

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

To the Committee on Education, Science and Culture of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania  
Copy to V.P.Andriukaitis, Member of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

### ON THE RESOLUTION OF *INNOVATIVE BUSINESS LABORATORIES* DISCUSSION

The Ministry of Education and Science, having considered Note No S-2009-7706 of the Committee of Education, Science and Culture of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of July 13, 2009, informs the Committee that there are measures developed in the area of science and studies to stimulate the development of entrepreneurship in Lithuania.

In 2008, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a resolution on integrated centres (valleys) of science, studies and business (hereinafter referred to as Valleys) to be established aiming at consolidation of the potential of scientific research, studies and knowledge-intensive business. The Valleys will have a corporate or linked infrastructure and will purposefully contribute to the development of a knowledge society and a knowledge economy. Currently, there are five programmes of Valleys approved:

- the Programme of the Integrated Science, Studies and Business Centre (Valley) of Sauletekis;
- the Programme of the Integrated Science, Studies and Business Centre (Valley) of Santara;
- the Programme of the Integrated Science, Studies and Business Centre (Valley) of Santaka;
- the Programme of the Integrated Science, Studies and Business Centre (Valley) of Nemunas;
- the Programme of the Integrated Science, Studies and Business Centre (Valley) for the Development of the Maritime Sector of Lithuania.

Valleys, like national complex programmes (hereinafter referred to as NCP), are designed aiming at common goals of stimulation of the development of knowledge society and strengthening the basis for competitiveness of the Lithuanian economy through utilization of funding from the EU structural funds. The Ministry of Education and Science intends to allocate up to 1.4 billion Litass for implementation of the programmes through the National Complex Programme approved by the Minister of Education and Science by order No ISAK-2336 of December 3, 2007 (Zin., 2008, No 7-262, No 122-4641) and the General National Research and Science and Business Cooperation

Programme approved by the Minister of Education and Science by order No ISAK-563 of March 3, 2008 (Zin., 2008, No 29-1036). It has been decided to prepare Joint Research Programmes (hereinafter referred to as JRP) aiming at co-ordination of the implementation of the above projects and better utilization of the funding allocated.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved of the development of JRP by Resolution No321 of March 21, 2007 On Approval of the Concept of the Development of Integrated Science, Studies and Business Centres (Valleys) (Zin., 2007, No40-1489; 2009, No76-3104). The above resolution identifies JRPs in the following areas of research and economic activities: Natural Resources and Agriculture, Biomedicine and Biotechnology, Materials Science, Physical and Chemical Technologies and Engineering and Information Technologies. Currently, special attention is given to JRPs, preparation and implementation procedures of which were approved by the Minister of Education and Science by order No ISAK-1475 of July 10, 2009 (Zin., 2009, No 87-3732). It should be pointed out that the main focus of attention is reconciliation of the measures adopted by the Ministry of Economy with those of the Ministry of Education and Science and their orientation to the above sectors.

The Ministry of Education and Science identifies two stages in the development of NCPs - preparation and implementation, as it is set in the National Complex Programme approved by the Minister of Education and Science by order No ISAK-2336 of December 3, 2007 (Zin., 2008, No 7-262, No 122-4641). The Ministry has offered implementation of the first stage of NCP preparation to the Science Council of Lithuania which, due to its expert experience and collaboration with representatives of relevant subjects, is fully capable to assess the research-intensive subsectors of economy which have been identified for the development of NCP - having assessed the ideas of projects, to propose a list of projects which should implement each particular NCP.

The goal of the Reorganization Plan for the Network of State Research Institutions Related to the Development of Integrated Science, Studies and Business Centres (Valleys) approved by Resolution No 989 of October 1, 2008 (Zin., 2008, No117-4453) of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania is to consolidate human and material resources of scientific research and experimental development (hereinafter referred to as SRED) available at research institutions and to enhance the effectiveness of the system. Currently, there are meetings organized to establish the principles of reorganization of the institutions. According to the restructuring plan, there are up to 7 state research institutes (centres) to be formed in the area of Natural, Technical and Social Sciences and up to 4 state research institutes (centres) to be formed in the area of Humanities.

The measures aimed at the development of entrepreneurship are set in the EU structural support programmes.

The National Studies Programme approved by the Minister of Education and Science by order No ISAK-2334 of December 3, 2007 (Zin., 2008, No 7-260, 2009, No 82-3435) identifies a group of activities - Development of Students' Practical Skills and Entrepreneurship, which will include the following supported activities: development of models of undergraduate and student practice placement in enterprises and non-profit organizations; development of imitative enterprises (centres) and/or implementation of their activities and informal development of student entrepreneurship. Funding of up to 38 million Litas is to be allocated from the EU structural funds administered by the Ministry of Education and Science for the implementation of the above measure. The activities of the General National Complex Programme (i.e. development, updating and implementation of higher education study programmes at the undergraduate and post-graduate level in the research-intensive subsectors of economy; encouragement of the development of higher education staff competences and staff mobility in the research-intensive subsectors of economy; development, updating and implementation of doctoral and residential study programmes in the research-intensive subsectors of economy) are designed for updating study programmes and development of staff competences in research-intensive sectors.

The Researchers' Career Programme approved by the Minister of Education and Science by order No ISAK-2335 of December 3, 2007 (Zin., 2008, No 7-261, 2009, No 32-1252) provides a measure for state assistance for employment of highly-qualified staff in knowledge and research-intensive enterprises which aims to encourage research in business, increase the number of researchers in business enterprises, encourage employment of researchers and enhance utilization of research in business. Highly-qualified researchers will be employed in business enterprises in accordance with the above measure. The measure of researchers' short-term visits will provide an opportunity to strengthen links between researchers working abroad with Lithuanian institutions of science and studies and will create conditions for the organization of researchers' short-term visits in research-intensive business enterprises. The funding of up to 89 million Litas from the EU structural funds is to be allocated for the above measures. Business researchers and scientists may also apply for grants from the Researchers' Career Programme measures.

In 2009, the Science Council of Lithuania started the programme of support for associations in accordance with the approved Guidelines for the Procedures of Granting Support to Student Unions and Organizations, Organizations of Teachers, Scientists and Other Researchers, Student Academic Societies and Other Associations under the provisions of Part 4 Article 66 of the Law on Science and Studies (Zin., 2009, No54-2140). The Science Council of Lithuania is also implementing the Student Research project which aims to encourage academically-minded young people to take interest in research, reveal the prospects of the researcher profession and researcher career and provide an opportunity for students from different regions and institutions of higher

education in Lithuania to familiarize themselves with the research carried out in well-known groups of scientists and centres. Business enterprises can also take part in the project.

The projects of international SRED programmes, which produce products, processes and services competitive in the world market and based on the most advanced technologies, foster collaboration between industry and science. The Agency for International Science and Technology Development Programmes is responsible for the joint Eurostars programme. The agency provides partial funding for the projects of this programme to both enterprises and research institutions. Eurostars is the first European innovation programme designed for funding of small and medium enterprises which carry out research and invest in the development of innovations and new technologies.

Currently, due to the initiative by both the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Economy, the possibility for the establishment of the Agency of Science, Innovation and Technology on the basis of the Agency for International Science and Technology Development Programmes, which could co-ordinate implementation and funding of applied research projects as well as innovation projects. The Programme of Innovations in Business for the period of 2009 to 2013 has been approved, whose implementation should contribute to enhancement of business innovation.

Vice-minister of Education and Science

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