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# **Lithuanian Diaspora Policy Overview**

**Vida Bagdonavičienė**

**Deputy Director General**

**Department of National Minorities and Lithuanians Living Abroad  
under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania**

# Key policy actors



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## **Governmental Institutions:**

- Department of National Minorities and Lithuanians Living Abroad under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (DNMLLA)
- Ministry of Education of the Republic of Lithuania
- Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

## **Non-governmental organizations:**

- World Lithuanian Community (WLC)
- Lithuanian Communities Abroad



# **Department of National Minorities and Lithuanians Living Abroad under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (DNMLLA)**

## **Target groups:**

- Lithuanians living in ethnographic Lithuanian areas (in Poland, Belarus and Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation)
- Exiles of the Second World War and the Soviet occupation and labour migrants and their descendants living in the Eastern bloc (former USSR countries)
- The „Classical Diaspora” – the largest and the best organized group – Lithuanian organizations in the Western World (the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Switzerland, France, South America and others)
- The „New Wave Diaspora” – Economic emigrants who after the restoration of Lithuania’s independence and after Lithuania’s accession to the European Union have migrated to the EU countries (mostly to the Great Britain, Ireland, Norway and Spain)



# **Legal Acts**

- **Governmental programs for supporting Lithuanian communities abroad for the year 1998-2006**
- **Program for returning of political prisoners and deportees and their families to Lithuania for 2002-2007**
- **The Long-term strategy of state relations with Lithuanians living abroad for the year 2008-2020**
- **The Inter-institutional program for cooperation with Lithuanian communities abroad for the year 2008-2012**



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## **The Long-term strategy of state relations with Lithuanians living abroad for the year 2008-2020**

**The need to prepare this strategy emerged when, because of significant emigration of Lithuanians, the number of Lithuanians abroad and their communities increased considerably, and therefore there is mutual need and necessity to cooperate in the following areas:**

- Preservation and development of Lithuanian national identity
- Organisation and coordination of Lituianistic education
- Enshrining of Lithuanian culture
- Developing dissemination of information on life of the Lithuanians abroad



# **The Inter-institutional program for cooperation with Lithuanian communities abroad for the year 2008-2012**

## **Main objectives:**

- to ensure relationships of Lithuanian communities abroad with Lithuania
- to foster the Lithuanian communities abroad to preserve their national identity – to ensure dissemination of the Lithuanian culture
- to develop Lithuanistic education
- to foster Lithuanian communities abroad to actively create a positive image of Lithuania abroad



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# **What are we doing?**

- **Financing Diaspora projects**
- **Organizing specific Diaspora youth programs**
- **Providing qualification courses for Diaspora leaders**
- **Supporting informal lituanistic education and the network of 200 lituanistic weekend schools worldwide**
- **Analysis and Research**

# Returnees policy



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## **Program for returning of political prisoners and deportees and their families to Lithuania for 2002-2007**

### **This program establishes state aid to:**

- **political prisoners and deportees, who have been recognised as not guilty to the Republic of Lithuania and for whom all their civil rights are reinstated under the Law on Reinstatement in the Rights of Persons Subjected to Repressions for Resistance to Occupational Regimes**
- **children of political prisoners and deportees, for whom the status of a deportee – a person having suffered from occupational regimes has been recognised under the Law of Legal Status of Persons Having Suffered from Occupations in 1939-1990**

### **Social assistance is provided to returning persons to finance:**

- **compensations for moving costs**
- **payment of one-off settlement benefits**
- **assistance to citizens of the Republic of Lithuania permanently residing in the territory of the former USSR – persons of pension age and disabled persons**
- **Lithuanian language courses**
- **compensations for costs of moving of disabled persons to Lithuania**
- **summer camps and specialised schools in Lithuania for school-age children of returning persons**
- **Lithuanian communities and deportees' organisations**
- **transferring to Lithuania of remains of persons who had been subjected to repressions**
- **partial compensations for heat energy costs at temporary accommodation centres for returning deportees**



# Philanthropy from Diaspora

- Political support (active lobbying for Lithuania's „Independence case”, Lithuania's diplomatic service in exile 1940-1990; assistance in building state institutions in 1990s)
- Financial and *know-how* support for Lithuania's education system, especially after restoration of independence in 1990s
- Financial and *know-how* support for Lithuania's economy
- Financial support for Lithuania's public health system
- Financial support for Lithuanian culture and arts (scholarships for Lithuanian artists; foundation of culture projects)



*Lithuanian folk-dance club from Berisso (Argentina)*



*Lithuanians in St Patrick's Day in Cork (Ireland)*



*World Lituanistic education Forum (Vilnius)*



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**Thank you for your attention**