Transition of Lithuanian Universities in the Process of Creating of Common HEA in Europe

Dr. Rimantas Vaitkus,
Vice-Rector of Mykolas Romeris University,
Ateities Str. 20, Vilnius, Lithuania
rvaitkus@mruni.lt,
www.mruni.lt
Higher Education and Research Institutions in Lithuania

- State Universities (15)
- Private Universities (6)
- State (16) and Private (11) Colleges
- State Research Institutes (17)
- University Research Institutes (18)
- Other Research Establishments
- Private Business Entities
Universities and Colleges in Lithuania
Profile of Higher Education in Lithuania

- Undergraduate (bachelor degree, professional diploma), duration at least 3 years (120 credits) (for colleges, professional qualification) or at least 3.5 years (140 credits) for Bachelor degree or (and) professional qualification; 1 credit – 40 hours of workload.

- Graduate (master degree, professional diploma – only at universities) (at least 1.5 years, 60 credits). Some undergraduate and graduate programmes might be combined (total duration at least 5 years or 200 credits);

- Doctoral studies (3-4 years) or aspirancy for arts (2 years). Doctoral degree might be awarded only after defending of thesis.
Number of students, 2005 (thousands from total 190,7 thous.)

- State universities: 134,2 (70,4%)
- Non-state universities: 4,3 (2,2%)
- State colleges: 42,1 (22,1%)
- Non-state colleges: 10,1 (5,3%)
State financed students

Universities 79.0 75.1%
College 26.2 24.9%
Total 105.2
Funding of research and studies LT

- Total budget for studies and research exceeds 660 mln. Lt (192 mln. €, 1€ = 3.45 LTL) for universities, 530 mln. LTL comes from the state (in 2005), which is distributed as follows:
  - 57 percent of the total budget – for studies, based on number of students;
  - 20 percent for running costs;
  - 23 percent for research (together with scientific institutes), based on performance.

- Colleges are receiving 120 mln. LTL
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Financing (% of GDP)</th>
<th>State Financing (% of GDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main challenges for universities

☐ Accessibility;
☐ Quality of education;
☐ Effectiveness of management of resources
Measures to increase accessibility

- Wide distribution of the HEI across the country: universities and colleges;
- Flexible studies: three cycle studies were implemented in 1993;
- New modes of studies: distance learning, study on module (credit) accumulation scheme;
- Transparent admission: Admission rules to HEI should be agreed both by HEI and the Ministry;
- Single centralised admission to the one of 20 different study programs (at different universities) from the list (student’s choice);
- State financed places for day-time undergraduate students, 50% are free of charge, others pay fixed fee (500 LTL per semester, rotation);
- Grant and loan scheme for students;
- Fee scheme for evening courses, distance and Master students. Level of fee is approved by the Senate and accepted by the Minister (1500-6000 LTL per year);
- State regulation for the admission number of all students
Students in Lithuania

- non-state financed students at colleges.
- state financed students at colleges
- non-state financed students at universities
- state financed students at universities
Competition per 1 study place

KMU | KTU | KU | LKA | LKKA | LMTA | LVA | LŽU | MRU | ŠU | VDA | VDU | VGTU | VPU | VU | Average
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
1.6 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 2.9 | 1.6
10.8 | 12.7 | 22.1 | 14.8 | 12.4 | 4.8 | 24.0 | 16.2 | 12.1 | 15.1 | 17.6 | 22.4 | 16.2 | first priority | all priorities
Measures to improve the quality of education

- Improvement of human resources;
- Research conducted at HEI;
- Study programmes developed together with main stakeholders;
- Evaluation of study programmes and teaching process (internal and external);
- Investment to HEI;
- Foreign exchange;
- Career guidance for graduates;
Productivity in the field of social sciences in 2004 (points)
Date provided by the Ministry of Education and Science, 2005
Number of publications in foreign journals (ISI) (papers per 1 mln. inhabitants)
Funding by European Social Fund for projects for Master and PhD studies (mln. LTL) 2005-2007

27.2

11.5

7.08

5.05

4.52

2.85

2.24

1.41

1.2

0.807

0.416

0.366

VU

KTU

VDU

MRU

LŽŪ

KMU

ŠU

VDA

VGTU

LV

LKKA

VPU
Quality assurance in Lithuania

- **In 1995**, the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education was established.
- **In 1996**, the Register of Study and Teaching Programmes established, all study programmes of higher education institutions were registered.
- **In 1997**, evaluation of newly introduced study programmes was started on a regular basis (prior registration).
- **In 1999**, expert external assessment of study programmes was started.
- **In 2001**, benchmarking of study branches (63) has started.
- **In 2005**, Rules for Master programmes were adopted.
- **In 2005**, Diploma Supplement was approved.
Assessment of study programmes in Lithuanian HEI (2005)
Funding of Socrates – Erasmus activities in Lithuania, in €

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>EC funding</th>
<th>National funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>166978</td>
<td>13200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1382513</td>
<td>500244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1483516</td>
<td>563816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2462025</td>
<td>577246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2574202</td>
<td>770969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>3052463</td>
<td>1747106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of bi-lateral agreements for Socrates-Erasmus of Mykolas Romeris University
Number of outgoing students (Erasmus) of Mykolas Romeris University

Year


Number of students

72 113 194
Registered unemployed graduates of universities (percent of total number)

Parengė Prof. V. Kaminskas

Legend:
- Yellow: 2002 03 01
- Red: 2003 03 01
- Blue: 2005 03 01
Measures to increase effectiveness

- Funding by transparent formula;
- Funding by lump sum;
- To increase universitie’s entrepreneurship;
- Autonomy and accountability
Funding of education, percent of GDP
Funding formula for universities

- Funding is divided into 3 main parts:
  - Funding for studies 57 percent;
  - Funding for research 23 percent;
  - Funding for administration and campus 20 percent;
- Studies are financed according to the number of students;
  - Number of admitted students and actual number of students is combined;
- Study price is different for different programmes (17 groups):
  - Salary for teachers (20 to 3 students per teacher) and technitians;
  - Funding for study materials;
- Research is financed according to the achievements (6 fields separately);
- Funding received by lump sum for only two types of expenditures:
  - Studies and research;
  - Student grants
Dynamics of research productivity, by points of Mykolas Romeris University (all fields)
Mykolas Romeris University funds, 2005, percentage

- Student fees: 41.2%
- Services: 5.1%
- Contracts: 3.5%
- Scholarships: 8%
- Structural funds: 1.4%
- Budget allocations for research and studies: 30.2%
- Investment funding: 10.6%
Governance of Universities

- University Council
  - External body, strategic planning, supervision and concern/care

- Senate
  - Supreme governing body: setting rules and requirements

- Rector
  - Elected by Senate, daily management, Head of the University

- Staff meeting of the Faculty
  - Election of members of Senate and Faculty Council

- Council of the Faculty
  - Decision making at the Faculty level

- Dean
  - Daily management of the Faculty

- Department
  - Primary unit for studies and research