



LITHUANIA

“ A testament to the resilience and determination of the Ukrainian people ”

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Main trends

In 2022, Lithuania's reported ODA doubled from EUR 73 million in 2021 to EUR 162 million in 2022. As a share of GNI, ODA surged from 0.14% of GNI in 2021 to 0.29% in 2022. The unexpected and unplanned surge in Lithuanian aid is explained by the unprecedented support to Ukraine: EUR 45.8 million were allocated to Ukraine, on top of the support for Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania. The support to Ukraine boosted Lithuania's bilateral aid rate from an average of 20% to 60%. This surge, however, is to a large extent, inflated ODA.

In 2022, Lithuania became OECD DAC member and completed the systemic reforms that enabled the launch of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund. To attract private finance to development cooperation activities, the Government started the Investment and Enterprise Guarantee Agency (INVEGA) reform. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs started the implementation of the European Commission funded project "Strengthening Lithuania's development cooperation ecosystem: policy coherence, partnerships, impact". The project will focus on using existing financial instruments or developing new ones, the monitoring and evaluation system, capacity building, and the involvement of the private and non-governmental sectors in development cooperation.

Government's relationship with civil society

On the one hand, the Government is supportive of CSOs, recently opening new possibilities for co-financing international donors' sponsored projects. On the other hand, the systemic reforms in the Lithuanian development cooperation ecosystem are pushing CSOs aside. Development education, awareness raising and civil society building, monitoring and critical assessment of development cooperation policy outcomes - the most typical areas of CSOs activities – are being reduced to a narrow space.

Reported ODA: EUR 162 million
0.29% GNI (↑ from 0.14% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 76 million
0.22% GNI (↑ from 0.13% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 41 million
25.3% of total



The CSOs representatives at the National Development Cooperation Commission and at the Council of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Fund, are singled out alongside numerous representatives of the Government ministries and business sectors. Previous years' active and fruitful encounters between Government and CSOs have not resulted in establishing specific thematic working groups for a constructive dialogue, and CSOs have less influence in policy and decision-making. MFA staff seems to be more interested in partnership with business companies, in large-size infrastructure projects, rather than in enhancing democracy and working systematically with CSOs.

The Lithuanian government should:

- **Ensure that ODA surge in 2022 is not a memorable accident, and keep the level of ODA away from plummeting down in the coming years.**
- **Report separately on In-donor refugee costs and scholarships in Lithuania, keeping it outside of ODA figures.**
- **Stop neglecting the tasks of global education and general public awareness raising about global development cooperation and employ systemic measures for its implementation.**
- **When investing in Ukraine and Belarus - the EU Eastern Partnership Countries -, stick to the principles, standards and aims of liberal democracy and invest more in civil society capacity-building and understanding of the actual political and social developments there.**