

## Summary of the National Survey LITHUANIA

Implementation of Joint study programmes in Lithuania are at the initial stage, therefore development of legal documents defining such initiatives have started only recently. On April 2009, the Seimas (Parliament) has passed a new Law on Science and Studies addressing the major reform of higher education. The Law on Science and Studies expresses several specific requirements for joint study programmes. The decree "On General Requirements for Joint Study Programmes" reissued in 2009 by the Minister of Education and Science, makes provisions on joint study programmes and/or joint degrees. In addition, national higher education internationalisation inducement programme has been implemented since 2008 where the role of joint study programmes for internationalisation is being addressed as well.

The need for implementation of joint study programmes in Lithuania is not only declared in the above documents but can be assessed by active participation of HEIs in international actions. In 2010, 42 of 46 registered higher education institutions in Lithuania received Erasmus University Charter and 40 of them participate in Erasmus mobility actions as well as in a number of Erasmus intensive programmes and joint international curricula development projects. Lithuanian institutions are involved in a Nordplus Framework Programme funded by Nordic Council of Ministers. HEIs collaborating under bilateral agreements aim to create, develop and run joint study programmes. In 2009 Lithuanian HEIs have been implementing 14 JSPs under bilateral agreements. Lithuanian HEIs have been participating in Erasmus Mundus programme very actively since 2004: Lithuanian HEIs submitted 35 coordinated projects for the programme; however only 1 project has been granted. Nevertheless, institutions participate in the programme joining other consortiums by applying to Erasmus Mundus Action 2 and Action 3.

Due to a huge demand of joint study programmes, as a tool for internationalisation, the EMAP project has been very successfully introduced to the country. As a result, the Lithuanian National Structure has received 6 applications for the training seminars within the EMAP project. Granted institutions were as follows: Vytautas Magnus University (project title: "The Interdisciplinary Master's in East European Research and Studies – MIREES") and Vilnius University (project title: "Mathematics for multi-scale modelling in science and technology").

Strong dimension of internationalization of Lithuanian higher education institutions shows that there is a considerable need for the development of joint study programmes. The EMAP project makes a significant contribution in preparation of higher quality joint study programme projects.