



ŽMOGAUS TEISIŲ  
STEBĖJIMO INSTITUTAS

HUMAN RIGHTS  
MONITORING INSTITUTE

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2013

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING INSTITUTE

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## About the Human Rights Monitoring Institute

**Human Rights Monitoring Institute (HRMI)** was founded by the OSF-Lithuania in 2003 as a human rights watchdog organisation. Since its establishment HRMI has been advocating for full compliance of national laws, policies and practices with international human rights obligations and working to encourage people to exercise their rights. Over the years, HRMI activities evolved and expanded, leading to the development of new strategies and approaches that would not only promote legal rights but would also ensure that rights are real and effective in practice.

In its work HRMI uses a combination of tools: research, reporting, litigation, public advocacy, lobbying, participating in legislative process, providing expert advice, consultations and trainings, building networks and coalitions, and campaigning. As a result, HRMI plays a unique role in the local human rights movement as the only non-governmental organisation in Lithuania employing a holistic approach to advance rights protection. It is also the only NGO covering such wide range of thematic human rights areas. In 2010-2013, HRMI activities cut across the following themes: criminal justice, freedom of information, right to private and family life, national security and counterterrorism, women's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, rights of the child, LGBTI rights, rights of migrants and asylum seekers, countering hate speech and discrimination.

To achieve its objectives, HRMI actively cooperates with foreign and international NGOs such as [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [Reprieve](#), [Redress](#), [Irish Council for Civil Liberties](#), [Fair Trials International](#), [Hungarian Helsinki Committee](#), [Open Society Justice Initiative](#) and others. HRMI is a member of [EU Fundamental Rights Platform](#), [Eurochild](#), [UNITED for Intercultural Action](#), [Civic Solidarity Platform](#), [JUSTICIA](#), and [European Liberties Platform](#). Since 2005, HRMI representatives have been sharing expertise with the lawyers, NGOs and other actors in the countries of the FSU region: Serbia, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Belarus and others.

Since its establishment, HRMI has litigated and won 18 strategic cases on behalf of vulnerable and marginalized individuals and communities, submitted 14 shadow reports to international human rights bodies, [issued 55 public statements](#), [released 7 Human Rights Overviews](#) – comprehensive reports on human rights challenges and developments in Lithuania, [conducted research and released 21 publication](#), submitted 10 proposals for draft laws, [held 16 major awareness raising campaigns](#), organized 129 public and expert events – meetings, discussions, and conferences, [joined 6 national and international NGO networks](#), [held 4 intensive human rights summer courses](#) and delivered a number of trainings.

HRMI governance is three-fold: Shareholders, Board, and Executive Director. Currently the Executive Director is also Managing Director of the Operator of the EEA Financial Mechanisms NGO Programme in Lithuania. HRMI team consists of 11 staff members, working in two departments: Human Rights Department (HRD) and NGO Programme Department.

In 2012, HRMI was appointed a [national operator of the EEA Grants NGO Programme in Lithuania](#). It is the first time that an NGO was entrusted with the management of the funds designated to strengthen civil society in Lithuania. Together with the OSFL Projects, former OSF Lithuania, HRMI is responsible for the development and implementation of the Programme of a total value of EUR 4 640 664.



## Message from the Executive Director

*The 10th Anniversary of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute almost coincides with the decade of Lithuanian Membership in the European Union. Lithuania was the first of the three Baltic States to hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union – and it seems it has passed the exam of public relations – public officials exchanged compliments and patted themselves on the shoulder for the job well done. Was it?*

*HRMI was established to fill the gap of human rights monitoring which appeared after joining the EU. Before that for more than a decade Lithuania has been monitored by international bodies and institutions as it has successfully joined all major international unions – from Council of Europe to NATO to EU – and readily signed/ratified every fundamental human rights instrument – from to Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.*

*However after the joining and signing was done, time for actual hard daily work came. Social change does not happen out of nowhere – clear political will, consistent coordinated effort of every sector and personal responsibility of every official and every member of society is critical in building open democratic society where every single human being, no matter how small and weak, would feel safe and accepted. This, unfortunately, did not happen.*

*It was obviously too big a challenge for our post-Soviet mentality to realize that human rights are neither a formal declaration for the Western partners, nor a public relations action – it's the fundamental element of our sustainable future. Real human rights work takes place mostly not in the spotlight, but in the House of Parliament, in the courtroom, at the doctor's office and in the classroom – wherever the armor for human rights protection needs to be forged and whenever the human dignity is at stake.*

*Therefore on the one hand we feel that for the first decade of its existence HRMI has been doing the excruciating work of Sisyphus, in trying to persuade the Government, the media, and the society that the efficient protection of the rights of the least important Lithuanian is the golden standard of the human rights protection of all people of Lithuania. Through research and analysis, strategic litigation and alternative reports, public statements and educational events we strived to raise awareness and call for joint action in building social justice and freedom for all. And as periodic public opinion polls indicate – we have succeeded in contributing to better awareness of our rights, but we are yet to achieve a better level of protecting them.*

*On the other hand, during this decade HRMI has grown in many aspects – in size, in versatility of functions, in reputation and visibility. We are both the NGO and the grant-maker: since 2012 HRMI is operating the NGO Programme Lithuania under the EEA Grants. Our new structure of Human Rights and NGO Programme Departments holds 11 team members; together with the Board and external bodies/experts we are several dozens of devoted human rights experts. No matter how much we have renewed, expanded*

*and changed, HRMI remains the steadfast team of devoted idealists who believe in the need of persistent daily human rights work and in our ability to withstand any hardships in the way to the society where everyone is treated fair and every human right for every human being is a standard and not a privilege.*



Dovilė Šakalienė  
Executive Director  
June, 2014

## PART A. HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT



*Human rights monitoring is a collection, verification, and use of information to address human rights problems. We believe in evidence-based advocacy, and our statements are grounded in carefully collected and reviewed facts.*

*During the presentation of the biennial HRMI's monitoring overview at the Office of the President, HE President Dalia Grybauskaitė stated that respect for human rights is one of the most important elements of a democratic state. According to her, it is crucial to safeguard the human rights enshrined in the Constitution in all spheres of life.*

*The President expressed her support for the work of non-governmental organizations in Lithuania as they play an important role in human rights protection. The President has initiated the new Law on Non-governmental Organizations, which should enable NGO representatives to more actively participate in the legislative processes.*

## 1. Human Rights Monitoring



- Released the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive report on human rights in Lithuania – ***Human Rights Implementation in Lithuania 2011-2012: an Overview***. The Overview is the only publication of its kind in Lithuania, where human rights law and policies are reviewed and presented in a comprehensive and independent manner. The Overview covered fundamental civil and political rights including prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, right to security, right to a fair trial, prohibition of discrimination, right to freedom of expression and assembly, protection of private life, and others.
- Released a study “**A Map of Values: Political Parties in Lithuania**” which for the first time drew a map of the major Lithuanian political parties according to their attitudes in relation to the values of non-discrimination, free self-expression, gender equality, and inclusion of various social groups. The study provides a comprehensive picture of the political parties’ deeper attitudes towards what can be considered human rights related values.
- **Facilitated a broad dialogue** between the media, the public and the authorities, including the Parliament, the Ministries and the President by disseminating the findings of the Overview and the Study **to promote social change**.



- For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year **actively engaged in setting up a fully accredited National Human Rights Institution of Lithuania**. This year – by submitting proposals for the draft amendments to the Law on Parliamentary Ombudspersons, to ensure that the Ombudsperson’s Office – which seeks to become the NHRI – adheres to the principles of pluralism and undertakes functions attributed to the NHRIs in line with the Paris Principles.
- **Analyzed the prospects of transition of the Inspector of Journalist Ethics to the Ombudsperson for Human Rights Protection in the Media** by providing expert comments on the draft legislation. We proposed concrete steps directed at simplifying the procedure for lodging a complaint with the Ombudsperson and making the procedure more accessible.



*Excessive use of pre-trial detention remains one of the major unresolved criminal justice issues in Lithuania.*

*During the last five years pre-trial detention was used in Lithuania more than ten times as frequently as its closest, more lenient alternatives – house arrest and bail.*

*When deciding whether or not to order detention, Lithuanian judges adopt a “rubber-stamping” approach towards the requests of prosecutors, ordering detention in the majority of cases. Although prosecutors are supposed to file individual motions, making clear why a particular suspect should be detained, many use identical applications – even with the same spelling mistakes – used from one case to another.*

## 2. Thematic Areas of Expertise

### 2.1. Criminal Justice



- **Brought a strategic case challenging unlawful detention of minor asylum seekers.** By filing the lawsuit in cooperation with the Lithuanian Red Cross Society in December 2013, we sought to: 1) defend the rights of two minor asylum seekers from Afghanistan who suffered harm not only because of unlawful actions by Lithuanian authorities, but also because of very poor legal representation provided by a state appointed attorney; 2) draw wider public attention to the social and psychological damages caused to people by unlawful detention; 3) expose serious deficiencies in Lithuanian asylum system.
- **Defended the rights of a suspect placed in pre-trial detention in breach of procedural law.** In May, after being approached by a defence counsel, we took a closer look at the court’s decisions to detain his client and found numerous deficiencies. We subsequently sent a letter to the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal and the Prosecutor General highlighting the violations in the case, which were symptomatic of the general problems regarding the practice of pre-trial detention.
- **In cooperation with JUSTICIA network undertook comparative analysis of national laws against the European standards on the rights of suspects and accused.** Our first report analysed compliance of legal aid systems in seven EU jurisdictions with the standards established by the European Human Rights Convention and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, while the second assessed the access to interpretation and translation services in criminal proceedings in six EU Member States. The report served as a background for preparation of recommendations for the national legislature.

*Four thousand children in Lithuania are still living in large-scale orphanages, and their ranks are swelled by at least a thousand new arrivals each year.*

*Studies show that once a young child winds up in an orphanage, his or her development is disrupted irrevocably in just three to six months. Scientific advances helped understand the harm caused to children by such institutions, and because of this many countries in Western Europe have closed down large-scale orphanages decades ago.*

*However, child care reform in Lithuania – just like in many other post-communist countries – has stalled. Even though Lithuanian institutions have prepared a multitude of plans for programs and measures to be taken, any true reform lacks political will. In addition, EU Structural Funds, which are meant to promote cohesion and social inclusion, are being heavily invested in the renovation and maintenance of orphanages.*

- **Proposed to strengthen procedural guarantees in the pre-trial stage.** In March and April, we provided expert opinion to the Parliamentary Legal Affairs Committee on two sets of draft amendments of the Code of Criminal Procedure highlighting the need for a wider access of the defence to the case file, when remand measures are being considered; a complete discretion for the judge to order alternative measures, when detention is sought by the prosecution; as well as shorter maximum terms of pre-trial detention.
- **Promoted implementation of Swedish Roadmap by following through the transposition of Arrest Rights Directives.** To ensure quality transposition of the directives on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings and the right to information in criminal proceedings, we engaged with the Ministry of Justice arguing that the national legal framework falls short of the EU standards. We proposed allowing for the use of communication technologies in interpretation, a more flexible procedure for determining whether a certain document in the proceedings needs to be translated, and establishing a duty of confidentiality for the interpreter; introducing a registry of interpreters and translators; and introducing a Letter of Rights into national laws.
- **Advised Lithuanian journalists on their procedural rights in criminal inquiries.** After the controversy around news agency reporter’s office search, in cooperation with Transparency International Lithuanian Chapter, we conducted training for Lithuanian media professionals on the essentials of procedural rights, basics of investigative procedures and principles of protection of journalist sources.
- **Engaged in building a network of EU criminal lawyers.** In May, together with the Fair Trials International we co-hosted a meeting with Lithuanian attorneys and Supreme Court judge to discuss national legal framework and practice of pre-trial detention, the problems Lithuania faces in these areas, as well as possible actions and solutions.
- **Provided training for practicing attorneys on the standards of the right to a fair-trial.** In September, we led three seminars for 190 Lithuanian attorneys on the European Convention on Human Rights and the right to a fair trial. High attendance rates indicate a demand for the similar human rights trainings in the field.

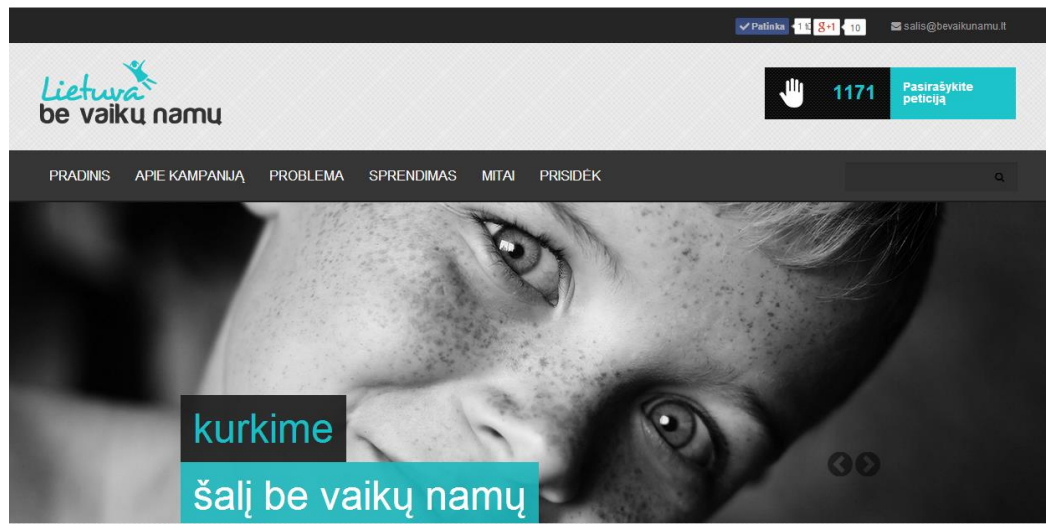
## 2.2. Rights of the Child



- **Brought neglect of institutionalized children into the spotlight.** In May, following a public outcry after a media report on an incident when a 5 years old child was brought to hospital from “children home” in the state of exhaustion, we organized a press conference demanding State responsibility and an urgent reform of the institutional care.
- **Worked on bringing the national legal framework in line with international child protection standards.** Throughout 2013, we actively participated in the Governmental expert group tasked with revising the *Law on Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child* that was adopted 15 years ago. We sought to ensure that the provisions of the new law were clearly based on the best interests of children; prohibited all forms of corporal punishment against children; defined the roles and responsibilities of state institutions and agencies and established adequate coordination and cooperation mechanisms.
- **Founded the *Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Rights of the Child* to defend child rights in a coordinated and holistic manner.** Together with nine other national child and disability rights organizations, we united our advocacy efforts in the area of child rights, including deinstitutionalization, family support, and prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment. The coalition partners are: Human Rights Monitoring Institute; SOS Children Villages – Lithuania; Children Support Centre; Save the Children Lithuania; Mental Health Perspectives; Child Helpline Lithuania; National Assembly of Active Mothers; Lithuanian Care Association of People with Mental Disabilities „Hope“; Family Relations Institute; Lithuanian Forum of People with Disabilities.
- **Joined a pan-European campaign “Opening Doors for Europe’s Children”.** In June, we joined the Eurochild and Hopes & Homes for Children-initiated campaign to raise public awareness on the urgent need for transition from institutional to family and community based care and encourage

the governments to use the opportunities provided by the EU structural funds for the period of 2014-2020 to finance the reform.

- **Launched a nation-wide campaign “Country Without Orphanages”.** In December, we committed to improving the lives of 4000 Lithuanian children living in large residential care institutions known as orphanages. The campaign intends to raise awareness about the harm done to children by institutional care and a multitude of viable family-care alternatives. We want to gather "critical mass" within society so that the Government would be forced to take long-awaited reforms.



*Enactment of the special Law on Protection against Domestic Violence in 2011 revealed the actual scope and prevalence of the domestic violence crime (DV) in Lithuania.*

*In 2013 the police responded to 21 615 calls and launched 10 015 criminal investigations under the law. In 2013, 81,7 % of victims were women.*

*While the new legislation released victims from the obligation to submit official complaint to law enforcement authorities, its implementation is still inadequate. Legal uncertainty as to the use of protection measures, excessive reliance on the reconciliation procedure, underfunding of support centers, and absence of any coherent sensitivity training for the law enforcement officers results in the system failing to respond to the needs of the victims.*

### 2.3. Domestic and Gender-Based Violence



- **Achieved a strategic victory in the landmark domestic violence case.** As a part of strategic effort to strengthen the legal safeguards against domestic violence, we represented Ms Valiulienė, a victim of domestic abuse who was failed by the national legal system, before the European Court of Human Rights (*Valiuliene v. Lithuania*). The case resulted in the precedent-setting judgment, where the Court found that Lithuanian state, by failing to effectively investigate the incidents of domestic violence, protect the victim and prosecute and punish the perpetrator, has violated Article 3 of the Convention, prohibiting torture, inhuman and degrading treatment. Lithuania was ordered to pay the applicant non-pecuniary damages and ensure that the national legal system adequately protects the victims of domestic violence.
- **Provided third-party observations in another domestic violence case before the Strasbourg Court.** In 2013, Lithuania lost yet another case (*D.P. v. Lithuania*) before the European Court of Human Rights after failing to protect a woman and her children from long-term abuse by her former spouse in breach of Article 3 obligations. In a unilateral declaration the Government acknowledged that the manner in which the criminal-law mechanisms had been implemented in the instant case was defective – the argument that was also articulated in our third party brief.
- **Worked on developing the 2013-2020 program on provision of State services and support to victims of domestic violence.** Since 2012, we took part in the expert group, comprised of the representatives from both governmental and non-governmental sector, including prosecution office, police, crisis centers, women rights NGOs, judicial professionals, to ensure accurate victim-focused implementation of the Law against Domestic Violence adopted in 2011. The working group concluded its work in 2013, with the draft program presented to the Government.

- **Experience shared with countries which are yet to introduce gender equality and domestic violence laws.** The comparative study “Struggling for gender equality: sharing Lithuanian and Bulgarian experience” released by Eastern Europe Studies Centre in December, features two pieces where we reviewed the process of adoption and implementation of Lithuanian gender-equality related laws and policies.



*Due to the absence of unified and strategically formed human rights policy, legislative initiatives in Lithuania are drafted without assessing their possible impact on human rights protection, and some of them even contradict the fundamental principles of human rights.*

*Discrimination of various social groups – women, disabled people, ethnic minorities, LGBT persons, elderly people – is still one of the most pressing human rights issues in Lithuania.*

## 2.4. Protection of Other Vulnerable Groups



- **Brought a complaint before the Equality Ombudsperson arguing disability discrimination case.** We submitted a complaint on behalf of a mother and her child with a mental disability, challenging the decision of Vilnius school to unilaterally terminate the contract for education. We argued that such actions violate the principle of equal treatment enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the national law, as well as promote segregated education in violation of CRPD Article 24.
- **Contributed to the reform of the legal (in)capacity laws.** In 2013, we participated in the Government's expert group tasked with reviewing outdated national legislation which still permitted for a total deprivation of a person's legal capacity, in breach of the UN CRPD. The expert group came up with the legislative package reforming guardianship, and introducing alternatives as opposed to the total denial of civil and political rights to around 7.000 of Lithuanian citizens who were stripped off their legal capacity. New regulation will be put for voting in the Parliament's 2014 autumn session.
- **Defended the rights of victims of human trafficking.** Throughout the year we were calling the State's attention to the fact that the scale of human trafficking in Lithuania is increasing, and victims are getting younger, however neither national legal framework, nor the law enforcement agencies work efficiently enough to tackle it. We brought the problem up in December, during the "Caritas Lithuania" press conference, as well as by addressing the Commission for Judiciary Ethics and Discipline with a complaint regarding degrading public statements made by Šiauliai Regional Court's judge in respect of minor human trafficking victims. Repeated victimisation of



vulnerable individuals reinforce harmful social stereotypes and victim-blaming attitude, obstruct access to justice for the victims and contribute to impunity for perpetrators.

- **Advocated for the right to a safe childbirth.** In 2013, the issue of home birth caused a heated public debate after the law enforcement initiated criminal investigations into several incidents where home deliveries have ended with deaths of the newborns. We sent a public letter to the Minister of Health pointing out that these incidents were a possible outcome of the rigid state policy and legal regulation, explicitly banning medical and health care staff from providing professional care and assistance during home deliveries. Such policies breach State's obligation under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and thus should be revised.
- **Promoted women's reproductive rights, with a specific focus on a right to safe and legal termination of pregnancy.** We submitted observations to parliamentary Human Rights Committee and Committee on Legal Affairs on the draft law on Protection of Life in Prenatal Stage which proposes a general abortion ban with two limited exceptions. In the submission and at the Committee's hearings we stressed that the law not only violates women's right to private life, but also has a high potential to result in the increase of illegal abortions and women's mortality.
- **Argued for ensuring transsexual persons access to timely and adequate health care.** In 2007, the European Court of Human Rights found in the case *L. v. Lithuania* that the State violated Article 8 right of a transsexual person, who was represented before the Court by the HRMI. The Court ordered the State to introduce implementing legislation to enable transsexual persons to undergo gender-reassignment surgery and change his/her gender identification in official documents. Since all attempts to address the Government were in vain, we addressed the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, responsible for supervision of the implementation of the Court's judgments pointing out that 6 years after the Court's judgment, no steps were taken to remedy the legislative gap.
- **Released a guide informing third-country nationals of their human rights and rights protection mechanisms in Lithuania.** In the first thorough informational publication of this type in Lithuanian, English and Russian, together with the Lithuanian Red Cross Society and "Caritas Lithuania", we provided information for third-country national on human rights protection system in Lithuania, explained how to address institutions and to prepare and submit documents, detailed terms and conditions for consideration and response to complaints and other relevant information. The *KNOW Your Human Rights and Their Protection* guide will be widely disseminated in 2014.

*Testimonies of people, who became victims of hate crime in Lithuania (collected by HRMI during the research on the protection of the rights of victims of hate crime):*

*„In front of my shop guys started assaulting me, saying that I should leave because Lithuania belongs to Lithuanian people. All those sorts of things. Later they sent me a message on Facebook saying that they will come back“*

*„The barrier of language really affects you. You don't know what your rights are. Either you bring a translator with you or you rely on your Lithuanian friends. Luckily, I had Lithuanian friends who assisted me.“*

*„Hate crimes are linked to stupidity and ignorance. This anger, this hatred comes from a frustration; the basis of racism is putting your problems on others.“*

*The full study [is available at HRMI website.](#)*

## 2.5. Hate Speech, Hate Crimes, and Extremism



- **Conducted first-of-a-kind country study on the rights of hate crimes victims.** Our report *Protection of Hate Crime Victims' Rights: the case of Lithuania*, based on the testimonies of hate crime victims and interviews with law enforcement officials, reveals that Lithuanian legislation and practice falls far short of realizing the guarantees afforded to crime victims under the EU Directive on Victims' Rights, and provides a set of recommendations for improvement.
- **Published informational guide responding to FAQs on hate speech in Lithuania.** In the second edition of the Guide *Hate Speech in Lithuania: Frequently Asked Questions*, we provided the readers with clear guidelines for identifying hate speech and understanding limitations imposed on freedom of expression. Our Guide presents a comprehensive historical and cross-jurisdictional overview of hate speech ban, describes various forms hate speech can take and explains in detail the responsibility it incurs. The Guide responds to numerous inquiries received by the HRMI and addresses misconceptions as to the limits of free speech.
- **Cooperated with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency on raising the issue of hate speech during Lithuanian Presidency.** In January, we hosted a meeting between Morten Kjaerum, Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, and Lithuanian civil society organisations to discuss Lithuanian Presidency priorities in the area of fundamental rights. In autumn, we presented the findings of our studies at the Fundamental Rights Conference "Combating Hate Crime in the EU. Giving Victims a Face and a Voice" which brought together over 300 decision-makers and practitioners from across the EU.

- **Joined the pan-European No Hate Speech Movement campaign** encouraging to take action against hate speech online in all its forms – while respecting freedom of expression. The No Hate Speech Movement is based on human rights education, youth participation and media literacy: [www.nohatespeechmovement.org](http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org).
- **Discussed media obligations in the context of hate speech with European journalists.** With 20 professional journalists from Greece, Latvia, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Belgium and Lithuania, we analyzed the instances of media creating or disseminating hate-inciting content in light of their obligation to act „in good faith in order to provide accurate and reliable information in accordance with the ethics of journalism“, and debated obligations of the journalists *vis-a-vis* their audience.



*The allegations on Lithuania's participation in the CIA secret prison programme surfaced in 2009. Overwhelming evidence, including Lithuania's own investigation, confirmed the existence of CIA secret facilities in Lithuania as part of the global web of so-called black sites that the US used to illegally hold people suspected of links to terrorism, from roughly 2001 to 2006. Lithuanian airports and airspace were also used for CIA-related flights.*

*In 2010, Lithuania opened a criminal investigation into illegal detentions and transfers by the CIA in Lithuania from 2004 to 2005, but closed it after one year.*

*Despite the calls from the European Parliament, United Nations and human rights groups, as well as new evidence indicating that the CIA had transported terrorism suspects to Lithuania, the state refused to investigate its complicity further and bring perpetrators to justice.*

## 2.6. Human Rights in the Context of Counter-terrorism



- **Continued demanding accountability for Lithuania's complicity in the CIA extraordinary rendition and secret detention program.** A year ago, European Parliament concluded that Lithuanian pre-trial inquiry failed to clarify whether there were black sites in Lithuania despite that investigations conducted by international institutions and officers, testimonies by former CIA agents and routes of CIA planes pointed to that. In June, together with Human Rights Watch we addressed the President of the Republic of Lithuania urging the State to lead by example, meet its legal obligations, and reopen its investigation into its own complicity in CIA secret prisons, US enforced disappearances, and alleged torture. Later, in September, together with Amnesty International, Reprieve and REDRESS, we held a press conference and met with representatives of Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prosecutor General's Office and President's Office, urging to take active steps in determining the truth and providing victims of secret detention with redress.
- **Provided UN Human Rights Committee information on the implementation of its recommendation to investigate effectively Lithuania's black sites.** In the follow-up submission, we drew the Committee's attention that since July 2012, when the Committee adopted its Concluding Observations for Lithuania, no action has been taken by the State to investigate the allegations of its complicity in the CIA secret detention and extraordinary rendition programme. To date, no criminal charges were brought, no official was held accountable, and no redress was provided to the victims. As a result, Lithuania has failed to fulfil its obligations under the ICCPR.

- **Brought a case on behalf of the CIA rendition victim.** Upon coming up with the new evidence, together with REDRESS we requested the Prosecutor General to open pre-trial investigation concerning suspicion of criminal offences committed in Lithuania against Mustafa al-Hawsawi, alleged CIA rendition victim who is currently facing capital charges before Military Commission in Cuba, Guantanamo. Lithuanian law enforcement authorities were called upon to secure evidence, seek clarification from Mr al-Hawsawi (via the United States), seek urgent preservation and disclosure of all relevant evidence, and identify all officials involved in the alleged violation with a view to ensuring they are prosecuted if, and as appropriate. The litigation is currently ongoing.



*“Lost. Zoon Politikon of the European Union” is the second documentary produced by the Human Rights Monitoring Institute in cooperation with Audrius Lelkaitis.*

*In 2009, we released the first documentary about the lives of Lithuanian Roma – “Vilnius Ghetto 2009”. Most viewers of “Vilnius Ghetto 2009” were openly surprised to see the lives of Vilnius Roma as they are. Many said they had quite a different (negative, stereotyped) impression from mass media where Roma are usually portrayed exceptionally in criminal chronicles. Positive reviews in media and the large number of commentaries proves the film has struck the chord. Both full-length documentaries are available on [HRMI Youtube channel](#).*

## 3. Human Rights Education and Awareness Raising

### 3.1. Human Rights Documentary



In April, we released a documentary film *Lost. Zoon Politikon of the European Union* exploring the portrait of the real-life European citizen, the actual European values that we rely on in our daily lives. In the documentary, we tested political declarations and international obligations in the daily life of small rural communities across three European countries – Lithuania, Estonia and Germany. The movie, produced in cooperation with a movie director Audrius Lelkaitis searched for an answer why some communities are more prosperous, more cooperative and more inclusive, while others lag behind in terms of economic, social and cultural development. The main idea of the documentary was to highlight the significance of respect for human dignity, fundamental human rights and social trust among community members which enables everyone to contribute to the common goals of the community and foster relationships based on understanding, acceptance and inclusion of the less advantageous.

Our documentary was screened in cinemas and culture centers in various Lithuanian towns, as well as aired in full length on Lietuvos Rytas TV, one of the largest TV channels.

*The events of the annual Action Week Against Intolerance are scheduled in spring, around 21 of March – the day which has been declared by the UN General Assembly as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.*

*This Day was established six years after an event, known as the Sharpeville massacre, captured worldwide attention. South African police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid “pass laws” in Sharpeville, South Africa, March 21, 1960.*

### 3.2. Action Week Against Intolerance 2013



For the eighth consecutive year, we organized our traditional awareness raising campaign **Action Week Against Intolerance**. **Highlights of 2013 Action Week:**

- **Press conference and round-table discussion in the Parliament on the findings of the research “A Map of Values: Political Parties in Lithuania”**, attended by the Lithuanian, Norwegian, Danish and Swedish MPs, diplomats, Government officials and civil society representatives.
- **Youth debate „Freedom of Expression and Traditions – What Matters More?”** The debate organized in cooperation with the Vilnius University student association challenged the participants to defend opposite value stances in relation to several highly debated human rights issues in Lithuania such as gender equality, same sex marriages, and other questions.
- **Online Human Rights Course at e-Academy** engaged the students in the party-politics simulation where they had to form political party, elect the governing bodies, and prepare an electoral manifesto reflecting the human rights values of their respective parties.

*For the past nine years, Human Rights Awareness Month centers around December 10 – International Human Rights Day.*

*This date has been chosen to honor the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations.*

*For more information on the campaign "Country Without Orphanages" launched during the Human Rights Awareness Month 2013, [visit the campaign's website.](#)*

### 3.3. Human Rights Awareness Month 2013



In December, for the ninth consecutive year, we held our traditional series of events - Human Rights Awareness Month. In 2013 it was dedicated to the rights of the child and featured the launch of the nation-wide campaign "Country Without Orphanages" (pg. 09). **Highlights of the 2013 Month:**

- **Classical music concert marking the start of the campaign Country Without Orphanages.** During the concert organized in cooperation with Swedish Royal Embassy maestro Donatas Katkus gave a powerful speech calling to "make everything in your power so that every child has the most important things – home and care".
- **Human Rights Champion 2013 Award.** This year's award went to Ms Aušra Kurienė, the Founder and Director of the Child Support Centre, who already for twenty years takes care of children who experienced psychological, psychical and sexual abuse.
- **A series of radio shows bringing the topic of children raised in institutions to the light.** Radio shows featured sensitive and inspiring conversations with child rights advocates, parents raising disabled children and young adults, who spent their childhoods behind the closed doors of orphanages.
- **Launch of the online platform [www.bevaikunamu.lt](http://www.bevaikunamu.lt)** which raises public awareness on the harm of institutionalized child care and offers solutions for alternative, family and community based care. The website features an on-line petition calling for the Government to invest 2014-2020 EU Structural Funds into the development of family based care.



*UNITED conferences are organized twice a year, each time in a different country. The themes are developed together by the local organizers, Secretariat and the International Preparatory Group.*

*The conference has a standard length of six days and aims at strengthening the movement against discrimination. Each conference is set up to make sure that there is a concrete follow-up, a 'multiplying effect' and 'synergy' while the six-day process combines cognitive, emotional and behavioral learning.*

*For more information on the past and future UNITED conferences [visit the Network's website](#).*

### 3.4. International Conference on Equality Challenges in Europe



- Together with the UNITED For Intercultural Action, a pan-European network uniting over 500 non-governmental organizations working in the area of human rights and anti-racism, we **organized the first UNITED network conference in Lithuania *Rethinking Diversity - Challenges for equality in Europe and new responses***. The international event which brought together around 60 human rights professionals explored a complex multi-layered notion of diversity, answering the questions how majority communities perceive minority communities and how minority communities address diversity within their own community.
- As a follow-up to the conference, together with ten European human rights organizations, we addressed the Minister of Social Security and Labor **with recommendations to Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council** calling it on to take the leadership to facilitate the adoption of the Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation; as well as ensure access to justice for victims of multiple discrimination through adequate funding schemes for non-governmental organizations providing legal advice and assistance.

*“Person to Person” („Žmogus žmogui“) is a weekly radio talk show hosted by HRMI on the “News Radio.” Initially launched in 2011 as a three-month project, it continued and became a weekly program which brings relevant human rights issues into public discourse.*

*Radio station News Radio (Žinių radijas) is broadcasting since March 2000. After more than 13 years the News Radio became known as one of the most expeditious and impartial media in Lithuania.*

*All “Person to Person” radio shows are [available on the News Radio website](#).*

### 3.5. Spreading the Word



- **Ran a radio talk show *Person to Person* on the News radio.** Throughout 2013, we hosted a radio talk show exploring various human rights topics with diverse experts, civil society leaders, politicians and other guests. In 2013, we focused on the rights of children in institutional care, rights of Lithuanian HIV positive community, protection of the psychiatric health rights, hate crimes and hate speech, response to domestic violence, humanitarian law and human rights, humanitarian aid to third countries, the work of Doctors Without Borders, the rights of asylum seekers and refugees.
- **Every month delivered a Human Rights E-Bulletin to 2500 subscribers.** We continued disseminating electronic newsletter providing information on the most pressing human rights issues and the latest legal and policy developments at the national and international level. In 2013, we covered Human Rights Watch’s report on women’s rights in Chechnya, United Nations Human Rights Council’s Report on Israeli Settlements in Occupied Territories, judgment in *Valiuliene v Lithuania*, the first domestic violence case against Lithuania before the ECtHR, the report “Human Rights Implementation in Lithuania 2011-2012: an Overview”, concluding observations for Lithuania of the UN Child Rights Committee, an update on the human rights situation in Azerbaijan, and others.

*The Civic Solidarity Platform functions as a decentralized advocacy network of independent civic groups from across the OSCE region, including a core group of activists that have already engaged in efforts to improve cooperation among human rights organizations based in the US, Europe, and former Soviet Union.*

*The Civic Solidarity Platform was born out of recognition that non-government groups need to work in a more effective and coordinated way in order to counteract negative trends in the field of human rights and defense of democratic principles. During recent years, members have observed that narrowly defined state interests have prevailed over concern for human rights principles and democratic values in international politics, leading to public cynicism toward democratic institutions and impunity for governments that commit rights abuses.*

*HRMI is a founding member of the Civic Solidarity Platform.*

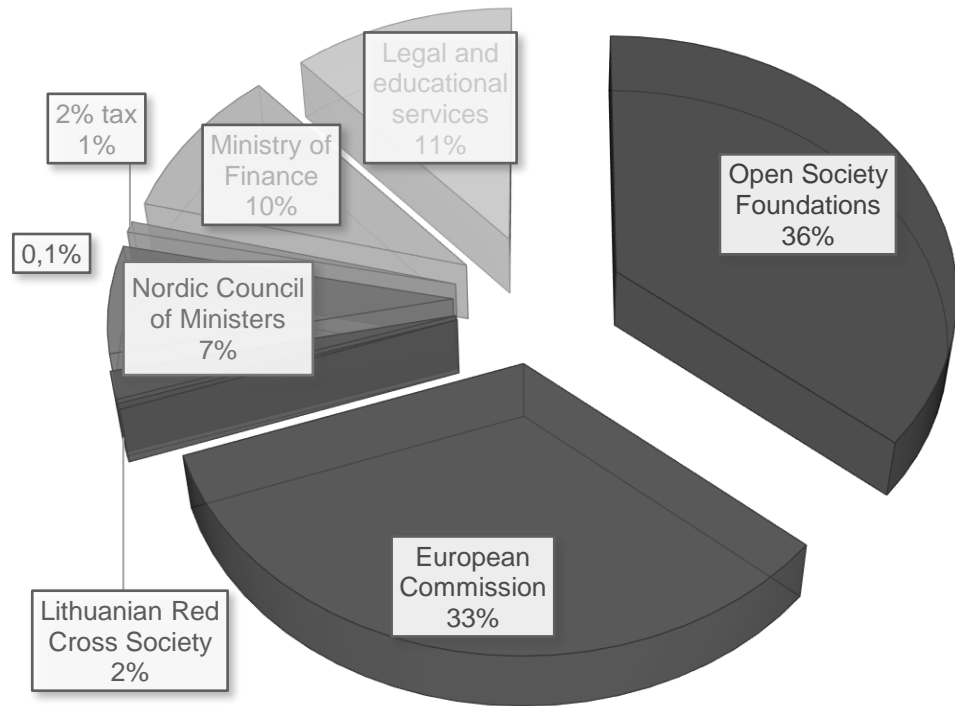
## 4. International Solidarity



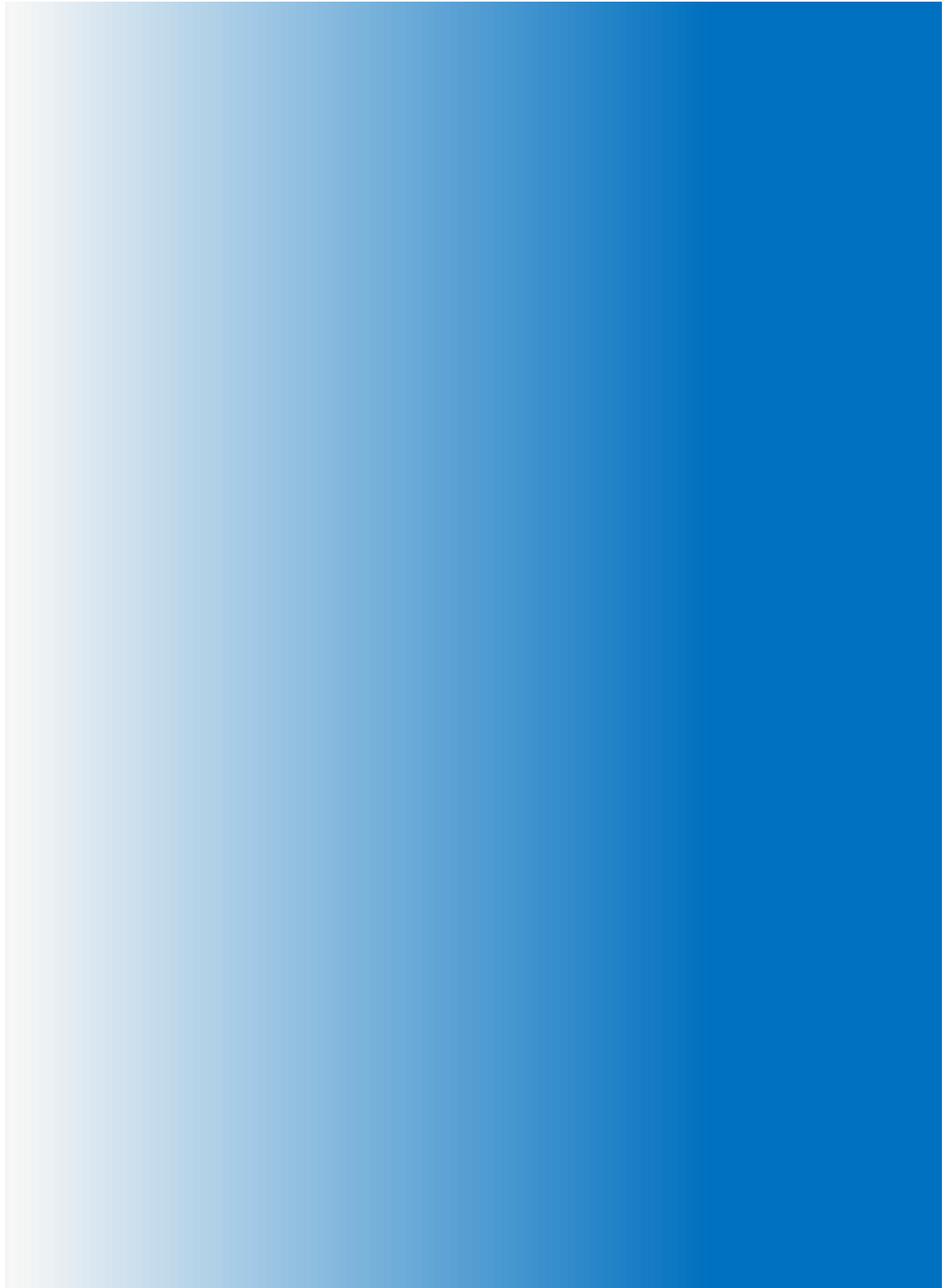
In 2013, together with the Civic Solidarity Platform, we initiated three joint statements calling to bring to end human rights violations in the countries of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. Specifically we:

- In January, joined the statement by the International Partnership Group for Azerbaijan condemning the **harsh response by the Azerbaijani authorities to recent protests in the country**. We called on the CoE Committee of Ministers to seriously consider the participation of Azerbaijan in the Council of Europe, particularly ahead of its chairmanship which is scheduled for May-November 2014.
- In February, we joined public condemnation of the **latest crackdown on freedom of expression and association in Azerbaijan** referring to the repressive means used by the Azerbaijan authorities to silence critical voices, including those of protesters, journalists and critics of the government. We called for dropping all charges against Ilgar Mammadov, Tofiq Yaqubli and Avaz Zeynalli, as their activities were a mere exercise of basic rights including freedom of expression.
- In March, we addressed the **President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, urging to reconsider the transfer of Vadim Kuramshin, prominent human rights defender**, to penal colony EC 164/4 in the Gornyi village, North Kazakhstan Province. In the open letter, we expressed serious concerns about Vadim Kuramshin's life if he is transferred to this penal facility.

## Income Statement



## PART B. NGO PROGRAMME DEPARTMENT



*The NGO Programme Lithuania, funded by EEA Grants, is thematically focused on human rights and aims to build capacity of non-governmental organisations.*

*The NGOs in Lithuania are operating in an environment where the adoption of legislation does not necessarily reflect a commitment by the state to fully implement it, and the social and political attitudes towards rights-based reforms range from distrustful to openly hostile. It is therefore not surprising that, after considering the latest periodic report of Lithuania in July 2012, the UN Human Rights Committee urged the Government “to bridge the discernible gap between legal framework and social reality”. The Committee also rightly observed that without a strong commitment from the state human rights legislation and programming will be rendered ineffective, and urged to take necessary steps to bring “social and political attitudes in line with human rights for all Lithuanians”.*

## 1. Priorities and Areas of Support

### 1.1. Areas of Support



Through the NGO Programme Lithuania, we support activities in the following areas:

- **Democracy and good governance support area** – includes promotion of democratic values, including enhancement of participatory democracy and active citizenship on the whole, as well as promotion of good governance, access to information and transparency.
- **Human rights support area** – includes promotion and protection of civil and political rights and freedoms and combating discrimination on all grounds (ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, etc.).
- **Vulnerable groups support area** – includes provision of welfare and basic services to vulnerable groups, where such services are not otherwise or not adequately provided by governmental institutions; also strengthening of membership-based NGOs representing these vulnerable groups. Under the framework of this Programme the target groups constituting vulnerable groups will be defined as:
  - children and youth at risk
  - people affected by HIV/AIDS
  - children with disabilities and/or mental disorders and their families
  - victims of trafficking and gender-based violence and/or domestic violence

Additional area of support:

- **Protection of the environment and climate change** – support to NGOs working in the field of environment protection, climate change and sustainable development.



*Launch of EEA Grants 2009-2014 NGO Programme Lithuania in January 2013 was very timely and played a critical role in providing human rights and environmental NGOs with the support and tools to sustain their independence and contribute to more active role of civil society in the policy- and decision-making processes.*

*Total funding throughout the Programme is EUR 4 640 664 or LTL 16 023 284, including EUR 134 000 (LTL 462 675) for the Fund for Bilateral Relations.*

## 1.2. Outcomes



By financially supporting Lithuanian non-governmental organizations, we aim to achieve a number of outcomes that overall reflect the objective of the NGO Programme Lithuania - *strengthened civil society development and enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development; and strengthened bilateral relationship between Lithuania and the Donor States – Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.*

### Outcomes for the NGO Programme Lithuania:

1. Active citizenship fostered
2. Increased involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments
3. Democratic values, including human rights, promoted\*
4. Advocacy and watchdog role developed
5. Developed networks and coalitions of NGOs working in partnership
6. Strengthened capacity of NGOs and an enabling environment for the sector promoted
7. Provision of welfare and basic services to defined target groups increased
8. Empowerment of vulnerable groups

### Outcomes for bilateral relations:

1. Increased cooperation
2. Shared results



3. Improved knowledge and mutual understanding

\*In addition, activities targeting development of cooperation with municipalities to address the issues of domestic and gender-based violence as well as cooperation with civil society in Belarus are eligible under relevant outputs.



*During the opening of the NGO Programme Lithuania, Mr Steinar Egil Hagen, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director General responsible for EEA Grants, presented the Donors expectations of the Programme and highlighted the importance of human rights in NGO Programmes in all recipient countries including Lithuania. He emphasized the importance of tackling within the Programme such priority human rights issues as racism, extremism, xenophobia, homophobia, anti-Semitism, equal opportunities, domestic violence (including gender-based violence) and human trafficking.*

### 1.3. Horizontal concerns



Horizontal concerns of the NGO Programme Lithuania are addressed under all relevant outcomes to the maximum extent. Horizontal concerns include:

#### Combating:

- Hate speech, hate crime and extremism,
- Racism and xenophobia,
- Homophobia,
- Anti-Semitism,
- Roma discrimination,
- Sexual harassment,
- Gender based violence and domestic violence,
- Human trafficking.

#### Fostering:

- Tolerance,
- Multicultural understanding.

*Most of the projects of the 1st open call started at the end of 2013.*

*Already by the beginning of 2014 number of outcomes, outputs and size of indicators of the contracted projects looked promising – some of them have already surpassed or were near to fulfilling the initial estimations made in Programme proposal, i.e. 22 results out of 35 are exceeded compared to initial figures estimated.*

*We expect that supported NGOs shall make a significant contribution towards the overall objective of the NGO Programme Lithuania – strengthened civil society development and enhanced contribution to social justice, democracy and sustainable development; and strengthened bilateral relationship between Lithuania and the Donor States – Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.*

*The second call for proposals was launched in January, 2014. The information seminars, trainings for project promoters and selection of the projects will take place in the first half of 2014.*

## 2. Achievements at a Glance

### 2.1. First Open Call for Proposals



We announced the first call for project proposals in March 2013.

- **Number of applications received**
  - 209 small scale project applications
  - 144 large scale project concepts
  - 36 large scale project applications
- **Number of organizations involved in those applications**
  - 447 project promoters and partners
  - 156 associated partners
- **Total projects awarded – 31**

- **Ratio of supported vs received applications**
  - 31 out of 353 (9%)
  
- **Type and number of organizations supported:**
  - 13 public policy NGOs
  - 6 service provider NGOs
  - 12 mixed (public policy & service provision) NGOs
  
- **Top two outcomes**
  - **Outcome No. 2:** Increased involvement of NGOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional and national governments
  - **Outcome No. 6:** Strengthened capacity of NGOs and enabling environment for the sector promoted
  -

These results reflect the response to the Lithuanian NGO sector immediate needs described in the Programme proposal – development of understanding and skills on how to influence the policy making process through advocacy, and building capacity and financial sustainability of the NGOs and the sector as a whole. These issues are broadly addressed in the projects that were awarded during the 1st call for proposals. Nevertheless, all outcomes are critically important for Lithuanian NGO sector, both for its development and improvement of democracy and good governance standards, better human rights protection and serving the needs of vulnerable groups.



*Fund for Bilateral Relations  
– EUR 134,000 was set  
aside to form a dedicated  
fund within the NGO  
Programme.*

*The Fund operates two  
support measures:*

*“Seed money” – for  
establishment of contacts  
and partnerships between  
Lithuanian and EEA non-  
governmental  
organizations,*

*Networking – support for  
mutual initiatives and  
sharing of experience.*

## 2.2. Fund for Bilateral Relations



### Number of awarded projects with Donor Project Partners during the 1<sup>st</sup> open call

- 8 projects involve 9 partnerships with Norwegian organizations
- 3 projects involve 3 partnerships with Icelandic organizations

### Number of awarded initiatives within the Fund for Bilateral Relations

- 5 aimed at cooperation with Norwegian organizations
- 2 – with Icelandic organizations

The completed bilateral initiatives within the Fund resulted in 4 partnership agreements. One more initiative was aimed at involvement of partner into planning common activities and sharing results.

### Two bilateral matchmaking seminars organized:

- 15 Norwegian and 12 Icelandic organizations have participated
- More than 40 Lithuanian NGOs have participated

Currently we provide funding for 31 project selected during the first call for proposals.

Majority of the initiatives aim at combating poverty, promoting child rights, raising awareness on the avenues for human rights defense, addressing violence against women, building transparency initiatives, creating diverse and inclusive space for persons with different ethnic, religious, and other backgrounds.

Detailed project descriptions are available on the [EEA grants website](#).

To learn more individual project stories, visit [NGO Programme Lithuania website](#).

### 3. Initiatives We Support



1. Save the Children Lithuania, *“Creating safe schools through the promotion of active citizenship and empowerment of the school community”*
2. Coalition “I Can Live”, *“Ensuring service availability to people affected by HIV (including IDUs) and implementation of their rights”*
3. Food Bank, *“Stop Food Waste in Lithuania!”*
4. Caritas Lithuania, *“Lithuanian society against trafficking: the model of systematic approach”*
5. Kaunas women society, *“Women initiative against violence”*
6. Centre for Equality Advancement, *“Global Rights, Local Actions: Women’s Voice for Progress”*
7. Lithuanian Association of Families with Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children “Pagava”, *“Reduce Discrimination of Deaf Children and their Families”*
8. NGO “Let’s destroy”, *“Promoting tolerance, human rights and creating socially safe living environment for foreign nationals residing in Lithuania, “ESu”*
9. Mental Health Perspectives, *“Towards advocacy of Mental Health and Human Rights in Lithuania: the role of NGOs”*
10. Children Support Centre, *“Creation and implementation of the model for early prevention and intervention work with families at risk in the municipalities of Lithuania”*
11. NGO “School of success”, *“Creating safe schools through the promotion of active citizenship and empowerment of the school community”*

12. Youth line, *“Strengthening of institutions providing children and youth emotional support and increase of services accessibility”*
13. National Institute for Social Integration, *“All different- All equal: Human rights, active participation and variety”*
14. Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights, *“My Rights – Active Participation”*
15. Lithuanian association of people with disabilities, *“Social Welfare Development, representing the rights of disabled people”*
16. NGO “Social action”, *“Social Volunteering Year”*
17. Lithuanian community of people with mental disability “Giedra”, *“Independent living homes model dissemination and protection of human rights in psychiatric hospitals”*
18. Lithuanian association “Gyvastis”, *“Gyvastis” capacity building and expanding of the volunteers network”*
19. US LT Alumni association, *“Ethnic Kitchen: Human Rights Advocacy Campaign to Combat Xenophobia, Racism, Sexism, and Ageism in Lithuania”*
20. Lithuanian multiple sclerosis union, *“Strong NGO network for life with multiple sclerosis”*
21. Baltic Environmental Forum, *“Strengthening the role of environmental NGOs in climate change policy-making”*
22. Lithuanian Jewish Community, *“„Bagel shop“: tolerance campaign against anti-Semitism and public hatred”*
23. Lithuanian children's foundation, *“NGO network for the empowerment of Roma community”*
24. Kaunas district Men's Crisis Centre, *“Better for all: work with violent men in a domestic environment – help for women and children, who are victims of violence”*
25. European Anti-Poverty Network Lithuania, *“The Mobilization of Civil Society in Lithuania To Address the Problems of Poverty and Social Exclusion”*
26. New Religions Research and Information Centre, *“Religious diversity awareness and its dissemination in Lithuania”*
27. SOS Children Villages Association in Lithuania, *“Sustained transition from children’s institutional care to family-based and community-based alternatives”*
28. Tolerant Youth Association, *“Promoting Friendly Society by strengthening the Role of NGO’s”*
29. Lithuanian welfare society of persons with mental disability “Viltis”, *“Temporary respite service – help and unfettered freedom for families raising persons with mental disability”*
30. Lithuanian Gay League (LGL), *“Towards Practical Implementation of LGBT Rights in Lithuania”*
31. *Transparency international Lithuanian Chapter, “Towards more transparent Lithuania”*

*Long-term NGO capacity building is one of the NGO Programme Lithuania pillars.*

*For selected project promoters we offer trainings on project monitoring, accounting and reporting, quality assurance, and project adjustment mechanisms.*

*Participants of the trainings also have a chance to consult our financial and communication experts and approach them any time in the course of the project implementation.*

## 4. Building Capacity of Lithuanian Civil Society



To enable Lithuanian civil society organizations to perform their functions effectively and implement high quality activities under the NGO Programme Lithuania framework, we implemented the following capacity-building strategy:

- Trained **400** applicants in **5** major Lithuanian cities on project development and preparation of applications.
- Five of our staff members provided continuous support and consultation of applicants by phone, e-mail and at the office: over **400** consultations were organized until the deadline for submission of applications.
- Developed a separate website for the NGO Programme Lithuania, which has become both reference point containing all Programme-related documentation (from Guidelines for Applicants to communication training materials, from Partner Search Forum to Frequently Asked Questions).
- Consulted applicants on building local, cross-sectoral, Donor- and other partnerships, and organized a first matchmaking seminar for Lithuanian, Norwegian and Icelandic NGOs, which resulted in effective partnerships.



- Created a library of documents besides technical documents supplying applicants with relevant international documents, research and studies related to human rights.
- Conducted 2 seminars for 4 groups of selected project promoters on efficient and transparent project implementation, monitoring, reporting, visibility and publicity, and accountability.
- Developed a risk management tool for the NGOs, including a template risk mitigation plan and detailed instructions on development of their own plans.
- 4 Lithuanian NGOs were provided with opportunity to participate in international conferences and meetings with other NGO Programmes covering all costs.



*The NGO Programme Lithuania communication strategy pursues a double goal: to contribute to a clear understanding of the NGOs and their role in building a prosperous State with open society based on respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, and to raise awareness of the fundamental rights and freedoms through the consistent and diverse work performed by numerous NGOs and their cross-sectoral partners.*

## 5. Communication and Outreach



We see communication as a key element of the NGO Programme Lithuania, and therefore throughout 2013, we:

- Sent out over **1000** notification emails to Lithuanian NGOs about the launch of the NGO Programme Lithuania.
- Organized a high-level NGO Programme Lithuania opening conference reaching over **200** organizations, and over **250** individual participants.
- Organized a press conference on the launch day of the 1<sup>st</sup> open call for proposals attended by over **10** media outlets.
- Launched a bi-lingual dedicated website [www.nvoprograma.lt](http://www.nvoprograma.lt) to facilitate dissemination of information to potential partners in Donor states, Lithuanian NGOs, Donors, and others interested.
- Created a dedicated Facebook account of the Programme reaching over **400** registered followers, **300** to **700** unique readers per week.

- In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2013 disseminated five newsletters to over 400 subscribers covering a broad array of human rights issues, including hate speech and hate crime, xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, fundamental rights and freedoms, mechanisms of human rights protection, and featuring interviews with popular civil society actors, politicians, TV stars, academia, judicial and law enforcement representatives.
- Drafted *Communication Guidelines* to equip project promoters with useful links, tools and practical advice and assist them in promoting their success stories and achievements.
- Organized *Effective Communication and Basics of Advocacy Trainings* for project promoters.



## STRUCTURE AND PEOPLE

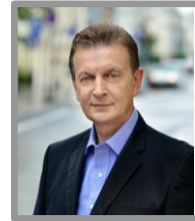
### The Board



**Dainius PŪRAS**

Chair of the Board

Child and adolescent psychiatrist, former Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child



**Henrikas MICKEVIČIUS**

Member

Lawyer, Founder of the Human Rights Monitoring Institute



**Dalia FOIGT-NORVAIŠIENĖ**

Member

Attorney-at-law, Partner at the Law firm *Borenius*



**Arūnas PEMKUS**

Member

PR Expert, Chair of the board at *Integrity PR*



**Šarūnas LIEKIS**

Member

Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy, Vytautas Magnus University

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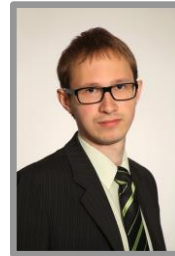
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## WE ARE GRATEFUL

We are grateful to our volunteers and interns who invested their time and energy to help us promoting an open democratic society through the implementation of human rights and freedoms. We truly value your commitment and dedication.

### THANK YOU,

- Alisa Grebinskytė,
- Candela Valcárcel Fonseca,
- Darius Buinauskas,
- Indrė Urbonavičiūtė,
- Ingrida Juozulynaitė,
- Izabelė Nebilevičiūtė,
- Rasa Mikalaičiūnaitė,
- Svajūnė Sirvydytė,
- Tomas Reves.



*“My internship at the Human Rights Monitoring Institute was one of the greatest experiences in my life. This is a great place to volunteer or to have an internship at because you could suggest and realize your ideas or initiatives relating to human rights. As a would-be criminologist I found it very useful to participate in the project aimed at researching how hate crimes are being dealt with here in Lithuania. Having a chance to participate at the interviewing of hate crime victims allowed me to hear the stories firsthand and evaluate the response of criminal justice system. This experience triggered my interest in criminology.”*

- **Tomas Reves, student of Sociology (Vilnius University)**

## PHOTO CREDITS

- Pg. 05 HRMI representatives meeting to discuss human rights situation in Lithuania with HE President Dalia Grybauskaitė. *Photo courtesy – [Dž. G. Barysaitė \(president.lt\)](#)*
- Pg. 06 HRMI presents the findings of the *Human Rights Implementation in Lithuania 2011-2012: An Overview* to the members of the Lithuanian Parliament's Human Rights Committee.
- Pg. 07 Qais, a refugee from Afghanistan, spent 3,5 months in pre-trial detention in Lukiskes Remand Prison for illegal crossing of the Lithuanian border. He was represented by HRMI and the Lithuanian Red Cross in the proceedings regarding unlawful detention before the national courts. *Photo courtesy – Lithuanian Red Cross Society.*
- Pg. 09 Members of the *Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Rights of the Child* hold a press conference on the child neglect and abuse in the institutional care. *Photo courtesy – BNS.*
- Pg. 10 Home page of [www.bevaikunamu.lt](http://www.bevaikunamu.lt) – online Platform featuring *Country Without Orphanages* campaign.
- Pg. 11 Cover photo of the report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) presenting results from the world's biggest-ever survey on violence against women. *Photo courtesy – FRA.*
- Pg. 12 Jūratė Guzevičiūtė, HRMI Legal Director, commenting on the landmark *Valiuliene v. Lithuania* case.
- Pg. 13 Human Trafficking. *Photo courtesy: Biblioteca Virtual sobre Tráfico Humano – [Flickr.com.](#)*
- Pg. 15 Cover photo of the Fundamental Rights Conference 2013 *Giving victims a face and a voice* focusing on combating hate crime across the EU. *Photo courtesy – FRA.*
- Pg. 16 Dovilė Šakalienė, HRMI Executive Director, opens the international *Thematic meeting on Hate Speech, Hate Crimes and Role of Civil Society*, organized by HRMI as a follow-up to of the Fundamental Rights Conference 2013.
- Pg. 17 Guantanamo jumpsuit detainees, *Photo courtesy- Troy Page / t r u t h o u t; Adapted: ArtMakesMeSmile, DecadeNull, LoveMissB – [Flickr.com.](#)*



- Pg. 18 Mėta Adutavičiūtė, HRMI Legal and Policy Adviser, together with the REDRESS, Reprieve and Amnesty International experts, at the press conference regarding Lithuania's accountability for complicity in the CIA Rendition Program.
- Pg. 19 Still shot from the HRMI documentary *Lost. Zoon Politikon of the European Union*.
- Pg. 20 Youth debate „Freedom of Expression and Traditions – What Matters More?“ during the *Action Week Against Racism 2013*.
- Pg. 21 Maestro Donatas Katkus gives a speech at the classical music concert marking the start of the campaign *Country Without Orphanages*.
- Pg. 22 Participants of the UNITED conference *Rethinking Diversity - Challenges for equality in Europe and new responses* in Vilnius. *Photo courtesy – UNITED*.
- Pg. 23 Radio Free Strawberry. *Photo courtesy - Alan Levine – [Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/alanlevine/)*
- Pg. 24 The Azerbaijani authorities are shutting down all avenues for dissent ahead of 2013 October's presidential election. *Photo courtesy – [Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety \(IRFS\)](http://www.irfs.org/)*.
- Pg. 27 “*I Love Panda*” campaign on combating hate speech, launched by the National Institute for Social Integration as a part of the NGO Programme Lithuania funded project “*All different- All equal: Human rights, active participation and variety*”.
- Pg. 28 Screenshot from the social documentary “*Playing Home*” produced by the SOS Children Villages Association in Lithuania as a part of the NGO Programme Lithuania funded project “*Sustained transition from children's institutional care to family-based and community-based alternatives*”.
- Pg. 29 Participants of the NGO Programme Lithuanian launch conference, 6 February 2014.
- Pg. 30 NGO Programme Lithuanian launch conference, 6 February 2014.
- Pg. 31 Keisha Laraine Ingram featuring in the documentary “*Ethnic Kitchen*” directed and produced by the US LT Alumni association as a part of the NGO Programme Lithuania funded project “*Ethnic Kitchen: Human Rights Advocacy Campaign to Combat Xenophobia, Racism, Sexism, and Ageism in Lithuania*”.
- Pg. 32 Volunteer of the Lithuanian Food Bank, recipient of the NGO Programme Lithuania funding for the project “*Stop Food Waste in Lithuania!*”

- Pg. 33 Screenshot from the social documentary “Playing Home” produced by the SOS Children Villages Association in Lithuania as a part of the NGO Programme Lithuania funded project *“Sustained transition from children’s institutional care to family-based and community-based alternatives”*.
- Pg. 34 Seminar on bilateral partnerships, 15 March 2014.
- Pg. 35 ‘I can live’ Coalition helped Svajūnas, a drug addict for more than 20 years, to become enrolled in in the Methadone Treatment Programme through the NGO Programme Lithuania funded project *“Ensuring service availability to people affected by HIV (including IDUs) and implementation of their rights”*.
- Pg. 37 Filming the documentary “Ethnic Kitchen” under the US-LT Alumni project *“Ethnic Kitchen: Human Rights Advocacy Campaign to Combat Xenophobia, Racism, Sexism, and Ageism in Lithuania”*, funded by the NGO Programme Lithuania.
- Pg. 38 *Effective Communication and Basics of Advocacy Trainings* for project promoters, 7-8 October 2014.
- Pg. 39 *“Rainbow Days”* organized by the Lithuanian Gay League under the NGO Programme Lithuania funded project *“Towards Practical Implementation of LGBT Rights in Lithuania”*.
- Pg. 40 *“I Love Panda”* campaign on combating hate speech, launched by the National Institute for Social Integration as a part of the NGO Programme Lithuania funded project *“All different- All equal: Human rights, active participation and variety”*.

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