



2011  
LITHUANIAN DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION

# 2011 LITHUANIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Having acceded to the European Union and becoming a member of the international donor community, Lithuania is successfully sharing its experiences in democratic and economic reforms and building of a civil society with developing countries in need.

Lithuania began providing assistance to other countries a decade ago. It was then confined to several projects in Belarus and Ukraine. Today, Lithuania implements an active and fairly extensive development cooperation programme that is reasonably regarded as an important part of foreign policy of the state.

In 2011 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the implementation of Lithuania's Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme, has funded 116 projects in development cooperation, mainly in good governance, economic and social development, education, women's social participation and other areas.

Given the political realities, our priorities in 2011 were focused on Belarus, we continued support to the Afghanistan's Ghor province, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

We worked together with the public – the majority of Lithuania's development cooperation projects were implemented by Lithuanian non-governmental organizations.

Today, Lithuania's development cooperation activities are carried out not only in culturally and historically neighbouring countries. In 2011 Lithuania has paid its first contribution to the European Development Fund to support African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. By contributing to the EU budget Lithuania also supports South American, Asian and Middle East countries.

In recent years, decreasing funding for the Lithuanian development cooperation is compensated with active diplomatic efforts to attract foreign donor support for the Lithuanian projects. Despite the relatively small budget, our international partners appreciate our development cooperation projects and recognize Lithuania as a responsible and reliable member of the international community.

AUDRONIUS AŽUBALIS  
Lithuania's Minister of Foreign Affairs

Lithuania's development cooperation policy is an integral part of the foreign policy which aims to help developing countries fight poverty and to guarantee that those countries respect human rights, ensure gender equality, the rule of law and good governance.

In 2011, the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued its activities in several areas: prepared new and improved the existing Lithuanian development cooperation legislation, implemented the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme, provided humanitarian assistance and co-ordinated the European Union's Twinning Programme.

## I. LEGAL BASE

While performing the provisions of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania for the year 2008-2012, Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Department has developed a concept of the Law on Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance of the Republic of Lithuania, based on which a relevant law is currently being drafted.

With a focus of more transparent and effective implementation of the development cooperation programme, in 2011, a new version of the Description of Procedures for Implementation of the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion was prepared.

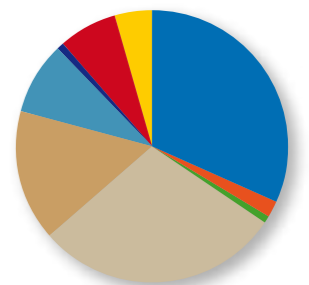
## II. LITHUANIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS

In 2011, 116 projects worth more than EUR 1.5 million were carried out within the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme. Of them, 59 projects (EUR 0.5 million) were administered by the Lithuanian diplomatic missions in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

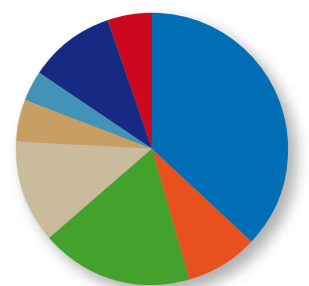
Due to active diplomatic efforts, Lithuania's development cooperation projects succeeded in attracting the financial support of the European Union, the United States, Japan, and Greece.

More than 70 % of development cooperation projects were implemented by the Lithuanian and foreign non-governmental organizations (hereinafter the NGOs).

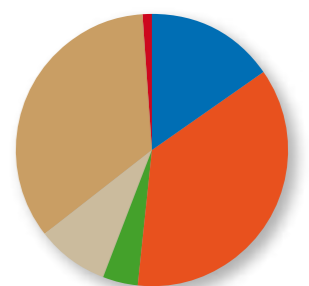
### PROJECTS BY COUNTRIES:



### PROJECTS BY PRIORITY SECTORS:



### PROJECTS BY IMPLEMENTERS:





# GHOR PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN

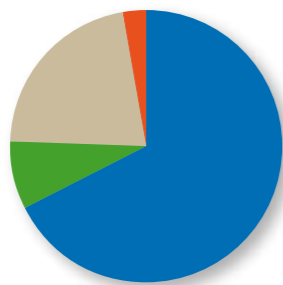


In preparation for the transfer of responsibility for security and development to the Government of Afghanistan, Lithuania expanded the cooperation with the Afghan authorities and international partners. It continued the most important projects: the reconstruction of the city hospital of the capital city of Ghor province Chaghcharan was carried on, the newly constructed modern Chaghcharan airport runway was launched, the feasibility study of which was funded by Lithuania and the reconstruction was initiated through the Lithuanian diplomatic efforts. Through the projects in the institutional capacity building, agriculture, health and social care sectors, Lithuania, together with its partners sought to create conditions for the smooth functioning of local government.

In 2011, a total of 37 projects worth EUR 0,58 million were implemented in Afghanistan's Ghor province. 30 of them were administered by the Special Mission of the Republic of Lithuania in Afghanistan.

PROJECTS BY AREAS (AS A PERCENTAGE BY AMOUNTS) INDICATING A NUMBER OF PROJECTS

- Support for economic and social development, health and education (25)
- Support for rural development (3)
- Support for good governance, strengthening of administrative and local NGO capacity (8)
- Promotion of women's social activity (1)



## Support for economic and social development, health and education

In 2011, most of Lithuania's development cooperation projects in Afghanistan (25 projects worth more than EUR 0,46 million)



were implemented to support the economic and social development, health and education of the country's Ghor province.

### ■ Reconstruction of the Ghor provincial hospital

A ceremony marking the beginning of the reconstruction of the Ghor provincial hospital was held on 4 July 2011 during the visit of Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius. Preparations for the reconstruction of Chaghcharan hospital began at the initiative of Lithuania: stock-taking of the hospital was conducted and a feasibility study of a three-stage reconstruction was prepared. Partners were found: Greece, Japan, and the United States contributed to the project. Up to date, Lithuania has allocated more than EUR 0,53 million for the reconstruction work. Reconstruction should be completed by 2014.

### ■ Ghor infrastructure projects prepared by the Lithuanian engineer

An engineer, delegated to the Lithuanian-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Ghor has developed the infrastructure



projects and submitted them for financing from the funds of the U.S. Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP). Working in conjunction with an international team of American officials the engineer assisted in attracting foreign donor funds to the province and has equally advised on the implementation of other large Lithuanian projects – the reconstruction of the provincial hospital.

### ■ Lithuanian doctors advised physicians and patients of Ghor

In 2011, projects aiming at strengthening of the protection of health and improvement of medical qualifications, especially in



the most disadvantaged areas such as children and women's health care, were continued. Two Lithuanian physicians worked in Chaghcharan hospital, advised local doctors and patients, delivered lectures for the medical staff on the topics of obstetrics-gynaecology and paediatric treatment.

## Support for rural development

### ■ Assistance to increase the efficiency in agriculture in Ghor

A project aiming at the capacity building of agriculture and irrigation specialists, Chaghcharan Agricultural School specialists and students and provincial farmers in raising crops, livestock and veterinary fields has been carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania. Specialists from the Ministry of



Agriculture, the State Food and Veterinary Office, the Institute of Agriculture of the Lithuanian Centre of Agrarian and Forest Sciences paid a visit to the counterparts of the province and delivered lectures on advanced technologies in crop production, carried out soil surveys of the province, handed over small agricultural equipment. Veterinary specialists of Ghor province were trained in animal disease monitoring, disease control and prevention.

### ■ Contribution to the Ghor veterinary service

In July 2011, the public institution Baltic Institute of Agribusiness conducted an educational visit of four Afghan veterinary service staff members to Lithuania, during which Afghan experts were introduced to the Lithuanian general food and veterinary control system that could become a model for the Afghan veterinary control system.





### Support for good governance by strengthening of local administrative and NGO capacity

#### ■ Capacity building of administration and non-governmental organizations in Ghor

The public institution Eastern Europe Studies Centre carried out a training for the representatives of Ghor administration and NGOs in Chaghcharan, and developed project applications for potential international donor funding. It held a strategic planning workshop for the Ghor administration and NGO representatives, held meetings with the EU Delegation, USAID and the representatives of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan.

#### ■ The Ghor province development conference



At the Lithuanian initiative, development conference inviting delegations from all the administrative districts of the province was held in Chaghcharan on 12 September 2011. During the conference the provincial development plan for the years 2012-2013 was prepared. The conference was attracted more than 230 participants.

### Promotion of women's social activity

#### ■ Literacy courses for women

A project teaching Afghan women to read and write was carried out by the Afghan NGO Whatan youth educational and cultural association. 100 women were trained in four villages of the district of Chaghcharan (Miangi, Khajaghar, Nadia and Katacheshma) to read and write in the issues of hygiene and child care.



## BELARUS



In Belarus, Lithuania supported projects promoting the country's democratic movements (especially youth initiatives), independent education (EHU), common historical and cultural heritage, institutional capacity building, country's regional development, environmental protection and climate change.

#### ■ Support for the European Humanities University (EHU)

Support for the EHU has been provided from its inception in Vilnius in 2006. Having started with 649 students, today university provides education to more than 2000 students.

In the beginning of 2011, thanks to the Lithuanian efforts a reference to the opening of the EU to Belarus citizens was added to the EU Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions. This has allowed the ordinary Belarus people enter the EU easier and cheaper. About 30 % of Schengen visas issued by the Lithuanian diplomatic missions in Belarus for the citizens of this country were free of charge.

EHU students joined the Nations Fair held in Vilnius in September 2011, where they presented the Belarusian cuisine and its cultural traditions. In the discussion held by the Lithuanian Cultural Centre of Europe in Germany, "Towards Democracy: Effective Assistance of Diaspora" EHU students gained experience from the Lithuanian emigrants.

In 2011, a number of international non-governmental organizations were established in Vilnius. In June, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (hereinafter the MFA), an international non-governmental organization Freedom House opened its branch in Vilnius. In 2012, the U.S. non-governmental organization The National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Pact, Inc. intend to move their offices from Kiev to Vilnius. All of these initiatives are a signal that the international community appreciates and values Lithuania for its merits in the field of democracy building and consider it as one of the strongest support centres for the democratization in Belarus.



In 2011, a total of 34 projects worth about EUR 0,5 million were implemented in Belarus, 9 of them were administered by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Belarus.

#### ■ Belarusian youth studying abroad

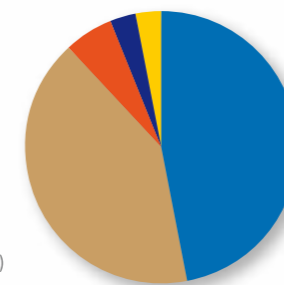
We should mention a very successful project USB Rally financed by the MFA. Already in its fifth year, the project is carried out by the public institution East European Studies Centre and aims at bringing together Belarusian students in exile through an annual congress in Vilnius which has become a popular event and a beautiful tradition.

Lithuanian projects with Belarusian students have also moved to other European countries: the February 16th Gymnasium in Germany held a conference "Towards Democracy: Effective Assistance of Diaspora".



### PROJECTS BY AREAS (AS A PERCENTAGE BY AMOUNTS) INDICATING A NUMBER OF PROJECTS

- Support for independent education (EHU), democratic movements, especially youth initiatives (16)
- Support for cherishing and promotion of the common historical and cultural heritage (14)
- Institutional capacity building, by the transfer of EU standards and practices (2)
- Support for regional development (1)
- Support the fight against climate change (1)



### Support for independent education (EHU), democratic movements, and youth initiatives

In 2011, the highest number of Lithuania's development cooperation projects in Belarus (16 projects worth EUR 140 000) were carried out in support of an independent education, democratic movements and youth initiatives.

Belarusian students studying in Lithuania can enjoy their national musicians who are banned in Belarus: Liapis Trubeckoj group, Zmicer Vaitiushkevich and others. These projects encourage young people to join their efforts in cooperation outside the country.

## Promotion of the common historical and cultural heritage

### ■ Lithuanian and Belarusian cultural history links



Rietavas Oginski cultural history museum carried out a project aimed at commemorating the significance of the Oginski historical heritage for cultural and scientific cooperation, as well as for tourism development perspective. The project included an expedition to

Oginski heritage sites, during which direct contacts were built with museum curators of Slonim area. Equally, Lithuanian University of Education held an international scientific conference, as well as round table discussions in Rietavas, Maladechno, Minsk and Vilnius, where the historic heritage resources in Lithuania and Belarus and prospects of future co-operation were discussed.

### ■ Litvak cultural heritage in Belarus

Since 2008, the project carried out by the public institution Jewish Culture and Information Centre continues the scientific research and description of synagogues in the Belarusian and Lithuanian cities. In 2011, a synagogue study group was formed in Belarus and an expedition to Dolginovo town was organized to explore and describe the Jewish monuments of architecture, drafting the synagogue research inventories in Lithuanian and Russian languages, preparing the artistic photography exhibition "Litvak heritage in Belarus".



## Institutional capacity building, by the transfer of EU standards and practices

### ■ Promotion of cooperation in transport sector between Lithuania and Belarus

This project of the Lithuanian Business Confederation was aimed to promote the Lithuanian-Belarus cooperation in the transport sector, transport policy formation and implementation in Belarus.

During the project, the transport and logistics conference "Lithuanian and Belarus Transport Perspectives" was held in Minsk, to consult on the development of transport infrastructure, more throughput capacity of goods and passengers, and the reduction of transportation time. The project included an overview of the Lithuanian and Belarus transport infrastructure.



## Support for the regional development

### ■ Capacity building in the area of mental health

The project implemented by the public institution 'Global Initiative in Psychiatry' was aimed at strengthening the regional capacity of Belarusian non-governmental organizations working in the field of mental health, participating in the mental health policy-making process and promoting a more adequate image of mental health service users created by the media. The project involved the preparation and issue of a publication for the mental health service users, their relatives, the ceremony of public opinion about mental health service users and the media's influence on their image building. The project promoters held training for mental health personnel working in Belarus regional non-governmental organizations and representatives of local media.



## Support for environmental and climate change sectors

### ■ Environment and responsible nuclear power industry

The project organised by the public institution The Academy of Life was aimed at introducing the Belarusian society to environmental problems, especially the threat of Astravas nuclear power plant to both Belarus and Lithuania. During the project two workshops were planned and organised for the Belarusian representatives on the nuclear and environmental issues, an educational trip to Kernavė, participation in the XIII Festival of Experimental Archaeology "Days of Live Archaeology in Kernavė".



# GEORGIA

Having regard to Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations, in Georgia Lithuania has helped strengthening the institutional capacity of regional development, environment, health care and provided support to war-affected population, promoted women's entrepreneurship and social activity.

In 2011, 18 projects worth EUR 140 000 were implemented in Georgia. 10 of them were administered by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Georgia. One of the most successful projects administrated by the Embassy is the joint Lithuanian-Japanese project "Prevention of blindness in premature babies", during which the Lithuanian ophthalmologists performed the first operation of retinopathy in Georgia's history.

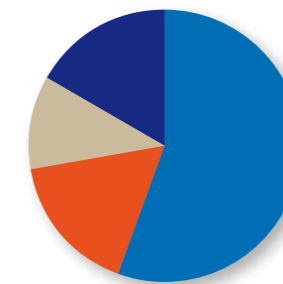
### ■ Cooperation of Alytus and Ozurgeti municipalities

The project implemented by Alytus District Municipality was aimed at creating a common model for the development of peripheral regions and strengthening the cooperation of Alytus and Ozurgeti municipalities. In August 2011, the meeting of the representatives of Alytus and Ozurgeti municipalities was held in Ozurgeti municipality, where the concept of peripheral model of regional development was defined. In September 2011, the meeting of the representatives of Alytus and Ozurgeti municipalities was held in Alytus municipality, where they signed a partnership agreement and an action plan to reduce regional disparities.



PROJECTS BY AREAS (AS A PERCENTAGE BY AMOUNTS) INDICATING A NUMBER OF PROJECTS

- Support for regional development (10)
- Promotion of women's social activity (3)
- Support the fight against climate change (2)
- Support for the war affected people of Georgia (3)



### ■ "Open court" library in Khashuri town

"Open court" library in Khashuri town has been reconstructed by the Lithuanian funds. The goal of this project was to create a public area in the town where residents can use the Internet, read newspapers, and cultural events could be held in summer. In 2011, the NATO information division was established in the library.



## Support for the regional development

In 2011, the major part of the funds of the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion program of Lithuania in Georgia (10 projects, worth EUR 43 500) were designed for the regional development of the country.

## Promotion of women's social activity

### ■ Entrepreneurial training for Georgian women

In 2011, Vilnius University International Business School held an entrepreneurial training for women in Georgia. The three authors of the winning projects came to Lithuania to get acquainted with the Lithuanian women entrepreneurs' experience. The project's aim was to promote the Georgia women's employment and social entrepreneurship, small business creation, reduction of unemployment and poverty levels. The project was very well received by participants and partners in Georgia, at their request, a second phase of the project was held.



### ■ Support for Georgian women writers

The project carried out by the public institution Writers Union Foundation, "Woman's writer's position in the contemporary society" intended to allow the Georgian and Lithuanian writers to interact, discuss and exchange experiences and creative ideas. In August-September 2011, Lithuania organised a creative workshop of Georgian



women prose writers, were the writers made translations of short stories to Lithuanian and Georgian languages. The pleinar ended with a prose reading evening and the public discussion in Palanga town. A bilingual online book Diemedžio Vakarai III was compiled.

## Support the fight against climate change

### ■ Development of alternative energy sources

Georgian Environmental Association Mta-Bari installed bio-gas lines in mountainous Adjara municipalities. They use biomass, animal manure, humus and other waste for the production of energy. The Lithuanian-funded project will help to promote the development of alternative



energy sources in Adjara's rural areas, to protect the environment by reducing the consumption of wood and fossil fuels, and creating an effective waste management system.

### ■ Georgia's youth environmental education on climate change issues

The project implemented by the Lithuanian Children and Youth Centre aimed to educate Georgia's public on the issues of climate change and environment-friendly lifestyle, using an attractive measures to encourage civic initiative. During the implementation of the project a contest of journalistic investigation was organized in Lithuania and Georgia, focusing the attention of young people to everyday habits. During the contest the most active participants were selected and invited to the final stage in Tbilisi, where they created artistic installations on the topics of resource saving, participated in team building and project development training.



## Support for the war affected people of Georgia

### ■ Psychosocial rehabilitation of Georgia's children and their families

The project implemented by the public institution Global initiative in Psychiatry aimed at contributing to sustainable social development and poverty reduction in Georgia, through the development of psychosocial rehabilitation services to children and their families who are victims of war and suffer from mental health problems. The project included training and education for medical staff on the topics of post-traumatic stress recognition and effective assistance to children affected by it. A questionnaire was also prepared to identify the post-traumatic syndrome, and choose the most appropriate ways of coping with it, a study was conducted on the psychosocial needs and mental health problems of children refugees and their families, and based on it the recommendations were prepared on further measures to help individuals affected by post-traumatic stress syndrome.



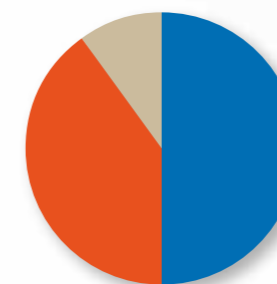
## MOLDOVA

Having regard to Moldova's European integration aspirations, Lithuania helped to strengthen the institutional capacity of the country in the areas of customs, police, regional development and others.

In 2011, a total of 10 projects (worth EUR 43 500) were implemented in Moldova and 5 of them were administered by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Moldova.

PROJECTS BY AREAS (AS A PERCENTAGE BY AMOUNTS) INDICATING A NUMBER OF PROJECTS

- Support for euro-integration ambitions (5)
- Support to civil society (4)
- Support the fight against climate change (1)



## Support for Euro-integration aspirations

In 2011, the largest part of Lithuania's development cooperation programme funds in Moldova (5 projects worth EUR 35 000) was intended to support the country's Euro-integration aspirations.

### ■ Lithuanian customs communicates the institutional experience to Moldova

During the project conducted by the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania, assistance was given to Moldovan customs officials in developing country's national customs regulations governing the customs valuation of goods and improving the control system ensuring the law enforcement.



### ■ Lithuanian experience in organic farming

The project carried out by the Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics aimed to raise skills and abilities of Moldova's certification specialists, upgrade their knowledge in livestock certification issues and to familiarize them with the operational principles of the Lithuanian advisory organic farming system. The project included training of Moldova certification personnel in the certification of livestock and access to the institutions of counselling services in Lithuania on organic farming, their principles of operation, ways of service delivery, and financing options.



## Support the fight against climate change

The joint project supported by the Lithuanian and the U.S. embassies in Moldova and this country's NGO National Environmental Centre aimed to promote awareness of the environmental issues and the rights to the clean environment among public, and promotion of the effective dialogue between the local non-governmental organizations and the Ministry of Environment. The project included training for Moldovan environmental NGOs, a conference, seminars and discussions.





## UKRAINE

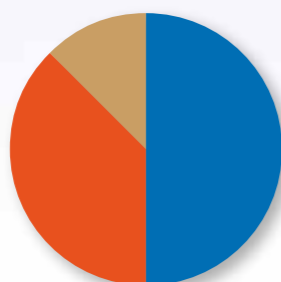


Having regard to Ukraine's European integration aspirations, Lithuania helped to strengthen the country's institutional capacity in the areas of customs, police, women's social participation and others.

In 2011, a total of 8 projects worth EUR 48 000 were implemented in Ukraine. 3 of them were administered by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Ukraine.

PROJECTS BY AREAS (AS A PERCENTAGE BY AMOUNTS) INDICATING A NUMBER OF PROJECTS

- Support for euro-integration ambitions (4)
- Support for the historical and cultural heritage preservation (3)
- Promotion of women's social activity (1)



### Support for Euro-integration aspirations

In 2011, the highest number of the Lithuanian development cooperation projects in Ukraine (4 projects worth EUR 36 000) were implemented to support the country's Euro-integration aspirations.

#### Capacity building of the Ukrainian militia

The project carried out by Telsiai Chief Police Commissariat was aimed at strengthening the managerial capacity of leading police officers, helping to create a mechanism in Simferopol city militia of Crimea Autonomous Republic and in Bakchisaray District Police Department to ensure continuous improvement of the militia organization's activities through the application of quality management systems, models and tools following the model of Telsiai Chief Police Commissariat.



#### Dissemination of the Lithuanian experience in the European integration in Ukraine

The project carried out by the public institution European Integration Studies Centre supported Ukraine's European integration aspirations, by transferring valuable experience of reforms in Lithuania, providing training, studies, through scientific collaboration and dissemination

of expertise in the areas of judicial reform, women's social participation and entrepreneurship, scientific and cultural cooperation. The project included a visit of judicial reform experts of Lviv area to Lithuania to get acquainted with the Lithuanian judicial reform, activities of the courts and the system. In order to preserve the Lithuanian and Ukrainian joint cultural and historical heritage, a scientific symposium was held in Mejiroje presenting the Lithuanian expert studies on Judaic. The expert training for women wishing to create their own businesses or expand the existing business was organised in Donetsk. An international scientific workshop including the discussion on issues of reduction of ethnic, religious and social tensions in the Crimea was held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (Yalta).



### Promotion of women's social activity

The project carried out by Kaunas University of Technology, Faculty of Social Sciences, was aimed at empowering women in Ukraine who are actively involved in social, educational and scientific activities, to promote a new approach to gender mainstreaming in society through an educational-cultural partnership with the Gender and Science Resource Centre of Kharkov area, and the educational partnership with the Gender Education Centre Kiev Polytechnic Institute of the National University of Technology. During the project, an educational program was created, which will be used as the basis to initiate the development of the Ukrainian network of social women activity, and training was held in Ukraine and in Lithuania.

### Support for the historical and cultural heritage preservation

Publishing house Baltija-Druk in Kiev published an illustrated historical album of Khotyn battle – the battle for Central Europe. This publication issued in the Lithuanian and Ukrainian languages is aimed at contributing to the promotion of the region's historic and cultural heritage common to the entire area of the GDL and its presentation to the general public. The texts for the album were written by historians P. Sas (Ukraine) and G. Kirkiene (Lithuania). The book not only presents the battle at Khotyn, its course and assumptions, but also presents in detail the biographies of the Grand Hetman of the GDL J.K.Chodkevich and the Zaporozhye Hetman Piotr Konoshevich – Sagaidachnyi. As part of the searches for historical documents, the publishing house visited museums in Istanbul, Krakow, and Warsaw's historical archives, Lithuanian and Ukrainian archives and libraries.



## OTHER COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES (ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, PALESTINE)

According to the Guidelines for the implementation of the Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme in 2011, the support for Armenia and Azerbaijan was implemented through diplomatic missions of the Republic of Lithuania. Two projects were implemented in Armenia valued at more than 50 thousand litas. One of these projects was implemented by Kaunas University of Technology. The project has encouraged the involvement of Armenian women in local issues by presenting the Lithuanian local government system, its functions and responsibilities, offering the opportunity to the Armenian municipal representatives to adopt best practices of the Lithuanian colleagues.



The project implemented in Palestine was aimed at expanding the Lithuanian and Palestinian NGO network. During the project, the Palestinian non-governmental organization representatives visited Lithuania, the conference was held in the European Information Centre of the Seimas to discuss the situation of civil society in Palestine, an exhibition of photographs was opened, meetings with the representatives of Palestinian and Arab communities in Lithuania were held.

### III. HUMANITARIAN AID

In 2011, following the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Government reserve allocated EUR 15 000 each to humanitarian aid for earthquake victims in Turkey, and crisis victims in Libya. Also, 34.6 thousand litas from the funds of the Development Co-operation and Democracy Promotion Programme administered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were used to humanitarian aid for Chernobyl.

In 2011, 1 project was implemented in Azerbaijan valued at 25 thousand litas. The project in good governance area was administered by the Lithuanian Embassy in Azerbaijan.



#### IV. OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAM

In 2011, Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Department supported the priority events of the Lithuanian foreign policy, organized conferences, training, public awareness raising events, sponsored publications and book publishing.

- As part of the Lithuanian presidency of the Community of Democracies, an international conference of the Community of Democracies in support of gender equality and women's rights was held on 29 June 2011;



- As part of the Lithuanian presidency of the European Security and Cooperation Organization, an international conference on gender equality and equal opportunities "Making Women's Voices Heard" was held on 5-6 December last year;

- In 2011, 6 public awareness projects of development cooperation were funded. They were implemented by the media and non-governmental organizations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania organized or contributed to the organisation of a variety of awareness events: meeting of the implementers of Lithuania's development cooperation projects, celebration of unity between public and armed forces, the European Development Days.



#### V. EU TWINNING PROGRAMME

In 2009, having taken over the Twinning programme coordination functions from the Government's Cabinet Office, the MFA has been focusing on support to the Lithuanian institutions involved in the Twinning project selection.

In 2011, Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Department for the first time organized the EU Twinning general and targeted training sessions, involving over 150 representatives of the Lithuanian institutions.

In 2011, Lithuanian institutions have won 7 Twinning projects in Armenia, Egypt, Kosovo, Croatia, Serbia and Turkey for more than EUR 7 million. Lithuania has implemented the mentioned projects alone, as a senior partner (with Finland and Hungary) and as a junior partner (with Italy, the Netherlands, France and Germany).

In 2010, eight Twinning projects were won, and in 2009 and 2008 two projects every year.



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