

„Strengthening the effectiveness of Lithuania's development cooperation policy“

Summary of project recommendations

Lithuania is about to turn a new page in its development cooperation. Growing political attention on this topic creates a favorable environment to review the long-term vision, principles, and goals of Lithuania's development cooperation and make its policy more effective. Since September 2020, the project „Strengthening the effectiveness of Lithuania's development cooperation policy“ has conducted a thorough assessment of the current state of Lithuania's development cooperation policy, reviewed valuable international practice examples (national strategy documents of five countries - Denmark, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Estonia were chosen for the evaluation), and implemented a public consultation process together with Lithuanian policymakers, development cooperation practitioners, civil society, academia representatives, and international partners. After the final assessment of the findings, the project team provides following recommendations for Lithuania's policymakers for strengthening the effectiveness of Lithuania's development cooperation policy:

1. Creation of an official Lithuania's development cooperation strategy document, which would set out long-term thematic and geographic priorities and key performance indicators for policy effectiveness.
2. Establishment of support for democracy and human rights as the cross-cutting priority of Lithuania's development cooperation.
3. Allowing information about development cooperation activities and results to be more publicly available to the public, at the same time renewing the branding strategy of Lithuania's development cooperation policy (Lithuania, as a country open for cooperation and co-creation).
4. Revision of the administration process for bilateral development cooperation projects.
5. Assessment of Lithuania's civil society actors' capacity-building needs in development cooperation.
6. Increasing the private sector's involvement in development cooperation activities.
7. Review of Lithuania's cooperation with international development cooperation agencies and delegation of representatives to international institutions, with a new focus on institutions and instruments responsible for development cooperation.
8. Preparation of a closer cooperation plan with the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate experts to further strengthen the effectiveness of Lithuania's development cooperation policy.
9. Finalization of the review of Lithuania's development cooperation legislation and ensure an efficient financing mechanism for official development assistance.

These recommendations, and the document that explains their significance in full detail (currently only available in Lithuanian), is expected to exist as the “green paper” of Lithuania's development cooperation and begin a new and open policymaking process for Lithuania's development cooperation policy. This process should be based on the principles of discussions and knowledge-based decision making, implemented together by Lithuanian policymakers, development cooperation practitioners, civil society, academia representatives, and international partners.