



Brief overview of development cooperation of USA and Lithuania

Two case studies

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Aleksandar Krzalovski, First Executive Director

Gonce Jakovleska, Executive Director

Editor:

Simona Ognenovska, project officer

Authors:

Nela Mrchkovska, intern

Vaidas Karpalavičius, intern

Contact

Address: st. Nikola Parapunov“ no. 41A, p.box 55, 1060 Skopje

Phone: +389/2/3065-381; Fax: +389/2/3065-298

Email: mcms@mcms.mk; website: www.mcms.mk

Scribd: <http://www.scribd.com/mcms.mk>

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Case study no. 1

USA Development Cooperation with Macedonia

By Nela Mrchkovska, intern at the MCIC and post-graduate student at the department of Global Economics and Development at the University of Oklahoma

Introduction

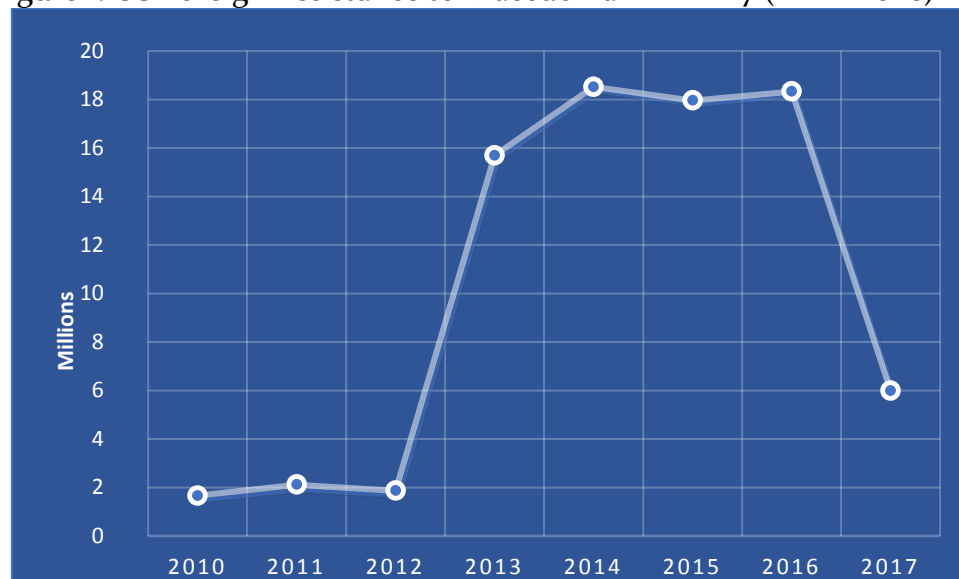
Macedonia and the United States have developed a cooperative relationship across political, economic, cultural, military, and social issues. The two countries have had good bilateral relations since Macedonia gained its independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and the United States formally recognized it in 1994.¹ The U.S. Government assistance to Macedonia focuses on facilitating Macedonia's continued development on the path toward full integration into the Euro-Atlantic community and assisting the Macedonian Government's efforts to sustain economic and democratic reforms to build stability and prosperity.² At the same time, through assistance, the US is furthering its interests in the region.

The United States assists Macedonia in Macedonia's development through US government agencies and the Department of State (DOS), as well as through civil society networks. In the last six years, Macedonia has been at the top one third of countries in the regions that have received foreign aid by the US agencies.³ The US is the third largest donor/partner in development cooperation with Macedonia, following the European Union and Germany.

US government agencies' and DOS aid to Macedonia

The following chart depicts the amount of foreign assistance (in millions) given to Macedonia by various US agencies.⁴ Assistance from the US has significantly increased after 2013.⁵

Figure 1: US Foreign Assistance to Macedonia 2010-2017 (in millions)



Source: www.foreignassistance.gov

¹ US Department of State. Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. *US Relations with Macedonia: Fact Sheet*. May 2016. Internet Access: <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/26759.htm>

² Ibid;

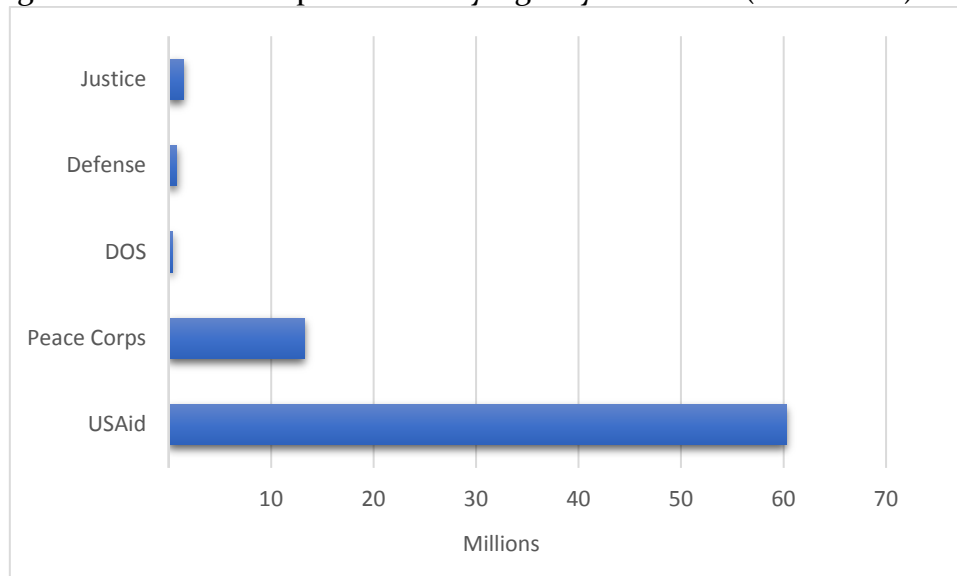
³ US Agency for International Development. *US Foreign Aid by Country: Macedonia*. Internet Access: https://explorer.usaid.gov/cd/MKD?fiscal_year=2009&measure=Disbursements

⁴ Map of Foreign Assistance. Macedonia. Internet Access: <http://foreignassistance.gov/explore>

⁵ The amount from 2017 is partial, thus lower. The projected planned amount for 2017 is \$13,708,000.

The majority of aid is given by the US Agency for International Development (USAid) and the Peace Corps for the purpose of (1) peace and security, (2) democracy, human rights, and governance, and (3) economic development. Out of all US agencies, it is USAid that is distributing the largest aid portion to Macedonia. Figure 2 shows the distribution of development aid by agency for the period 2010 to 2016. The sections that follow will break down development aid by US state agencies.

Figure 2: Total Development Aid by Agency 2010-2016 (in millions)



Source: www.foreignassistance.gov

United States Agency for International Development (USAid)

The USAid is the first US single agency that is responsible for foreign economic development. It was established in November 1961, when President Kennedy signed the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (previously passed by Congress), and issued an executive order for the creation of USAid. Throughout the years of existence, USAid has changed its mission according to shifting needs of the world, as well as the US interests abroad. Its mission in international development has changed from meeting the basic human needs in 1970s, shifting to free markets in 1990s, working towards democracy and sustainability in 1990s, and war and rebuilding in 2000s. As of 2013, USAid mission is focused on ending extreme poverty and promoting resilient democratic societies. In 1989, the US Congress passed the Support for Eastern European Democracy Act, which aimed to help countries in Eastern Europe towards their democratization and the free market economy. USAid started its mission in Macedonia in 1993. Although the specific USAid goals in Macedonia has shifted together with the needs and interests of the US (as mentioned above), the main USAid strategy in Macedonia has continued to be predominantly democratic governance and economic growth. More specifically, the USAid support to Macedonia has the following objectives: (1) greater checks and balances in democratic processes, (2) a basic education system that better prepares youth for the modern economy and a stable democracy, (3) increased job-creating private sector growth in targeted sectors, as well as some newer objectives such as (4) strengthening linkages between education and economic growth to address the gap between labor supply and demand, (5) supporting the Government of Macedonia's interethnic education efforts, (6) focusing on implementation (versus drafting of new laws) of business legislation, and (7) expanding energy efficiency initiatives. USAid attempts to accomplish the aforementioned goals by partnering with local and international organizations in launching a variety of

projects through the year. Understanding the role of local civil society organizations (CSOs) in all sectors, USAid contributes significant amount of its budget (12% in 2012, and 39% in 2013) directly to local CSOs.⁶ The implemented projects aim to provide local solutions to issues on the ground, and encourage involvement of CSO in their realization. *Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance*, and *Economic Development* are holding the priority spots in USAid development aid to Macedonia. The USAid continues to serve as an important body of cooperation in Macedonia. The USAid has noted a significant progress in the Macedonian society and economy since its separation from the communist economic system. Specific achievements in the areas of democratic governance and education are listed in the appendix.

Peace Corps in Macedonia

The Peace Corps was also established during the Kennedy presidency with the passing of the Peace Corps Act in March 1996; it was introduced in the Macedonian society in 1996 when the conditions for its establishment were created. The Peace Corps is the agency that has distributed the most of the foreign aid funds, after USAid, in the period 2010-2016. Currently, there are more than 120 volunteers from the Peace Corps in Macedonia, working on a variety of projects connected to education and community economic development.⁷ In the history of the Peace Corps existence in Macedonia, there have been 685 volunteers. The volunteers' work in Macedonia is mainly focused on education and community economic development in Macedonia. The education part focuses on demonstrating new teaching methodologies and activities, developing supplemental materials for English Language classes, engaging in team teaching to plan and present lessons, and making effective use of information technology and internet provided at schools. The Peace Corps achieve this by improving the organizational and management skills of local Macedonian organizations to implement activities and programs that address local needs. The Peace Corps volunteers work closely with CSOs and the government in implementing their projects. The Peace Corps pay special attention to work with youth (in and out of school), people with disabilities, women, and disadvantaged groups. The goals of the Peace Corps align closely with the goals of local CSOs in Macedonia, making their cooperation viable.

Department of State

In addition to supporting the local embassy in Skopje, DOS also has educational and developing role in Macedonia. Although the main objectives of this relationship is fostering mutual understanding between the United States and Macedonia, some of the project funding fall into the development category. For instance, there are a number of DOS grants that are awarded to local groups (NGOs and NPOs, and independent media) for the purpose of supporting the development of democratic institutions, entrepreneurship and innovation, countering violent extremism, cultural diversity and empowering underserved communities in the Republic of Macedonia. The applications for these grants are on an ongoing basis, being open for applications from NGOs and civil society groups on a yearly or quarterly basis.⁸ The outcomes and effects of these grants opportunities are yet to be analyzed.

Department of Defense and Department of Justice

The US Department of Defense (DOD), historically, has provided foreign aid in three areas: humanitarian and basic needs, foreign military capacity building and state building. DOD has a presence in a lot of countries, and it has been present in Macedonia since 2011. In Macedonia,

⁶ US Agency for International Development. *USAID Mission to Macedonia: History*. Internet Access: <https://www.usaid.gov/history-2>

⁷ Peace Corps. *Peace Corps in Macedonia*. Internet Access: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/macedonia/>

⁸ US Embassy in Macedonia. *Grant Opportunities*. Internet Access: <https://mk.usembassy.gov/education-culture/grants/>

DOD funding, so far, has been mainly spent on Peace and Security, and also on Education and Social Services, Economic Development, and Democracy, Human Rights and Governance.⁹ The US Department of Justice and its Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT) has bilateral assistance programs in Macedonia. The mission of OPDAT in Macedonia is to modernize criminal justice institutions and strengthen the rule of law. Currently, OPDAT is assisting Macedonia in developing or implementing new Criminal Procedure Codes (CPCs), the primary legislative instrument defining the manner by which crimes are investigated, prosecuted and adjudicated.¹⁰

US-based CSOs involvement in development cooperation

US-based international CSOs offer private resources, technical assistance and networking with local communities. There is an estimated number of 900 US-based NGOs that operate in international development and have been registered with the US Agency for International Development.¹¹ US CSOs, or private and voluntary organizations (PVOs) play an essential role in US international relief and development; an estimated 41% of US overseas development funds are channeled through PVOs.¹² Comparatively taken, only 2% of Japanese and 12% of UK's overseas development funds are channeled through PVOs; an evidence that the US gives high significance to the CSO and the wider civil society. Through USAid, the US have established several ways that assist CSOs in their mission to development. A few are mentioned below:

- *Cooperative Development Program (CDP)*: USAid supports overseas cooperative development in partnership with US cooperative development organizations (CDOs). The CDP is a five-year competitive grant program that responds to the needs of local, host country cooperatives and other member-owned businesses by utilizing the expertise and resources of long-established US cooperative organizations, their members, and volunteers;
- *Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F)*: The F2F program leverages the expertise of volunteers from US farms, universities, cooperatives, private agribusinesses and nonprofit farm organizations to respond to the local needs of host-country farmers and organizations;
- *Development Innovation Ventures*: As part of the US Global Development Lab, this program provides grants to organizations that supports breakthrough solutions to the world's most intractable development challenges through open competition;
- *Partnership Opportunities*: USAid offers a variety of partnership opportunities with CSOs to work on projects dependent on local needs. For instance, USAid in Macedonia are c looking for partnership opportunities on a project Business Ecosystem Project Macedonia, and are offering grants to organizations that can assist USAid in completing projects such as the Inclusive Education for Learners with Disabilities and USAid/Macedonia's APS for Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities Program.¹³

⁹ Map of Foreign Assistance. *Macedonia*. Internet Access: <http://foreignassistance.gov/explore>

¹⁰ The United States Department of Justice: Central and Eastern Europe. *DOJ/OPDAT Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Programs*. Internet Access: <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-opdat/central-and-eastern-europe>

¹¹ Number is estimated for period between 1939 and 2004; McCleary, R. and Robert Barro. *Private Voluntary Organizations Engaged in International Activities 1939-2004*. Harvard University. Internet Access: <http://journals.sagepub.com.ezproxy.lib.ou.edu/doi/pdf/10.1177/0899764007313719>

¹² McCleary, R. and Robert Barro. *Private Voluntary Organizations Engaged in International Activities 1939-2004*. Harvard University. Internet Access: <http://journals.sagepub.com.ezproxy.lib.ou.edu/doi/pdf/10.1177/0899764007313719>

¹³US Agency for International Development. USAID Mission to Macedonia: Partnership Opportunities. Internet Access: <https://www.usaid.gov/macedonia/partnership-opportunities>

Conclusion

The case study provides brief overview of the strategic and complex approach of the USA in the realization of the development policy and objectives of some of the most vital US agencies that contribute to the development of Macedonia. The US has a long history of development cooperation with Macedonia and ranks as the third top donor of aid. The two agencies with the longest history of development cooperation, the USAid and the Peace Corps, have existed in the Macedonian society since early 90s. Since then, these two agencies have created a plethora of projects that contribute to Macedonia's economic, human and democratic development. An important trait of both of these agencies is their effort to involve the civil society organizations in their process of development cooperation. The variety of projects that have been launched and completed with help of local CSOs are a proof of the fruitful cooperation between these two sectors. The several programs mentioned in the last section of the case study also explicate a cooperation between local CSOs and US-based CSOs, a relationship that further strengthens the desired outcome of development cooperation.

Appendix 1: US Aid Accomplishments in Macedonia in the Three Areas of Work

Democracy and Governance	Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased municipal financial independence by introducing financial audits, credit ratings and municipal loans - Trained over 3,000 election monitors - Contributed to free & fair elections in all cycles 2002-2011 - Helped to develop and implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy - Helped to establish the Macedonian Institute for Media - Supported new Laws on Courts, Enforcement, the Judicial Council, Civil Procedure, Parliament, and NGOs - Automated court case management and budget systems - Supported the establishment of a reliable system for enforcement of civil court decisions - Supported the implementation of a key population census in 2002 - Improved legal framework for decentralization - Unified and modernized municipal finance and tax administration in all 84 municipalities - Installed audio recording system to record trials in 80 courtrooms - Supported public presentations, roundtables and debates to promote diversity and interethnic integration - Increased participation and improved coordination of Macedonian Government and donors in integrated education - Initiated a pool of 34 Master Trainers to train school directors, boards and teachers in diversity - Initiated School Integration Teams in all 57 schools in 4 pilot municipalities - Increased the capacity of two government ministries (Justice and Economy) setting up better management systems - Supported local associations (media, local governments, human resources) to improve their governing bodies and management approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renovated 193 primary and secondary schools country-wide, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Defense. - Helped vocational schools and the Employment Services Agency improve the work-readiness skills of youth which resulted in 1,500 jobs for youth. - Supported the founding of the semi-private South East European University, the first multilingual university in the region. - Improved the educational performance of over 1,500 Roma students. - Conducted over 10,000 preventive eye-screenings of young children. - Introduced assistive technologies (hardware and software) in selected schools to support inclusion of students with disabilities.

Case study no. 2

Lithuanian Development Co-operation

By Vaidas Karpalavičius, intern at the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation and a third-year student of International politics and development studies at the Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas (Lithuania)

Introduction

Development co-operation according to the United Nations, explicitly aims to support national or international development priorities, is not driven by profit, discriminates in favor of developing countries, and is based on co-operative relationships that seek to enhance developing country ownership. Lithuania became a donor state after entering European Union (EU) in 2004, which means it is obliged to implement development co-operation policy towards developing countries.¹⁴ Its objectives are the following: the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals approved by the United Nations, ensuring peace, global economic growth and social stability, reduction of the disparities between developed and developing countries, integration of developing countries into the global economy. Before joining EU Lithuania did not have any development co-operation experience, this is because Lithuania was a recipient country back then. Moreover, according to International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2015 Lithuania progress to “advanced economies” a term used by IMF to name developed countries.¹⁵ Lithuania provides Official Development Assistance (ODA) to countries that are included in the list of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Assistant Committee (OECD/DAC).

The aim of this case study is to introduce the policies of Lithuanian development co-operation, as well to present the main target countries of Lithuanian ODA and finally to see how much of ODA Lithuania contributes to the development and if the country managed to reach the agreed goals. Moreover, to see if Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are involved in development co-operation.

Development policies

Lithuanian Law on Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid was adopted on the 16th May 2013.¹⁶ This Law was the basis of the Lithuanian development co-operation goals, its implementation, formation, financing ways and coordination. The ways of providing Lithuanian humanitarian aid were also presented in this Law, which was substantially amended in 2016. This edition introduced important changes: strengthening the role of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs in coordination of the Lithuania development cooperation, expanding the number of institutions participating in the development cooperation, gathering the administration of development cooperation projects in a single agency.¹⁷ In September 2016 Lithuanian Government approved National Inter-institutional Development Cooperation Action Plan for the period of 2017–2019. This plan lays down development co-operation policy guidelines for the referred period and sets out the concrete measures in order

¹⁴ Panasevič, A. (2013). *Five Approaches to Development Cooperation: An Analysis of the Lithuanian Case*. Vilnius University, Lithuania. Internet access: <http://lfpr.lt/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/LFPR-29-Panasevic.pdf> [accessed 2017-07-18]

¹⁵ Bank of Lithuania. *The International Monetary Fund assigned Lithuania to the group of advanced economies* published in 2015. Internet access: <http://www.lb.lt/en/events/the-international-monetary-fund-assigned-lithuania-to-the-group-of-advanced-economies> [accessed 2017-07-18]

¹⁶ Lithuanian Development Cooperation: Legal Information. Internet access: <https://orangeprojects.lt/en/legal-information> [accessed 2017-07-18]

¹⁷ Lithuanian Development Cooperation: Legal Information. Internet access: <https://orangeprojects.lt/en/legal-information> [accessed 2017-07-18]

to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by United Nations' (UN) Agenda 2030 to aid the development of recipient states. Lithuania will seek to contribute of implementing all SDGs goals in aid recipient countries giving priority to following SDGs goals as in development co-operation sector:¹⁸

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere (Goal 1);
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities to all (Goal 4);
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (Goal 5);
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (Goal 13);
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and built effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (Goal 16);
- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (Goal 17).

The implementation of the development and co-operation policies plays a key role in successful country's role as a donor state in order to contribute to the goals of the SDGs in developing countries. The Department of Development Co-operation which belongs to the structure¹⁹ of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania (MFA) is responsible for the development co-operation and humanitarian aid activities and policies.

Development co-operation to developing countries

Lithuania's ODA in 2015 amounted to 43.7 million euros (0.12% of Gross National Income (GNI)), consisting of bilateral aid amounted to 8.3 million euros (19%) and multilateral – 35.4 million euros (81%). In 2016 Lithuania's ODA increased to 52.1 million euros or 0.14% of GNI. The largest share of Lithuania's ODA, more than €24.61 million, was allocated to pay contributions to the European Development Fund and a part of contribution to the EU general budget, to implement the EU's external policies. Bilateral aid was given to Eastern Partnership countries and other countries (Palestine, Afghanistan) included in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of ODA recipient countries and territories.²⁰ Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme was carried out in Afghanistan²¹ from 2007 to 2015 and in Palestine²² from 2009 to 2016 to support social and economic development and civil society in respective countries. In 2015, Lithuania provided its bilateral development co-operation mostly to Ukraine and Belarus. The main sectors for Lithuania's bilateral development co-operation were education, humanitarian aid, and governance and civil society. Lithuania provides its bilateral development co-operation mostly in the form of small-scale technical co-operation projects. Multilateral ODA accounted for 81% of Lithuania's total ODA in 2015, provided primarily through the European Union (accounting for 84% of its multilateral ODA in 2015), as well as through the World Bank Group (10%) and the UN (4%).²³ In 2015, Lithuania allocated more than €0.6 million as humanitarian aid. Almost €0.4 million of funds were reserved for Ukraine. Humanitarian aid was also allocated for refugees in Syria, Yemen, suffering from huge humanitarian crisis, the fight

¹⁸ Government of the Republic of Lithuania, Resolution No. 937 On Approval of an Inter-Institutional Action Plan on Development Cooperation. Internet access: https://orangeprojects.lt/uploads/structure/docs/988_0f5c3f55c503c6a34fb36ef5bc47913c.pdf [accessed 2017-07-19]

¹⁹ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania: Schematic structure. Internet access: <https://www.urm.lt/uploads/default/documents/Strukt%C5%ABra%202017%20-07-03.pdf> [accessed 2017-07-24]

²⁰ Lithuanian Development Cooperation: Lithuanian ODA, statistics. Internet access: <https://orangeprojects.lt/lt/oficiali-parama-vystymuisi/statistika> [accessed 2017-07-20]

²¹ Lithuanian Development Cooperation: Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme to Afghanistan. Internet access: <https://orangeprojects.lt/en/afghanistan/afghanistan-projects> [accessed 2017-07-25]

²² Lithuanian Development Cooperation: Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Programme to Palestine. Internet access: <https://orangeprojects.lt/en/palestine/palestine-projects> [accessed 2017-07-25]

²³ OECD: Lithuanian Official Development Assistance. Internet access: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/lithuania-official-development-assistance.htm> [accessed 2017-07-20]

against Ebola as well as for victims of natural disasters in Nepal, Georgia, Malawi, and Ethiopia, also for voluntary contributions to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.²⁴

Lithuania as well as other countries that joined EU in 2004 committed to reach at least 0.33 % ODA/GNI ratio and countries that joined EU before 2004 to reach 0.7 % by 2015.²⁵ However, only few countries managed to reach this commitment so the deadline was extended up to 2030. Lithuania, according to newest statistics (2016) managed to reach 0.14 % ODA/GNI ratio, so Lithuania has a long way to over go in order to reach the estimated numbers.

The role of Lithuanian CSOs in development co-operation

There are two development umbrella organizations in Lithuania – Lithuanian Development Education and Cooperation Network of Non-Governmental Institutions (LITDEA)²⁶, which was founded in 2004 and brings together more than 12 CSOs. The mission of LITDEA is to promote development values, ideas and transfer good practice experience in Lithuania and abroad. LITDEA seeks co-operation and dialogue with Lithuanian governmental institutions and other stakeholders involved in development co-operation policy and strategy.²⁷ The second is the National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organizations' Platform (Lithuanian NGDO Platform), which unites 21 Lithuanian CSOs working in the field of development co-operation and global education, which was founded in 2007.²⁸ The platform aims to shape and implement Lithuanian and EU development cooperation policies, strengthen the capacities of its member organizations, raise public awareness and knowledge about development cooperation via public events and educational campaigns.²⁹

Lithuanian CSOs have been active in the implementation of development co-operation field. In 2013 about 60 % of all bilateral co-operation projects were generated and implemented by CSOs. The implemented activities varies from consultation, training and advices to their counterparts in foreign countries. Moreover, CSOs are important in raising awareness of development co-operation issues inside the country. Over the past decade, Lithuanian CSOs have also been increasingly active in lobbying authorities on development co-operation.³⁰ However, because of their own limited capacities and weak financial capabilities, non-state actors still have a relatively limited influence on development co-operation in Lithuania. Civil society has primarily been active in implementing assistance projects and raising awareness on development issues inside Lithuania. Still, the MFA is the leader in the development co-operation area and the participation of the civil society depends on their inclusiveness by the MFA in the implementation of the law. Finally, the central position of the MFA can also be explained by the low salience of development co-operation issues in Lithuania, despite the increasing numbers of organized awareness rising campaigns, which were supposed to explain

²⁴ Lithuanian Development Cooperation: Lithuanian ODA, statistics. Internet access: <https://orangeprojects.lt/lt/oficiali-parama-vystymuisi/statistika> [accessed 2017-07-20]

²⁵ European Commission: European Commission calls for renewed commitments to reach targets on official development assistance press release 2015. Internet access: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4747_en.htm [accessed 2017-07-21]

²⁶ LITDEA: about us. Internet access: <http://www.litdea.eu/apie-mus/> [accessed 2017-07-17]

²⁷ Official website of the European Union: LITDEA. Internet access: <https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en/litdea> [accessed 2017-07-21]

²⁸ Lithuanian NGDO Platform: about us. Internet access: http://www.pagalba.org/lt/apie_mus [accessed 2017-07-17]

²⁹ Official website of the European Union: Lithuanian NGDO Platform. Internet access: <https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en/lithuanian-ngdo> [accessed 2017-07-21]

³⁰ Delcour, L. (2015). In Horky-Hluchan, O & Lightfoot S. (eds.), *Development Cooperation of the "New" EU Member States. Beyond Europeanization. Chapter 8: Lithuania: A Hybrid Development Cooperation Policy*. London: Palgrave. Internet access: http://www.academia.edu/15186125/Lithuania_A_Hybrid_Development_Cooperation_Policy_Between_adaptation_to_Europeanization_and_projection_of_the_transition_experience [accessed 2017-07-25]

the status and the new role of the country as a donor state. This shows that the international development co-operation is still not a central issues in Lithuanian political debate. ³¹

Conclusion

Lithuania is fairly new donor state that managed to successfully achieve post-soviet transition process within 14 years and accomplish the entry to the EU. Only after joining the EU, Lithuania became a donor state and in 2013 the first Law on Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Aid was implemented, which was three years later substantially amended. The main target countries' of Lithuanian development co-operation are of the Eastern Partnership – Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as Afghanistan. Lithuanian CSOs are leading in implementing projects inside and outside Lithuania, as well as organizing awareness rising campaigns. However, Lithuanian CSOs are still rarely being involved by the Ministry of Foreign affairs with the developmental projects, because of the lack of co-operation and communication between both development actors. Another reasons of the poor involvement of CSOs to development co-operation are the limited capacities of CSOs and the lack of financial capabilities, they are dependent of governmental financial support, which is hard to acquire, especially for the new non-state development actors, also the development co-operation issues are not the main concern for the Lithuanian political debate. Lithuanian CSOs have a good perspectives in helping the Eastern Neighboring Countries with development co-operation, this is because Lithuanian CSOs have a good knowledge of the internal policies and situations in these countries. Lithuania agreed to reach 0.33 % ODA/GNI ratio by 2030 it is optimistic goal, but it must be achieved in order to carry out its commitments and further contribute to the global development and the SDGs.

³¹ Ibid.