

# L I T H U A N I A

## SECTION A

### **Capital**

Vilnius 575,700 (1995 est.)

### **Area**

65,301 sq km (25,175 sq mi)

### **Form of government**

Unitary Multiparty Republic with a single legislative body, the Seimas

### **GDP—per capita**

Purchasing power parity—\$4,800 (1999 est.)

### **Population**

3,584,966 (July 1999 est.)

### **Ethnic composition**

Lithuanian	81.6%
Russian	8.2%
Polish	6.9%
Belarusian	1.5%
Ukrainian	1.0%
Other	0.8%

### **Official language**

Lithuanian (state language)

### **Minority languages**

Polish, Russian, Ukraine

## **Legislation dealing with the use of languages**

*The Constitution*, adopted on October 25, 1992

*Law on Ethnic Minorities* from November 23, 1989

*Law on the State Language* from January 31, 1995

According to the Law on National Minorities, 1989 in offices and organizations located in areas densely populated by any minority with a different language from the official language, the minority language may be used in addition to the Lithuanian language.

The use of the native language by persons belonging to national minorities or foreigners in their contacts with administrative authorities and public services throughout the county is neither regulated nor in any way restricted by any national legislation.

### **Background notes**

Lithuania is a parliamentary democracy, having regained its independence in 1990 after more than 50 years of forced annexation by the Soviet Union.

Naturalization of a person requires a 10-year residency, a permanent job or source of income, knowledge of the Constitution, renunciation of any other citizenship, and proficiency in the Lithuanian language.

## **SECTION B**

### **Where does one observe language to be a problem in the country?**

Amongst the Baltic States Lithuania has the smallest number of Soviet-era Russian immigrants but their future seems to be the most positive. Lithuania has no border problems with Russia, nor does it have a problem in relation to its Russian ethnic population. The delineation of the State border between the two countries was completed in October 24, 1997 with the signing of a Treaty between Lithuania and Russia including a Treaty establishing an Exclusive Economic Zone near the Baltic Sea.

Rights of national minorities, including those of Russians, are fully respected in Lithuania. Lithuania granted the right to obtain Lithuanian citizenship to all inhabitants residing in Lithuania at the Declaration of Independence. Russians represent approximately 8% of the population of Lithuania and they enjoy a full social, cultural and linguistic autonomy

guaranteed by the Lithuanian laws and according to international standards.

Lithuanian law is widely considered by international observers to be the most liberal in the Baltic States with regard to minority rights. Although the Law on Ethnic Minorities (1989) states that people of all ethnic groups must respect Lithuania's state language, culture and traditions, the State must also provide equal protection for all the citizens of Lithuania, regardless of ethnicity. Article 4 says that in offices and organizations located in areas of substantial minority numbers with a different language, the language spoken by that minority shall be used in addition to the Lithuanian language (amended on January 29, 1990). The same also applies to schooling, newspaper and street signs.

The Lithuanian Law on the State Language of 1995 deals only with the usage of the state language.

In comparison with Estonia and Latvia, the Russian minority living in Lithuania gains certain rights from the law. Due to this fact, Lithuania is not criticized by the human rights organizations.

### **To what extent are minority groups in this country disadvantaged by their language?**

The Law on Employment Contract stipulates that it is prohibited to refuse employment to a person due to sex, race, nationality, citizenship, political convictions, religious beliefs, or any other factors, which do not affect professional qualifications of that person.

In certain cases one of the requirements for employment is knowledge of the State language, Lithuanian. The requirement of official state language knowledge should not apply for the employees whose posts do not relate to a constant contact with public.

The Decision on the Program of the State Language Training adopted by the Government of Lithuania in 1992 approved three qualification categories of State language skill, which apply to employees at different levels. This order was revised by the Government on May 30, 1996. Examination of the State language skill applies to those non-Lithuanian speakers who seek new employment. They are required to provide documentation on certified language skills. There is no fixed deadline in Lithuania, by which corresponding examination of the qualification must be passed.

## **The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other**

### SCHOOLS

The Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania from 1990 reiterates that, numerous and densely living national minorities are provided the possibility to have pre-school institutions, secondary schools and classes with their native language of instruction. Such educational establishments should be State institutions or institutions with government financial assistance.

Textbooks in the mother tongue of national minorities are provided by the State, free of charge and are published by a Special State publishing house.

There are State schools and classes utilizing the Russian, Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian language for instruction. In 1996/97, around 72,000 pupils comprising 13.6% of all the pupils in the country studied in Russian and Polish language schools. In all the secondary schools, including those with a minority language of instruction, the State language and Lithuanian literature are taught in Lithuanian. Other subjects in the schools of linguistic minorities could be taught in Lithuanian at the request of the parents.

### MEDIA

According to the Law on Press and Other Mass Media, public information shall be provided and spread in the official language or any other language with the conformity to the principles of the Law on State Language, Article 11.

According to the Law on National Radio and TV, Lithuanian National Radio and TV should uphold the creation, promotion and protection of national culture. It should also form the principles of tolerance and humanity, and ensure the culture of spoken language. (Article 3) The radio and TV programs should be orientated towards various groups in the society, taking into account the differences in age, nationality, belief and orientation. (Article 4) Radio and television programs on the State Radio and TV, broadcast in all of these languages: Russian, Polish, Tatar, German, Belarusian and Ukrainian. In 1996 the total duration of such programs was 987,5 hours on State Radio and 117 hours on State TV.

## **Did the country ratify any international treaty dealing with the protection of minorities?**

Lithuania signed the Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on February 1, 1995, ratified it on March 23, 2000 and enacted on July 1, 2000.

## **SECTION C**

### **Legislation dealing with the use of languages**

#### ***Updated (June 2002)***

The Minorities Law guarantees all ethnic minorities residing in Lithuania the right to freely develop their identity and this right is really enjoyed in practice. When obtaining a passport, every citizen of Lithuania is free to identify his/her ethnicity ("tautybe") based on his/her parents. Roma, along with 17 other minorities, are granted official representation in the governmental Council of National Communities.

The Minorities Law makes provision for the use of minority languages in the private and public spheres, but in practice Roma are not allowed to use their language in communication with public authorities.

According to the 1989 Minorities Law, minority languages may be used in addition to Lithuanian in "offices and organizations located in the areas inhabited by a substantial number of minority with a different language." The law further permits street signs to be posted in minority languages in areas where minorities are numerous.

In practice, Roma cannot use the Romani language in the public sphere. According to the Integration Program, most of the Lithuanian Roma speak the Russian language but in fact, almost all Lithuanian Roma speak the Romani languages, and many Vilnius Roma speak Russian as a second language. In other parts of Lithuania, the second language is Lithuanian. As officials do not speak the Romani language, in practice only the Roma who speak Russian can benefit from the assistance of official translators and interpreters. For those who speak neither Russian nor Lithuanian, an interpreter has to be found within the community to assist in communications with public officials.

Judicial proceedings must be conducted in the state language. Persons who do not know the state language are formally provided with an interpreter free of charge. The Criminal Procedure Code stipulates that each person has the right to be informed promptly, in a language he or she understands, of the reasons for arrest and the nature and cause of

any accusation. A detainee has the right to defend himself in this language, with the free assistance of an interpreter if necessary. Roma are disadvantaged at courts, as Romani language interpreters do not exist.

## EDUCATION

Minorities in Lithuania enjoy the legal right to state supported schooling in their native language. However, as yet there have been no governmental efforts to provide Romani language education or to infuse mainstream education with lessons on Roma history and culture.

The Minorities Law guarantees minority groups the rights to obtain aid from the state; to develop culture and education; to have schooling in their native language, with provision for pre-school education, elementary and secondary education, as well as provision for groups, faculties and departments at institutions of higher learning to train teachers and other specialists” (Article 2). The Law on Education also provides protection for “compact” minority communities. Although the requisite size and concentration for a compact community is not specified in the law, the state will either establish or support existing pre-schools and schools or classes of general education in minority languages and culture.

The Polish and Russian minorities both benefit from the existence of state funded schools where they can study in their mother tongues. However, even in these educational institutions, the Lithuanian language and literature must be taught in Lithuanian. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, there are no schools with the Romani language of instructions.

## MEDIA

The Minorities Law guarantees the right “to have newspapers and other publications and information in one’s native language” (Article 2). There are no Romani owned or Romani language newspapers, television, or radio programs in Lithuania at present, and to date the government has provided no financial support for Romani language media.

## CITIZENSHIP

The 1989 Law on Citizenship set no special requirements to acquire the citizenship. Permanent residents of the country could obtain citizenship irrespective of nationality, length of residence in the country, or knowledge of the state language. Consequently, the great majority of residents, including more than 90 percent of all national minorities, received citizenship following independence. A more stringent Citizenship Law was introduced in 1991, according to which applicants for naturalization must have ten years residence in the country, permanent employment (or other legal source of support), and must pass an exam testing knowledge of the Lithuanian language and provisions of the Constitution.

Allegedly, a number of Roma failed to apply for citizenship before 1991, and, unable to meet the more stringent post 1991 standards, they have remained without citizenship.

#### PROGRAM FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ROMA INTO LITHUANIAN SOCIETY 2000 – 2004

On July 1 2000, the Prime Minister signed a government resolution on the Program for the Integration of Roma into Lithuanian Society 2000 –2004, which aims to encourage the integration while protecting and promoting the development of Romani cultural identity. The Minorities Department has been asked to coordinate the Program's implementation. The Program outlines problematic areas for the Roma community, including education, health, migration, and the "hostile attitude" of non-Roma, and identifies state budgetary allocations for a number of activities to address these issues in the Kirtimai neighborhood in an initial phase (2001 –2004).

Lithuania's most prominent Romani leaders jointly objected to the fact that the Program was developed without their participation, pointing out that representatives of Roma NGOs found out about the existence of the Program only after its approval by the Government in July, 2000. According to them, the result is that the Integration Program does not reflect the interests, concerns or perspectives of the Lithuanian Roma community.

Source:

[http://www.eumap.org/reports/content/10/440/minority\\_lithuania.pdf](http://www.eumap.org/reports/content/10/440/minority_lithuania.pdf),  
The EU Accession Monitoring Program Report on Minority Protection,  
Open Society Institute 2001 on  
<http://www.eumap.org/reports/content/10>

#### ***Updated (September 2002)***

*The Law on the Enforcement of the Law on the Official Language* adopted on February 7, 1995, established de jure the current status of the Lithuanian language.

*The Program for the Use and Promotion of the Official Language*, adopted by the Government on December 4, 1995 marked the beginning of de facto stage of the status of the language.

*The Law on the Status of State Commission of the Lithuanian Language* (March 25, 1993)

The main fields of activity of this Commission are:

- ❖ Legal and administrative protection of the official language (OL)

To draft legislation guaranteeing the correct use of the OL; to harmonize legislation regulating the status of the OL and other language rules with corresponding documents of the European Union; to formulate and finance programs for teaching non-Lithuanians the OL or improving their skills; etc.

❖ Language standardization

Collection, investigation and generalization of non-standard language facts; approval of standard technical terms and bilingual dictionaries of technical terms; standardization of place names

❖ Language teaching and improvement of language skills

To finance and coordinate language-teaching programs at schools of higher education and vocational schools; to support language courses for non-Lithuanian speakers; language consultations for institutions and individuals; language education through the mass media

❖ To control the implementation of the Law on the OL and other legislation regulating the use of the OL

Source: World Congress on Language Policies, Barcelona, April 16-20, 2002, "Language Planning and Practice: Lithuanian Model," by Ass. Prof. Dr. Nijole Merkiene from Faculty of Humanities, Šiaulai University, <http://www.linguapax.org/congres/taller/taller2/Merkiene.html>

**Where does one observe language to be a problem in the country?**

***Updated (February 2003)***

**POLISH MPS CALL FOR BILINGUAL SIGNS IN LITHUANIA**

Problems between Lithuania and Poland regarding the Polish minority living in the Vilnius region erupted at the end of January 2003. The debate concerned bilingual signs erected last year by the Polish minority, constituting three quarters of the residents in Suderwa, near the capital Vilnius. The Lithuanian authorities have ordered to take down the signs and imposed a fine on the residents. Almost all the parties represented in the Polish Parliament called for the signs to be kept.

However, Polish MP Heinrich Kroll, a representative of the German minority living in Poland, argued that Warsaw uses double standards. Germans do not have such rights in Poland. In the German minority regions around Oppeln, information in two languages is only permitted on public buildings.

Source: Eurolang News, Brussels, February 4, 2003, by Hannah McGlue, <http://217.136.252.147/webpub/eurolang/pajenn.asp?ID=4075>

## **The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other**

***Updated (September 2002)***

### EDUCATION

The main language of instructions at different levels is Lithuanian but the languages of national minorities are used at schools as well<sup>1</sup>:

Language of teaching	General daily schools	Vocational schools	Vocational colleges	Higher schools
<b>Russian</b>	7,7	6,3	0,2	0,9
<b>Polish</b>	3,8	0,8	1,0	0,2
<b>Bielorussian</b>	-	-	-	0,1
<b>English</b>	-	-	-	0,9
<b>French</b>	-	-	-	0,1
<b>German</b>	-	-	-	0,1

### MEDIA

Lithuanian Radio devotes 90 minutes daily to the Russian language programs, 30 minutes to Polish language programs, 30 minutes bimonthly to Ukrainian language broadcasting, and 30 minutes weekly to Bielorussian programs.

Lithuanian National TV broadcasts daily a 10-minute informational program and several weekly programs in Russian and Polish. It also has short programs for smaller national minorities (Ukrainians, Belorussians and Jews). Lithuania re-broadcasts TV "Polonia" from Poland and some TV programs and stations of other countries.

In 1999, Lithuania had 754 periodic publications: newspapers, magazines and bulletins. The majority of them (88.1 percent) are published in Lithuanian. Other languages are used as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical yearbook. Vilnius, 2000, p.50

<b><i>Languages</i></b>	<b><i>Newspapers (%)</i></b>	<b><i>Magazines, bulletins (%)</i></b>
Russian	8,8	0,7
Polish	1,6	0,2
English	0,8	9,8
Other (Jidish, German, Belorussian)	1,3	0,5

## BOOKS

In the year 2000, besides Lithuanian, which is the main language in this sphere (90.7 percent), other languages were used as follows: (in percent)

<b>English</b>	<b>Russian</b>	<b>Polish</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Others</b>
3,7	2,3	1,3	0,8	0,83

Source: World Congress on Language Policies, Barcelona, April 16-20, 2002, "Language Planning and Practice: Lithuanian Model," by Ass. Prof. Dr. Nijole Merkiene from Faculty of Humanities, Šiaulai University, <http://www.linguapax.org/congres/taller/taller2/Merkiene.html>

# APPENDIX A

## MAP OF LITHUANIA



## **APPENDIX B**

### **LITHUANIA - CONSTITUTION**

(Adopted on October 25, 1992)

(Document Status on October 25, 1992)

(Editor's Note: The translation for the ICL edition has been provided by Martin Scheinin in 1995)

#### **Article 14**

Lithuanian shall be the state language.

#### **Article 29**

(2) A person may not have his rights restricted in any way, or be granted any privileges, on the basis of his or her sex, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, religion, convictions, or opinions.

#### **Article 37**

Citizens who belong to ethnic communities shall have the right to foster their language, culture, and customs.

#### **Article 117**

(2) In the Republic of Lithuania court trials shall be conducted in the State language.

(3) Persons who do not speak Lithuanian shall be guaranteed the right to participate in investigation and court proceedings through an interpreter.

Note: The complete text of the Constitution and further information on the constitutional background of Lithuania are provided by the International Constitutional Law Project at the University of Wuerzburg.

# **REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA LAW ON THE STATE LANGUAGE**

(Adopted on January 31, 1995)

## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1**

This Law shall regulate the use of the state language in public life of Lithuania, protection and control of the state language, and the responsibility for violations of the Law on the State Language. The Law shall not regulate unofficial communication of the population and the language of events of religious communities as well as persons, belonging to ethnic communities. Other laws of the Republic of Lithuania and legal acts adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania shall guarantee the right of persons, belonging to ethnic communities, to foster their language, culture and customs.

### **Article 2**

The Lithuanian language is the state language of the Republic of Lithuania.

## **II. INSTITUTIONS, ENTERPRISES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Article 3**

Laws of the Republic of Lithuania and other legal acts shall be adopted and promulgated in the state language.

### **Article 4**

All institutions, offices, enterprises and organizations, which function in the Republic of Lithuania, shall conduct business and keep records, reports, financial and technical documents in the state language.

### **Article 5**

State and local government institutions, offices, enterprises and organizations of the Republic of Lithuania shall conduct correspondence with each other in the state language.

### **Article 6**

Heads, employees and officers of state and local government institutions, offices, services, as well as heads, employees and officers of the police, law-enforcement services, institutions of communications, transportation,

health and social security and other institutions providing services to the population must know the state language according to the language knowledge categories, established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

#### **Article 7**

Heads of state and local government institutions, offices and organizations, as well as heads of communications, transportation, health and social security, police and law-enforcement services, trade and other institutions providing services to the population must ensure that the population be provided with services in the state Language.

### III. COURTS

#### **Article 8**

Legal proceedings in the Republic of Lithuania shall be conducted in the state language. Participants in the legal proceedings, who do not know the state language, shall be provided with the services of an interpreter free of charge.

### IV. TRANSACTIONS

#### **Article 9**

All the transactions of legal and natural persons of the Republic of Lithuania shall be conducted in the state language. Translations into one or more languages may be attached to them. Transactions with natural and legal persons of foreign states shall be conducted in the state language and another language acceptable to both parties.

### V. OFFICIAL EVENTS

#### **Article 10**

Official events (sessions, congresses, meetings, sittings, conferences, etc.) organized by state and local government institutions, state offices and enterprises shall be conducted in the state language. In the events, when a speaker uses another language, translation into the state language must be provided. Paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be applied to international events organized in the Republic of Lithuania.

### VI. EDUCATION AND CULTURE

#### **Article 11**

The State shall guarantee the residents of the Republic of Lithuania the right to acquire general, vocational, higher post-school and university

education in the state language. The conditions for acquiring general education in the state language shall be guaranteed within the entire territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

#### **Article 12**

All secondary schools of general education must teach the state language in the manner prescribed by the State.

#### **Article 13**

Audiovisual program, motion pictures publicly shown in Lithuania must be translated into the state language or shown with subtitles in Lithuanian. Paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be applied to teaching and special programs and events, as well as events and programs held for a certain occasion or intended for ethnic communities, and also to radio and television programs or texts of musical work of foreign states that are broadcasted in Lithuania.

### VII. NAMES

#### **Article 14**

In the Republic of Lithuania official, standardized genders of place-names shall be written in the state language.

#### **Article 15**

Genders, which are prescribed by laws, of personal names of the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania shall be used in the Republic of Lithuania. Personal names shall be changed and corrected in the manner prescribed by laws.

#### **Article 16**

Names of all enterprises, offices and organizations, functioning in the Republic of Lithuania shall be formed adhering to the norms of the Lithuanian language and the rules approved by the State Lithuanian Language Commission under the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

### VIII. SIGNS AND INFORMATION

#### **Article 17**

In the Republic of Lithuania public signs shall be in the state language. Seals, stamps, letterheads, plaques, signs in offices and other places of enterprises, institutions and organizations of the Republic of Lithuania, as well as names of goods and services provided in Lithuania and their descriptions, must be in the state language.

## **Article 18**

Names of organizations of ethnic communities, their informational signs may be rendered in other languages along with the state language. The format of signs in other languages cannot be larger than that of signs in the state language.

## **IX. CORRECTNESS OF THE STATE LANGUAGE**

### **Article 19**

The State shall enhance the prestige of the correct Lithuanian language, provide conditions for protecting linguistic norms, personal names, place-names, dialects and written language monuments, ensure the material basis for the state language functioning, provide general assistance to the Lithuanian language studies as a priority scientific branch and to the scholarly institutions which study this language, as well as to publishing of books on the Lithuanian language science and practice.

### **Article 20**

The State Lithuanian Language Commission shall establish the trends and tasks of the state language protection and approve linguistic norms.

### **Article 21**

Requirements for the knowledge of the correct state language shall be included into the qualification evaluation regulations of civil servants, pedagogues, employees of mass media and publishing and shall be applied taking into consideration the qualification and the work status.

### **Article 22**

Mass media of Lithuania (the press, television, radio, etc.), all publishers of books and other publications must observe the norms of the correct Lithuanian language.

### **Article 23**

All public signs must be correct.

## **X. RESPONSIBILITY AND CONTROL**

### **Article 24**

Any actions against the state language status which is established by the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania shall be prohibited. Heads of institutions, offices, enterprises, services and organizations shall be

responsible for the direct execution of the provisions of this Law. Persons who violate this Law shall be liable in the procedure established by laws.

#### **Article 25**

The enforcement of this Law shall be controlled by the Language Inspection of the State Lithuanian Language Commission under the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

#### **Article 26**

When this Law becomes effective, the following documents shall be declared invalid: the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR on the Use of the State Language of the Lithuanian SSR, adopted 25 January 1989 (@in., 1989, No.4-11); and the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR on the Measures to Ensure the Use of State Language of the Lithuanian SSR, adopted on 20 February 1989 (@in., 1989, No.7-51).

#### **Article 27**

This Law shall be enforced pursuant to the Law on the Enforcement of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the State Language.

I promulgate this Law enacted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.  
Algirdas Brazauskas President of the Republic Vilnius January 31, 1995

## **REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA LAW ON THE PRINCIPLES OF STATE PROTECTION OF ETHNIC CULTURE**

September 21, 1999.

No. VIII - 1328 Vilnius

#### **Preamble**

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

- cognizant of the fact that ethnic culture constitutes the essence of national existence, survival and strength;
- stating that the various forms of Lithuanian ethnic culture and particularly its living traditions are in obvious danger of extinction;
- acknowledging that only a nation which relies upon its culture can support the civic maturity of the members of its society, participate in universal civilization as an equal partner and maintain dignity, self-

sufficiency and originality necessary for such partnership and co-operation,

- approves this Law on the Principles of State Protection of Ethnic Culture.

## CHAPTER I

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### **Article 1. Purpose of Law**

This Law shall establish the general principles of State protection of Lithuanian ethnic culture, and means and conditions Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture and continuity and enrichment insofar as this shall not be regulated by other laws.

#### **Article 2. The Basic Definitions of this Law**

1. Archival Material on Ethnic Culture means collected, fixed, inventoried and stored valuable items of ethnic culture (audio, video recordings, manuscript collection, iconographic materials, museum exhibit items, etc.)

2. Owner of Archive Original is a collector or other person, who has assumed the rights to the original archival material of ethnic culture.

3. Person means a natural or legal person or an enterprise not having the status of a legal person.

4. Ethnic Culture includes the sum total of cultural properties, created by the entire nation (ethnos), passed from generation to generation and constantly renewed, which makes it possible to preserve the national identity and consciousness and uniqueness of ethnographic regions.

5. Living Tradition of Ethnic Culture is the transfer of inherited culture, its creation and revival.

6. Heritage of Ethnic Culture means ethnic cultural values created in the past and preserved to current times.

7. Entities of Ethnic Culture are the people creating ethnic culture properties and conveying, nurturing and accumulating them.

8. State Protection of Ethnic Culture includes legal, organizational, economic and financial means through which the State guarantees the continuity of living tradition and creation, accumulation, protection, research and popularization of ethnic culture properties.

9. Properties of Ethnic Culture include fixed and unfixed items of national significance of spiritual and material ethnic culture.

10. Ethnographic Region is a historically formed part of territory, in which a distinctive dialect, traditions and customs have been preserved and the heritage of the Baltic tribes has been integrated.

11. Presenter is a person who renders authentic ethnic cultural properties, which have been acquired and preserved by living tradition or supplies information regarding such.

12. Collector is a person who records, fixes and (or) assembles ethnic culture properties.

13. Author of Transcription is a person who conveys in writing a musical and (or) verbal text from an archival audio recording.

### **Article 3. Legal Principles of State Protection of Ethnic Culture**

State protection of ethnic culture shall be implemented according to the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, this and other laws and legal acts and international agreements.

### **Article 4. Tasks of State Protection of Ethnic Culture**

The tasks of State protection of ethnic culture shall be as follows:

- a) to guarantee the preservation and of cultural heritage and continuity of living tradition;
- b) to guarantee the preservation, recognition, fixing and rendering of ethnographic, regional traditions of Lithuania;
- c) to form and legalize institutions consolidating State protection of ethnic culture and a system of ethnic culture institutions or branches thereof subordinate to them;
- d) to ensure an opportunity for all members of society to become acquainted more thoroughly with ethnic culture and the diversity of its expression and to guarantee the accessibility of archival ethnic culture;
- e) to develop scientific research of all branches of ethnic culture;
- f) to educate a personality of mature national awareness through integrating ethnic culture with the education system;
- g) to nurture the expression of ethnic culture which exists in natural surroundings;
- h) to develop ethnic uniqueness of language, ensure the survival of dialects and ethnic place names;

- i) to support events popularizing ethnic culture;
- j) to create conditions for improvement of the skill of entities (creators and performers);
- k) to ensure protection of the rights of ethnic culture entities;
- l) to guarantee propagation of ethnic culture through public media and computer networks, support spreading Lithuanian ethnic culture universally and promote acquaintance with the culture of other nations of the world;
- m) create conditions, diminishing the influence of mass culture, which is harmful to national culture;
- n) to support the ethnic culture of Lithuanians residing abroad, take care to preserve their national identity and cultural co-operation with fellow countrymen in Lithuania;
- o) to provide State support for Lithuanian ethnic culture heritage, remaining in Lithuanian ethnic lands and to protect it.

## CHAPTER II

### REGULATION OF STATE PROTECTION OF ETHNIC CULTURE

#### **Article 5. Institutions Ensuring State Protection of Ethnic Culture**

1. The following institutions shall ensure state protection of ethnic culture:

- 1.1. The Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture which is a State consulting and expert institution, whose statutes and structure are approved by Government resolution, based upon the proposals of public and state institutions, linked with the protection of ethnic culture;
- 1.2. the Government, ministries and institutions of State protection of ethnic culture allocated to their administrative sphere and their subdivisions;
- 1.3. regional Councils for the protection of ethnic culture namely, regional subdivisions of the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture, to which according to the procedure established the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture, representatives shall be delegated by public and State institutions active in the ethnographic region and linked with ethnic culture protection;

- 1.4. county governors;
- 1.5. local government institutions.

2. Competence of state institutions of the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture shall be as follows:

- 2.1. The Council For the Protection of Ethnic Culture shall assist in the formation and implementation of ethnic culture policy, co-ordinate State protection of ethnic culture, submit conclusions and proposals to State institutions regarding ethnic culture issues;
- 2.2. The State shall guarantee necessary State support of ethnic culture; ministries shall according to their competence ensure implementation of the ethnic culture policy, and create conditions for ethnic culture activities in institutions belonging to their sphere of administration;
- 2.3. regional councils for the protection of ethnic culture shall assist county governors and local government institutions in resolving issues Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture within the ethnographic region;
- 2.4. the county governors shall be involved in decisions involving all ethnic culture issues occurring in the ethnographic regions within county territory, support the existing and found new institutions necessary for protection of ethnic culture and divisions thereof, and staff positions;
- 2.5. municipalities shall be involved in the protection and strengthening of local ethnic culture institutions, support the existing and (or) found new institutions necessary for the protection of ethnic culture or divisions thereof, staff positions, organize collection of ethnic culture properties, defining and research, in co-operation with the country's institutions of scientific research and methodical institutions and organizations.

**Article 6. Accumulation, Protection, Research of Ethnic Culture Properties and Co-ordination of these Activities**

1. The institutions which guarantee State protection of ethnic culture shall develop according to their competence, a system of institutions that accumulate, protect and research ethnic culture properties, based upon co-ordination of their interaction and common system of information.

2. The Ministries of Culture and Science and Education shall ensure that conditions in keeping with archival material storage requirements of the

Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture be created at institutions for storing the archival materials and computer systems be set up.

3. Properties of ethnic culture shall be accumulated, kept and researched by:

- 1) archives, depositories, museums and libraries;
- 2) science and study institutions;
- 3) public organizations.

4. With the consent by the Council on Ethnic Culture, the founder may extend the status of archive of a specialized ethnic culture branch to depositories, which have amassed the most archival material of a certain ethnic culture branch.

5. Science and study institutions shall prepare specialists for work in institutions of ethnic culture accumulation, protection and research, conduct research of the processes of ethnic culture inheritance and living tradition.

#### **Article 7. Legal Regulation of the Accumulation and Use of Ethnic Culture Properties**

1. Persons engaged in systematic collection and accumulation of ethnic culture properties must observe the regulations of collection and accumulation of ethnic culture properties approved by the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture.

2. A collector must obtain the approval of the presenter, in order to fix and describe ethnic culture properties.

3. Publication of confidential nature information shall only be permitted upon the approval of the presenter.

4. If the presenter is used for commercial purposes as a performer, he shall have the right to receive compensation.

5. Persons accumulating material ethnic culture properties, shall compensate the presenter for such according to the agreement and legalize acquisition of said properties according to the procedure established by legal acts.

6. Each person shall have the right to acquaint himself with archival material on ethnic culture kept at the municipal institution and public organization depositories.

7. Archives of ethnic culture properties, depositories, and scientific and study institutions shall have the right to obtain copies of archival material on ethnic culture of other archives, depositories and other institutions and also, those accumulated by natural persons, the procedure of acquisition and use whereof shall be established by agreements with the owner of the archival original.

8. Use of archival ethnic culture material shall be permitted free of charge for science and education purposes.

9. Use of archival ethnic culture material for commercial purposes shall only be permitted upon receipt of concurrence by owner of the archival original, presenter and compiler of the collection. They shall be compensated according to the procedure established by agreements.

10. In using archival material on ethnic culture, the owners of archival originals, codes of archival originals and inventory numbers must always be indicated.

11. Laws protecting authors' rights shall defend the right of the compilers of ethnic culture property collections. A collection compiler must indicate in the collection the presenters, collectors, author of transcription, owners of archival originals, codes of archival originals and inventory numbers.

12. Unique material properties of ethnic culture shall be included in the Republic of Lithuania Registers of Immovable and Movable Cultural Properties, and it may not be taken abroad without being returned, but may be taken abroad temporarily in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts.

## **Article 8. Continuity and Popularization of Ethnic Culture**

1. The Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture shall initiate and assist the Government in the preparation of a State program on development of ethnic culture and co-ordinate implementation thereof.

2. The Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture shall initiate and assist the Government in the preparation of long-term plans of ethnographic regions of Lithuania, drafts of preservation of villages, ensuring the development of the production and cultural activity development of entities of ethnic culture.

3. The Government shall initiate development of ethnic language uniqueness, ensure preservation of dialects and ethnic place names and organize replacement of foreign words found in the Lithuanian language, by Lithuanian equivalents.

4. Institutions attributed to the supervision sphere of the Ministry of Culture, according to their competence shall:

- 4.1. accumulate information on the existence of the living tradition of ethnic culture and manifestation thereof in Lithuania and Lithuanian communities abroad;
- 4.2. Provide methodical and organizational support in the ethnic culture area to county and municipality institutions;
- 4.3. publish informational and methodical publication popularizing ethnic culture;
- 4.4. organize events popularizing ethnic culture;
- 4.5. support authentic forms of ethnic culture expression existing in natural surroundings;
- 4.6. hold courses for improvement of workers who are engaged in ethnic culture work

5. The State shall accord priority to ethnic culture-oriented draft projects in architecture, landscape, nature protection, tourism and refreshing of regional traditions.

6. The State shall promote and support restoration and popularizing of calendar feast days, trades, sports branches, games and other forms of activity based upon ethnic culture.

7. The State shall support non-governmental organizations (unions, associations, clubs, ensembles and other forms of folklore expression), which protect ethnic culture, promotes and co-ordinates their efforts to become acquainted with, develop and propagate ethnic culture.

8. According to the procedure established by laws, State and municipal institutions may furnish on a loan basis, facilities or other property necessary for the activity of ethnic culture entities.

9. The Radio and Television Council of Lithuania, in establishing broadcasting (duration and content) of ethnic culture broadcasts, shall consider the proposals of the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture.

## **Article 9. Development of Ethnic Culture**

1. The Ministry of Education and Science and institutions assigned to its area of administration, seeking to ensure transfer of ethnic culture and nurturing thereof within the formal and informal education system shall:

- 1.1. integrate ethnic culture into all types and levels of educational institution training programs;
- 1.2. create the conditions for introduction of an ethnic culture course in general education schools;
- 1.3. promote versatile ethnic culture activities within the area of supplementary education;
- 1.4. develop the uniqueness of ethnic language in educational institutions, ensure the knowledge of ethnographic region uniqueness and local traditions
- 1.5. legalize those already in existence and if necessary, found new, specialized ethnic education institutions or subdivisions thereof.
- 1.6. ensure training of ethnic culture teachers and specialists and provide for the raising of their qualifications to work as such;
- 1.7. support publication of ethnic culture instruction means;
- 1.8. integrate ethnic culture with training programs in universities, colleges and vocational schools for specialists of various areas linked with ethnic culture development (cultural workers, teachers, architects, dress designers, textile workers, craftsmen, food industry workers, agricultural specialists, environmentalists, sportsmen etc.).

2. The Ministry of Education and Science together with municipalities shall create the conditions necessary to request the services of ethnic culture entities (folk artists, musicians, singers etc.) for the purposes of education in ethnic culture and studies.

3. The Ministry of National Defense along with the Ministry of Education and Science shall include ethnic culture in training of military personnel and patriotic education programs.

## CHAPTER III

### FUNDING

#### **Article 10. Sources of Funding State Protection of Ethnic Culture**

1. State and municipal activities linked with ethnic culture protection, shall be funded from the State Budget, municipal budgets, Foundation for Ethnic Culture Protection and other culture and science Foundation resources.

2. The Ministries of Culture and Education and Science shall support the institutions of ethnic culture attributed to their area of administration and fund ethnic culture programs.

3. County governors and municipalities shall support the institutions of ethnic culture, fund the programs of its region's collection, conservation, restoration, research and popularization of ethnic culture properties.

4. The Ministries of Culture and Education and Science shall fund events dedicated to research in ethnic culture (symposiums, conferences etc.), studies of those engaged in ethnic culture research and participation in science events abroad.

5. The Ministries of Culture and Education and Science and State and other science and culture foundations shall support the production and popularity of expert-approved periodical publications of ethnic culture, scientific work, preparation for publication and publishing of publications, and preparation, production and popularization of movies and videos, sound, and computer recordings intended for ethnic culture representation and education.

6. The Ministry of Culture, county administrations and municipalities shall finance or support feast days of regions cities and towns, based on ethnic culture and also local and international folklore festivals and other events intended for popularizing of ethnic culture.

7. The Foundation for the Support of the Press, Radio and Television, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Council For the Protection of Ethnic Culture, shall support the programs of public media prepares, intended for popularizing periodical publications of ethnic culture.

## **Article 11. Foundation For Protection of Ethnic Culture**

1. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall be the founder of the Foundation (further-Foundation) for the Protection of Ethnic Culture. The Foundation shall be a legal person, acting in accordance the Government-approved regulations per recommendation of the Foundation for the Protection of Ethnic Culture. The Foundation shall be accountable to the Government and the Council For the Protection of Ethnic Culture and submits an annual report on its financial activity.

2. The sources of foundation funds shall include:

- 2.1. subsidies from the State Budget;
- 2.2. support by international institutions and organizations which protect ethnic culture;

- 2.3. interest of credit institutions, paid for the foundation funds kept there;
- 2.4. volunteer contributions by legal and natural persons;
- 2.5. other legally obtained funds.

3. Basic tasks of the foundation shall be as follows:

- 3.1. to support long-term programs and projects in identification, collection and protection of ethnic culture properties;
- 3.2. to support long-term programs and projects which assist in the nurturing of the continuity of living tradition of ethnic culture;
- 3.3. to support programs of research in ethnic culture, and publication of ethnic culture property collections;
- 3.4. to award prizes to most deserving architectural and other projects based upon ethnic culture;
- 3.5. to assign grants to students, funds for researchers of ethnic culture for interning in the country's or foreign scientific and study institutions, to participate in scientific conferences and also prizes and awards to persons distinguished in the field of ethnic culture and authors of worthy projects.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINAL PROVISIONS

#### **Article 12. Implementation of the Law**

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall:

- a) confirm the structure and bylaws of the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture and assigns premises for this council;
- b) confirm the bylaws of the Foundation for Protection of Ethnic Culture and establish a Foundation For the Protection of Ethnic Culture;
- c) by December 31 of the year 2000, shall prepare a preservation program of dialects and ethnic location names and establish the procedure of implementing of changes of foreign words into Lithuanian equivalents;

- d) by December 31 of the year 2000, prepare a State program of Ethnic Culture Development;
- e) by December 31, 2000, prepare a long-term program for preservation of ethnographic villages in Lithuania.

I promulgate this Law passed by the Republic of Lithuania Seimas.

President of the Republic Valdas Adamkus

*Source: Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Document Search  
<http://www3.lrs.lt/n/eng/DPaieska.html>*

*Official translation*

## **CONCERNING NAME AND SURNAME SPELLING IN THE PASSPORT OF THE CITIZEN OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

Resolution of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, with regard to the provisions of the State Lithuanian Language Commission, has decided to regulate the following order of writing names and surnames in the passport of the citizen of the Republic of Lithuania:

- 1.** In the passport of the citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, the name and surname shall be spelt in the letters of the Lithuanian language in concordance with the Lithuanian name and surname record in other personal documents or passports available.
- 2.** In the passport of the citizen of the Republic of Lithuania, the name and surname of the persons of non-Lithuanian origin shall be spelt in the letters of the Lithuanian language. On the citizen's request in writing, the name and surname can be spelt in the order established as follows:
  - a) according to pronunciation and without Lithuanian endings or
  - b) according to pronunciation adding Lithuanian endings
- 3.** The names and surnames of the persons, who have already possessed citizenship of other State, shall be written according to the passport of the State or an equivalent document available in the passport of the Republic of Lithuania on its issue.

**4.** The names and surnames written in the passport of the citizen of the Republic of Lithuania can be replaced in the order as established by a separate regulation.

Vytautas Landsbergis

The Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania

January 31, 1991, Vilnius No I-1031

*Unofficial translation*

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