, receiving €52.15 million. In total, Lithuania allocated €85 million for bilateral assistance and €94 million for multilateral contributions.

Lithuania reached its highest ODA level in 2022, at €231.31 million (0.36% of GNI), largely due to expenditures related to hosting refugees. Under OECD methodology, such costs are counted as ODA only during the refugees' first year in the host country. A sharp decline in these expenses – from €70.3 million in 2022 to €12.95 million in 2024 – contributed to the overall decrease in Lithuania's ODA.

Lithuania actively seeks to improve aid effectiveness, strengthen coordination with other donors, and explore innovative forms of support. The goal is to ensure that, even with limited financial resources, Lithuania's aid remains well-targeted, well-coordinated, and sustainable in its impact.

Lithuania's Official Development Assistance (ODA) 2004-2024



Funds and activities

€22.56 million was allocated for development cooperation activities from the State Budget of the Republic of Lithuania approved for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Purpose	Funds, in thousands EUR
Contributions to the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund (for Ukraine's Reconstruction)	18 000
Projects	2 239
Voluntary contributions to multilateral funds	1 012
Humanitarian aid	1 220
Participation in activities of the EU, UN and other international organisations and programme monitoring	70
Other development cooperation activities (project management, events, exhibitions, printed materials, services, etc.)	19
Total:	22 560

Bilateral development assistance

In 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided bilateral development assistance through projects implemented under the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme and through bilateral, direct management, and national co-financing projects supported by the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund. In total, Lithuania launched 47 new projects in 2024, and continued the implementation of 21 previously initiated projects.

The Fund supported the launch of 22 new projects, with a total budget of €16.2 million. The largest share – €15.2 million – was allocated to reconstruction efforts in Ukraine. In addition, development cooperation activities were funded in Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Palestine, and Kenya, and support was provided to Belarusian civil society. Lithuania also continued its national co-financing contribution to the European Commission's EU4Youth programme.

Lithuanian diplomatic missions accredited in partner countries supported 25 development cooperation projects across 13 countries, using €447,600 in Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme funding. Lithuanian experts shared best practices and transition experience, helping Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia align with EU standards, prepare for EU accession negotiations, and supporting the implementation of Armenia's Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the EU.

Assistance was directed toward projects focused on strengthening civil society, countering disinformation, environmental protection, sustainable economic development (including digitalisation and

the economic and social empowerment of women), psychosocial and physical rehabilitation (in Ukraine), and gender equality across the EU's Eastern Partnership countries, as well as in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

Ukraine

In 2024, Lithuania continued its support for Ukraine, guided by the national framework for engagement in Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery for the period 2024–2027. Projects and programmes were implemented through the Fund. The main areas of cooperation included strengthening Ukrainian institutions, ensuring safe and quality education, providing physical and psychosocial rehabilitation and reintegration for individuals affected by the war, and supporting the development of a resilient and growing economy.

Lithuania's support for Ukraine's reconstruction through the Fund has grown steadily: €1 million was allocated in 2022, €11 million in 2023, and €12 million in 2024. Alongside this growth, the Fund became international in scope. In 2024, other donors joined Lithuania's efforts in Ukraine, contributing to the expansion and impact of joint initiatives.

- **Taiwan** – a Memorandum of Understanding was signed for a new contribution of USD 5 million to Lithuanian-led development cooperation projects in Ukraine.
- **Andorra** – the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and Andorra signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a €15,000 targeted contribution toward the renovation of a school in Snihurivka (Mykolaiv region).
- **Ireland** – the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and Ireland signed a Memorandum of Understanding providing a €3 million targeted contribution to a shelter programme for schools in Ukraine, implemented by Lithuania and co-funded by the European Commission.



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and Ireland, Vilnius

The Fund's resources were further supplemented by alternative sources. In 2024, over €167,000 was collected from fines imposed for violations of international and Lithuanian sanctions. Lithuania became one of the first European Union member states to establish a mechanism allowing such funds to be directed toward Ukraine's reconstruction. This marks a significant step in promoting justice and upholding international law, while also demonstrating Lithuania's strong and principled commitment to supporting Ukraine.

Throughout 2024, a total of 15 recovery and reconstruction projects in Ukraine were implemented. Of these, five were successfully completed, two are ongoing, and eight were newly launched. This reflects Lithuania's consistent and long-term dedication to supporting both immediate and sustainable recovery initiatives in Ukraine.

Projects completed in 2024

One of the major achievements of 2024 was the reconstruction of School No. 1 in Borodyanka (Kyiv region), which had been destroyed and heavily damaged by military attacks. A total of €8 million was allocated for the project, including a €1.8 million contribution from the Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania. Rebuilt from the ruins, the First Lithuanian-Ukrainian Lyceum now stands as a bright, welcoming, and modern learning environment.



Opening of Lithuanian-Ukrainian Lyceum in Borodyanka

The classrooms have been equipped with smart boards and interactive desks for younger pupils, teachers' workspaces furnished with modern computer equipment. The school's common areas have been decorated with artwork by Ukrainian artist Yuliia Trypolska. This project brought 700 students back to the school. To ensure the safety of both children and teachers, a new underground shelter has been built next to the lyceum, capable of accommodating up to 800 people at a time.



Lithuanian-Ukrainian Lyceum in Borodyanka before and after reconstruction

Our school was destroyed, and we had nowhere to study. Also, I had problems with studying online and didn't have good access to learning materials. Coming back to school helped me study better, I received support from teachers. It made a big difference for my education.

The most helpful part was studying with other students and learning new things. I felt more confident and comfortable. We also shared our experience with Lithuanian students and still keep in touch with them now. It was a great experience and helped me understand other cultures too.

From my point of view, it would be great if students could visit another country, study there for a short time. This can help us learn more about different countries and create connections. I also think international projects, like student exchanges, workshops, would be very useful, as we can learn not only from teachers but also from each other.

Anastasiia, student at 10-A class, Lithuanian-Ukrainian Lyceum in Borodyanka, Ukraine

In 2024, the renovation of the Borodyanka kindergarten building and the surrounding outdoor infrastructure was also successfully completed. The project was valued at €500,000, with €213,000 provided by Taiwan.

Other implemented initiatives included the installation of a bomb shelter at a kindergarten in Irpin, Kiev region and the renovation of a school in Snihurivka, Mykolaiv region. The project "Lithuania's Support for Ukraine's Eurointegration" was successfully implemented, along with the completion of a project aimed at strengthening the administrative capacity of Ukraine's Reconstruction Agency.

Before the reconstruction, our kindergarten couldn't function. The building was badly damaged by fire, water and other circumstances, which were caused by Russian invasion. More than 400 families waited for an opportunity to get a preschool education for their children, consequently, to be able to work.

The kindergarten was rebuilt to a significantly higher standard than before, transforming into a hub of innovation and contributing to the advancement of local education. It now serves as a model for restoring educational infrastructure, attracting delegations looking for inspiration for similar initiatives.

Personally, I've started a new chapter of my professional life here—one that is bright, hopeful, and inspiring. I returned to Ukraine from Poland specifically to take on my current role. I am deeply grateful for Lithuania's support, which I feel every single day when I arrive at work. It is both a joy and a source of pride to lead such a distinguished institution.



Kseniia Katrych, headmaster of Irpin kindergarten "Rūta", Ukraine

Ongoing projects in 2024

In 2024, two projects supporting Ukraine's recovery and development continued. The first focused on the development of a digital 3D urban planning tool designed for local government institutions in Ukraine. A major achievement of the year was the creation of an interactive reconstruction platform featuring high-resolution 3D visualizations of the cities of Bucha and Borodyanka.

These advanced visualizations, along with the platform's software capabilities, enable not only a thorough assessment of war-inflicted damage but also more accurate modelling of reconstruction scenarios – including public spaces, infrastructure, and residential buildings. The system is currently being expanded with new data, and local government staff are undergoing training to manage and further develop the platform. Once the project is completed, the system will be handed over to the municipalities for their full ownership and use.



An interactive 3D visualization platform for the reconstruction of Bucha and Borodyanka

The second ongoing initiative, “Future School for Ukraine,” aims to develop an adaptive technical design for schools and enable faster, more efficient, and higher-quality reconstruction of Ukraine’s destroyed educational infrastructure. The finalized design will be made freely available to Ukrainian institutions and international partners involved in rebuilding the country.

The Central Project Management Agency (CPVA), Ukraine’s Reconstruction Agency, and the Lithuanian Union of Architects launched an international architectural competition, which was won by the Italian architecture firm Scandurra, in collaboration with Ukrainian architect Mykola Vustianskyi.

The project emphasizes sustainable and innovative solutions, with the broader goal of contributing to the creation of a modern, resilient, and future-oriented education system in Ukraine. In the second phase, Lithuania plans to build the first school based on this prototype design.



Presentation of the Projects, submitted to the International Architectural Competition “Future School for Ukraine”, Vilnius

Projects launched in 2024

In 2024, Lithuania launched several key initiatives aimed at supporting Ukraine's reconstruction, facilitating the return of young professionals, and strengthening the country's education and healthcare sectors, while also addressing the broader consequences of the war.

The first initiative, Create Ukraine, is a unique programme designed to encourage young Ukrainian professionals living abroad to return and contribute to the country's public sector. Inspired by Lithuania's Create Lithuania programme, this initiative seeks to foster Ukraine's recovery and advance its European integration efforts.

In partnership with Ukraine's Ministry of Economy, the pilot phase of the programme was launched in 2024, bringing back ten young professionals to work in Ukraine. This stage was funded by the European Union's EU4Youth programme and Lithuania's Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund, which contributed €50,000. The programme is set to expand in 2025, with plans to involve more institutions and participants. It is estimated that approximately 300 young professionals will return to Ukraine between 2025 and 2027.

The second major initiative involves the renovation and revitalization of the Zeleny Hai School in the Mykolaiv region. With a total budget of €2.7 million—half of which (€1.35 million) was provided by Taiwan – the project is being implemented by the Central Project Management Agency (CPVA) in cooperation with the NGO Ukraine Resilience.

The project envisions the construction of modular school facilities and a fully equipped underground shelter. These spaces will be furnished with modern furniture, smart boards, and computers. The new school will cover 2,000 square meters and include a shelter capable of accommodating up to 200 people. Community engagement is a key component of this 15-month project, which also plans to establish a Social Cohesion Center to strengthen local ties.

Another flagship initiative launched in 2024 is the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme of Wounded and War Victims in Ukraine, with a total value of €15 million. The programme includes the renovation of the spinal cord rehabilitation center at Dnipro State University Hospital, the reconstruction of a division of the Unbroken Rehabilitation Center in Briukhovychi (near Lviv), the strengthening of service providers working in rehabilitation and reintegration, and the refurbishment of the Zhytomyr Rehabilitation Center. This comprehensive programme aims to provide long-term support for individuals recovering from war-related trauma.

At the end of 2024, the Government of Lithuania allocated €5 million for a solar energy programme targeting Ukrainian schools and hospitals. Based on priorities identified by Ukrainian authorities, 20 institutions will be equipped with solar panels, inverters, and energy storage systems. These installations

will ensure that the buildings can operate independently of the central power grid. Implementation is scheduled to begin in June 2025.

In addition, the Embassy of Lithuania in Ukraine funded two healthcare-focused projects under the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme, with a total budget of €100,000. These projects provided prosthetics services for individuals injured in the war, as well as specialized care and emotional support for affected women and children.

Our organization, **Refectio**, is based in **Cherkasy**, the heart of Ukraine. Since the beginning of the war, we have been working with displaced people. From the start, we faced major challenges: a lack of trained volunteers, limited resources, and few connections. At times, we felt alone – unsure how to be more effective or how to grow in our mission, which is to help at least one million Ukrainians suffering from the consequences of the war.

Several things have made a meaningful difference. First and foremost, knowing that someone cares and is willing to support us has been incredibly encouraging. Secondly, the training in **resilience and trauma care** has been transformational. And last – but certainly not least – the financial support we received allowed us to hire qualified psychologists and offer both online and offline training sessions on **Trauma Care, Self-Care, Loss and Grief, and PTSD**.

We were also able to visit villages and support communities in remote areas. In addition, we acquired resources for **Emotional Intelligence groups** designed for displaced children and the children of military families.

As Ukrainians, it is vital for us to continue working – and to know that we are supported by other countries. With each day's news, hope can fade and strength can dwindle, but projects like this give us the wings to fly again.



Kateryna Bute, Medical Psychologist, Founder and Director of the NGO Refectio, Ukraine

Moldova

In 2024, Lithuania continued its active engagement in development cooperation with Moldova, focusing on strengthening Moldova's institutional capacity in the context of European integration, empowering civil society and independent media, countering disinformation, and addressing climate change and environmental sustainability.

Four bilateral projects were implemented with funding from the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme. Disinformation-related initiatives included media monitoring during the pre-election and election periods, a policy review of Moldova's information landscape, and expert participation in radio and television programmes focused on building resilience to disinformation. Capacity-building support for non-governmental organizations also continued, alongside analytical reporting on the country's security environment and disinformation trends.

As part of public awareness efforts, journalistic video content was produced in Russian, and short informational clips in Romanian were shared across social media platforms. These addressed key national topics such as Gagauzia, the EU referendum, and NATO/EU support – reaching a combined audience of more than 1.4 million viewers.

Efforts to strengthen historical awareness and societal resilience to propaganda were also advanced through historical memory projects. Collaborating with Moldovan universities, academics, and civil society organizations, Lithuania supported international conferences, roundtable discussions, exhibitions, and interviews with survivors of political repressions. Academic studies were published, and teacher training sessions were held under a Ministry of Education-approved programme, aimed at enhancing civic education and raising awareness of crimes committed by totalitarian and authoritarian regimes.

Lithuania also provided expert assistance to Moldova's Ministry of Environment in preparing a national Deposit Return System implementation plan and drafting guidelines for selecting the system's administrator. The ongoing dialogue between environmental authorities and the business sector facilitated the sharing of Lithuania's practical experience in building a sustainable beverage packaging management system.

In parallel, four new bilateral projects were launched in 2024 with support from the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund. These included training programmes and study visits to Vilnius for representatives of Moldova's Customs Service, Public Procurement Agency, and other governmental institutions, offering insights into Lithuania's EU integration journey. Lithuanian experts also worked with Moldova's Centre for Strategic Communication and Countering Disinformation, providing training on hybrid threats, information manipulation, and foreign interference (FIMI).

Although I work on countering foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) daily, there are still many new nuances to uncover. Often, when we are immersed in multiple tasks, we forget to pause and reflect – to assess whether we might be overlooking something important. For our entire team from Moldova, this project has been incredibly valuable. We represent a multi-institutional group that is, in practice, the future task force for countering FIMI. In that context, having a shared understanding of our goals and methods is absolutely essential.

I especially appreciated the practical components – adapting reports, working with the FIMI Toolkit, and using platforms like OpenCTI. I found it particularly valuable that the methodologies were presented in a flexible and accessible way, allowing even those outside the field to grasp the core of the analytical insights.

Building a shared understanding and integrating best practices is both simple and profoundly complex at the same time. Projects like this one help overcome those barriers – because the challenges posed by FIMI are strikingly similar everywhere.

Tudor Capatana, analyst at the Center for Strategic Communication and Countering Disinformation, Republic of Moldova

Georgia

In 2024, Lithuania continued to provide consistent support for development in Georgia, with a strong focus on fostering partnerships between Lithuanian and Georgian municipalities, enhancing public awareness of European values, sharing expertise in building resilience to disinformation, and promoting independent media and equal opportunities.



European Days Event, Georgia

With funding from the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme, four bilateral projects were implemented over the year. As part of efforts to promote European values, a European Days event was held for students and young people in the Lanchkhuti region. A publication was also produced, highlighting education and employment programmes offered through the European Union.

To promote greater public participation and encourage individuals to take initiative and ownership of their country's future, a civic engagement seminar was held in the Bakhmaro region. Participants exchanged experiences on mobilizing communities for civic action and fostering a culture of open dialogue and respect for differing opinions.

In the Saguramo and Zugdidi regions, Lithuanian experts shared knowledge and best practices in advancing equal opportunities. Parents and caregivers of children with special needs, along with professionals working in early childhood development, received consultations on modern therapeutic approaches. More than 100 preschool educators, two therapists, two early childhood specialists, and 18 professionals from weekly care centers for children with disabilities were trained. Parents also received guidance on recognizing early developmental disorders and accessing necessary services in a timely manner.

In the Gali region of occupied Abkhazia, efforts were made to strengthen youth resilience to Russian disinformation, particularly narratives aimed at undermining Georgia's European aspirations. Drawing on the experience of Lithuania and the Baltic States, training sessions were held on identifying disinformation about the EU and NATO, media literacy, fact-checking, and tools for visualizing information. These skills are now being applied in the creation of content that actively debunks Russian propaganda.

With funding from the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund, Lithuania supported cooperation between the municipalities of Plungė (Lithuania) and Kvareli (Georgia), aiming to strengthen ties between public, private, and civil society sectors. A new project was launched to enhance the resilience of communities in Georgia's conflict-affected areas and ethnic minority regions to disinformation and hybrid threats.

Additionally, four regional projects funded by the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund continued in the EU's Eastern Partnership countries. These projects focused on agriculture, fire safety, and building societal resilience to disinformation. Lithuanian experts provided institutional support and training to enhance sectoral capacities. One of these projects was successfully completed in 2024.

Armenia

Lithuania has continued its consistent support for Armenia in implementing the provisions of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the European Union, particularly in the area of public sector reform. In 2024, Lithuania provided assistance in the fields of good governance, environmental protection, and strengthening resilience to disinformation. Lithuanian expertise is highly valued in Armenia – our specialists' experience in reforming transport safety, law enforcement, and security systems is being applied at the national level.

Three bilateral projects were implemented in 2024 with funding from the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme. These projects focused on enhancing the resilience of Armenian civil society and media to disinformation and hybrid threats, involving civil servants at central, regional, and local levels. Practical workshops on narrative building and persuasive communication techniques were held in Yerevan, Gyumri (Shirak region), and Kapan (Syunik region). Participants – including representatives of various ministries and government agencies – developed skills in cybersecurity, digital literacy, and media literacy. Awareness of disinformation tactics was strengthened, as were individual and institutional capacities to resist false information. Additional training sessions in media literacy and fact-checking were held in Yerevan, Vanadzor, and Goris, with efforts to enhance the ability of local media to produce verified, factual content.

In the area of environmental protection, a project was implemented in Armenia's border Syunik region, attracting around 200 active members of local youth communities. Local media played an important role in publicizing youth-led environmental initiatives such as clean-up campaigns, tree planting, and the installation of waste bins – contributing to the restoration of green areas.

In 2024, a new project funded by the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund was launched to strengthen the capacities of displaced persons and refugees of Armenian origin from Nagorno-Karabakh. The initiative aims to empower them to actively engage in civil society and contribute to long-term peacebuilding and community resilience.

Additionally, in line with CEPA priorities, the Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration completed a project focused on improving transport safety in Armenia. Lithuanian experts provided recommendations for enhancing road, rail, and air transport safety management systems.

As part of Lithuania's support for law enforcement and security sector reforms in Armenia, we continued providing national co-financing for a three-year EU-funded project. Lithuania contributed expert assistance in the modernization of policing, border control, and migration flow management. Expert-level meetings with relevant institutional representatives were held in both Yerevan and Vilnius.

The People of Belarus

Lithuania continues to provide consistent support to the people of Belarus in their struggle for democratic change, as well as to the European Humanities University (EHU), based in Vilnius.

In 2024, Lithuania completed the implementation of a two-year project funded by the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund titled "Independent Belarusian Cinema: A Revival." The project supported the creation and development of VODBLISK, a new online database and streaming platform for independent Belarusian films. The platform aims to promote Belarusian cinema and its film industry as a vital contribution to preserving national identity. A total of 38 films by 20 directors were presented on the platform, accompanied by screenings in Vilnius and Tallinn and meetings with the filmmakers. An additional

12 independent Belarusian films were screened on the online platform and YouTube channel of Belarus's Northern Lights FF.

In 2024, Lithuania continued its support for the European Humanities University in Vilnius. The university received an annual contribution of €200,000 through the EHU Trust Fund, while students and faculty were granted free visas. EHU was also provided with rent-free facilities in Vilnius's Old Town. The university ensures not only access to quality higher education but also fosters leadership skills, critical thinking, and active citizenship among its students.

As of autumn 2024, EHU had 1,090 enrolled students, 77% of whom were citizens of Belarus. The broader university community includes students from Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Moldova, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and ten other countries. Ukrainian citizens currently make up 5% of the student body. In 2024, 167 students graduated from EHU, bringing the total number of graduates since the university's relocation to Vilnius to 3,130.



Graduates of European Humanities University, Vilnius

Civil society

In line with Lithuania's 2022–2025 development cooperation strategic priorities, significant attention has been devoted to strengthening civil society and building capacities in strategic communication and countering disinformation.

In 2024, four bilateral projects funded through the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme were implemented – one in Armenia, one in Georgia, and two in Moldova. These projects focused on enhancing public resilience and the capacity to counter harmful disinformation, as well as developing strategic communication skills.

Additionally, two regional projects aimed at strengthening resilience to disinformation in the EU's Eastern Partnership countries were launched in 2024 with funding from the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund. These projects focused on supporting independent media.

The project “Challenges of Modern Disinformation in the Context of Occupation” aimed to equip journalists and the wider public in Ukraine, Georgia, and Armenia with the skills to identify reliable sources, build accurate narratives, detect disinformation, and prevent its spread.

The second regional project aimed to strengthen both disinformation resilience and strategic communication capacity, while reinforcing the dissemination of independent information across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine.

Addressing the root causes of irregular migration

In line with the 2022–2025 strategic objective of Lithuania's development cooperation policy – to address the root causes of irregular migration – projects have been implemented in areas such as sustainable economic development (including digitalisation and cybersecurity), vocational education, and youth employment creation.

In 2024, four new projects were launched in Kenya with funding from the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund. Additionally, two ongoing projects in Iraq, and one each in Uzbekistan and Palestine, continued during the year.

Ten more projects were implemented with support from the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme: two each in Egypt and Indonesia, and one each in Bhutan, India, Palestine, Turkey, South Africa, and Vietnam.

Lithuania's cooperation with Kenya was further strengthened in 2024 with the launch of four new initiatives focused on gender equality, women's and youth empowerment, and entrepreneurship promotion. Through these efforts, both countries contribute to shared goals in sustainable development, innovation, and economic growth.

Our challenge was focused on supporting Kenyan ClimateTech startups to succeed by providing investment readiness programmes and support with business development. Thanks to the support provided by LTAID, we successfully achieved this objective, offering direct assistance to 10 ClimateTech startups.

Another ambition was to strengthen innovation ties between Lithuania and Kenya. This was successfully realized through the participation of a Kenyan startup delegation at Startup Fair Lithuania, the country's leading startup event.

One of the most impactful aspects of the project was the opportunity to support amazing African entrepreneurs who are addressing climate challenges while creating new job opportunities.

We are grateful for this opportunity and want to thank LTAID. We are in love with Lithuania and the Baltic region. It's been great to engage with the different ecosystems in Lithuania and we are impressed by the openness we have received from public and private sector players. Kenya can learn a lot from Lithuania. Especially considering Lithuania used to be a developing country and how fast things can change.



Jonas Tesfu, CEO of Pangea Accelerator, Kenya

In Palestine and South Africa, Lithuanian-supported projects focused on community empowerment, economic growth, the development of entrepreneurial skills among women and girls, and reducing social inequality. The project “WomenForge: Women’s Career Accelerator in Technology in Palestine” delivered intensive, hands-on training in technology, digital marketing, and entrepreneurship. Its goal was to close critical skills gaps and expand employment opportunities for Palestinian women in the digital economy.

In South Africa, the project “Talent Group Development for Youth in High-Potential Technologies” aimed to enhance employment opportunities in the tech sector for youth from vulnerable communities, with a particular emphasis on young women.

In Iraq, two ongoing projects continued in 2024. Their objective was to improve the employment prospects of Iraqi youth, modernize vocational education, and establish partnerships between Iraqi and Lithuanian institutions in talent development – particularly within the digital economy.

In Uzbekistan, Lithuania Sports University shared its expertise by organizing and conducting remote sports studies in collaboration with Uzbekistan's University of Physical Education and Sport. The initiative introduced doctoral students and early-career researchers to academic processes and helped them acquire the competencies and skills needed to conduct independent research and publish scientific articles.

In Turkey, a project addressing renewable energy and climate change was implemented, reinforcing Lithuania's role as an active partner in these critical areas. The project helped establish new links between Lithuanian and Turkish municipalities and experts, while also promoting Lithuania's image as a credible contributor to global climate and energy solutions.

Women's rights and equal opportunities

One of the strategic priorities of Lithuania's Development Cooperation Policy for 2022–2025 is the implementation of programmes and projects that promote gender equality. This focus is aligned with the Law on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Lithuania, as well as the EU's Third Gender Action Plan (GAP III) for 2021–2025.

In 2024, Lithuania supported eight gender-focused projects: two in Indonesia, and one each in Ukraine, Palestine, South Africa, Egypt, Vietnam, and India.

In Ukraine, the project focused on improving the mental health of women and children affected by the war and living in refugee shelters. It also provided psychological support to women who had experienced violence.

In Palestine, South Africa, and Egypt, the projects aimed to enhance women's employment opportunities by equipping them with digital skills needed in the modern labour market.

In Indonesia, the initiatives supported women's economic empowerment through the preservation of traditional crafts, the development of eco-tourism, and the promotion of informal education.

In Vietnam, the project focused on developing economically viable and sustainable waste collection models and improving working conditions for women engaged in the recycling sector.

In India, the project aimed to strengthen women's digital literacy in the field of cybersecurity and empower them to apply artificial intelligence solutions in their businesses.

Digitalisation projects

In 2024, three digitalisation projects were funded through the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund – two in Kenya and one in Moldova. The projects supported the Kenyan government's efforts to digitalise public services more effectively, improve service accessibility, and build institutional capacity for the adoption of modern public administration technologies. In Moldova, assistance was provided to the Public Procurement Agency in implementing the centralization and digitalisation of public procurement processes.

Additionally, five digitalisation-focused projects were supported in 2024 under the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme: two in Egypt, and one each in India, Palestine, and South Africa.

Before the project, I was struggling to find practical, real-world experiences in the data field. While I had academic knowledge in data analytics, I lacked exposure to how international organizations approach data problems, use advanced tools, or collaborate across borders. Access to mentorship, advanced learning opportunities, and real tech community engagement was also limited in my region.

„Digital Explorers“ project became a turning point for me. It provided both structure and inspiration. I gained hands-on experience in data-driven projects, connected with international mentors, and learned how to apply global standards to local problems. The Digital Explorers initiative introduced me to new tools, better practices in project management, and helped me build confidence in my skills.

Thank you for believing in young talents from Iraq. This opportunity changes not just careers, but also mindsets. I hope to give back in the future – maybe by mentoring new participants or helping scale the initiative further in Kurdistan and other regions.



Sarwan, Data Analyst / ICT Engineering Student, Erbil, Iraq

EU and global development cooperation policy making

In 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania ensured continued and effective engagement in the formulation and implementation of a development cooperation policy aligned with national interests at the international, EU, and bilateral levels. Through these efforts, Lithuania further strengthened its image as a responsible and reliable donor country.

Within the EU Foreign Affairs Council, Lithuania actively raised the issue of support for Ukraine, contributing to the adoption of the Ukraine Recovery and Reconstruction Plan. This plan enabled the launch of regular disbursements under the Ukraine Facility – a €50 billion EU financial assistance instrument designed to support Ukraine's recovery, modernization, and reform agenda for 2024–2027. The facility, consisting of both grants and loans, provides stable and predictable funding tailored to the needs of a country living under the conditions of war.

At the European Union level, Lithuania also took an active role in discussions on the EU's engagement in development cooperation in fragile contexts, the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy, and responses to the humanitarian situation in Palestine.

European Union programmes

In 2024, Lithuania continued its successful participation in the European Union Twinning Programme, providing expert assistance to partner countries and strengthening its position as one of the leading EU Member States in Twinning project implementation.

Lithuanian institutions, in cooperation with international partners, took part in 15 Twinning project calls and were awarded 7 new projects with a total value of €11.45 million. Lithuanian experts will contribute to Twinning initiatives in Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, and Ethiopia, working in sectors such as healthcare, competition policy, environmental protection, financial supervision, food safety, education, and sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

In Serbia, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan, Lithuanian institutions are implementing projects independently. In Moldova, Ukraine, and Ethiopia, projects are being delivered through consortia with partners from Finland, Sweden, Romania, Poland, Spain, and Germany.

Lithuania's continued success in Twinning project competitions confirms the strong international reputation of its experts, who are recognized as reliable and highly competent partners.

Lithuania also actively participated in the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) in 2024, which serves as a platform for maintaining and initiating inter-institutional partnerships and laying the groundwork for long-term cooperation. Over 70 Lithuanian experts took part in TAIEX activities in 2024. The most active institutions included the Special Investigation Service, Communications Regulatory Authority, Customs and Police Departments, State Consumer Rights Protection Authority, State Border Guard Service, State Food and Veterinary Service, Prosecutor General's Office, Bank of Lithuania, and the Transport Safety Administration.

These experts participated in and facilitated over 50 study visits and training seminars across the EU's Eastern Partnership countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia), the Western Balkans (Kosovo, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro), and in countries such as Kazakhstan, Morocco, Lebanon, Guyana, Namibia, and Barbados.

Additionally, 17 inbound study visits were organized in Lithuania for experts from Ukraine, Moldova, North Macedonia, Barbados, Guyana, Serbia, Montenegro, and Georgia, offering direct engagement and knowledge-sharing between institutions.

Multilateral development assistance

In line with its international commitments and in support of global efforts to reduce poverty, strengthen the resilience of partner countries and vulnerable populations, and promote democratic values, gender equality, human rights, and media freedom, Lithuania continued to provide multilateral development assistance in 2024. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed to these goals through voluntary contributions and payments to international organizations and development cooperation funds that implement or coordinate such efforts.

In 2024, under the Ministry's strategic programme "Enhancing Lithuania's Engagement in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Partner Countries," Lithuania allocated €1.012 million for voluntary contributions.

Funding supported thematic, regional, and country-specific programmes managed by the OECD, OSCE, United Nations agencies, and other international organizations. The largest contributions were made to the Democracy Support Fund (€270,000) and the Trust Fund of the European Humanities University (€200,000). Voluntary contributions to Ukraine-related programmes increased by nearly 20 percent, reflecting Lithuania's continued commitment to supporting Ukraine amid ongoing challenges.

Voluntary contributions	Amount, in thousands EUR
OECD Development Assistance Committee	50
OECD Ukraine Country Programme	100
OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme, Moldova Action Plan	30
OECD DIS/MIS Resource Hub	30
OECD Development Communication Network	10
Democracy Support Foundation	270
European Humanities University Trust Fund	200
OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Ukraine Human Rights Monitoring Initiative	20
OSCE Support Programme for Ukraine	30
UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine	25
UN Women	10
UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund	20
UNESCO Global Media Defence Fund	10
UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication	20
UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	40
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	20
WTO Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund	20
Asia-Europe Foundation	22
European Endowment for Democracy	50
Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine	20
Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures	15
Total	1 012

Humanitarian aid

In 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania allocated €1.22 million for humanitarian assistance, including €100,000 from the Government Reserve Fund. The funds were distributed under the Ministry's strategic action plan measure "Enhancing Lithuania's Engagement in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Partner Countries."

Humanitarian aid was provided to Armenia, the Valencia region in Spain (in response to flooding), Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Sudan, Taiwan, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

In response to growing global humanitarian needs and in line with EU recommendations on quality funding, Lithuania increased its unearmarked contributions to United Nations and Red Cross crisis response centers, which reached €0.45 million in 2024. However, this amount remains below the 2021 level of €0.55 million.

The total humanitarian assistance budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (excluding funding from the Government Reserve Fund) decreased by 2.6% compared to 2023.

Humanitarian aid from the MFA Strategic Plan Measure “Strengthening Lithuania’s Participation in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Partner Countries”	Amount, in thousands EUR
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), humanitarian aid to Sudan	50
Humanitarian aid to Taiwan affected by the earthquake	50
Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF), humanitarian aid to Ukraine	200
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), humanitarian aid for Palestinian refugees	100
World Health Organisation (WHO), humanitarian aid in Lebanon	50
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), 2025 activities	100
World Food Organisation (WFP)	100
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	100
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), humanitarian aid to Vietnam	50
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	50
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2025 activities	100
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Emergency Shelter and Housing Programme in Ukraine	100
Humanitarian aid to the Region of Valencia affected by floods	20
International Organization for Migration (IOM), humanitarian aid in Syria	50
Humanitarian aid from the Government Reserve Fund	
Humanitarian aid to the Republic of Armenia affected by floods (the Government Reserve Fund, Government of the Republic of Lithuania)	100
Iš viso	1220
Humanitarian aid from the Government Reserve Fund	100

Public awareness and outreach

In 2024, Lithuania's development cooperation efforts were actively communicated through various channels and formats, including press releases, public information campaigns, and social media engagement. The overarching goal was to raise awareness about Lithuania's contribution to global development and to encourage greater civic involvement.

Through collaboration with civil society organizations and grassroots initiatives, development cooperation projects – particularly those focused on environmental protection and climate change mitigation – were highlighted during the National Environmental Exam campaign, reaching a broad public audience. The International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival “Inconvenient Films” also emphasized the importance of development cooperation, Lithuania's support to Ukraine, and the critical role of humanitarian aid in times of war.

Public opinion surveys revealed a high level of support: 96% of Lithuanian residents expressed a positive view of the country's humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. These results confirm not only a strong public understanding of development cooperation but also widespread support for Lithuania's active engagement in the international community.

Engaging business in development cooperation: Unlocking the potential of green innovation



Through the “Create Lithuania” initiative, the 2024 project “Expanding Green Innovation Abroad through Development Cooperation Instruments” explored how innovative solutions and technologies developed by Lithuanian businesses could be applied to address climate change and environmental challenges in partner countries.

As part of the project, more than 20 Lithuanian business innovations were selected and featured in a Green Solutions Catalogue – a digital tool in English designed to present Lithuania's innovative contributions to international partners, organizations, and donors.

The catalogue showcases how Lithuanian businesses can support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in areas such as climate change mitigation, circular economy, pollution reduction, and sustainable energy solutions.

This initiative aimed to encourage Lithuanian companies to scale up their green innovations, increase visibility beyond national borders, and foster their integration into programmes financed by international institutions and organizations focused on sustainable development in partner countries.

Enhancing the effectiveness of development cooperation policy

In 2024, Lithuania continued implementing the project “Strengthening the Lithuanian Development Cooperation Ecosystem: Coherence, Partnerships, Impact,” aimed at improving policy coherence, building sustainable international partnerships, and introducing new tools to engage the private sector and civil society. The project, carried out with the support of OECD experts, also fostered closer cooperation with other international donors.

As part of this initiative, OECD experts prepared a diagnostic report and delivered 16 recommendations across five key areas: policy coherence, engagement of the private sector and civil society, cooperation with other donors, monitoring and evaluation, and results-based management.

Based on these recommendations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs developed an action plan, which was approved by the National Development Cooperation Commission. The plan is set to be implemented starting in 2025, with several recommendations already underway – for example, the development of guidelines for Lithuania’s engagement in Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction.