

Lithuania

Introduction

According to the analysis in St Aubyn et al. (2009), the tertiary education system in Lithuania is below the production possibility frontier, with a small improvement between the two periods considered. The comparison of the two outputs of the tertiary education system suggests Lithuania is relatively more efficient in teaching than research.

There is a trend to mass higher education in Lithuania with 75 to 80% of school leavers usually becoming first-year students at higher education institutions. The tertiary education system is large with 49 higher education institutions in total, including 22 universities and 27 colleges (and 35 research institutes) for a population of about 3.3 million, which poses a strain on administrative and staffing resources of higher education institutions.

Indicators

Lithuania has a relatively large academic staff and the number of students per academic staff is below average which seems to indicate quality of the learning experience of students also in view of the graduation performance of Lithuania which is above average. Over the period 2000/01 to 2008/09, the number of students per academic staff has risen substantially.

The research performance lags behind relative to other tertiary education systems. A very large academic staff has among the lowest productivity as regards research activities (3rd lowest). The country fiche mentions that the number of publications has increased significantly in recent years, but that it is mainly due to a change in the publication assessment procedure.

Table - Summary of indicators in St. Aubyn (2009)

	Average ISI citation		Recruiter review		Peer review	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
LT	1.76	25	:	:	:	:
best performer	NL - 5,51	1	IE - 2	1	FI - 2	1
worst performer	RO - 1,63	26	CZ -1.06	16	GR - 1.02	16

	Academic staff	Students	Graduates	Publications	Students	Graduates	Graduates
			<i>per capita</i>		<i>per academic staff</i>		<i>per student</i>
LT	2.8	53.0	11.2	0.2	19.1	4.1	21.2
EU27	1.9	33.7	7.1	0.6	17.8	3.7	19.8

There are no efficiency indicators available for Lithuania.

Average PISA scores for Lithuania in 2006 were below average.

Staff payment is governed by resolutions of the Government that establish certain categories of staff salaries and conditions of possible bonuses and premium payments.

Lithuania has a well developed network of TEIs, although institutions are relatively small and there are high management and administration costs associated to maintaining a teaching and research base.

The TEIs programmes are not well adapted to labour market needs.

Policy developments

Student fees and a loan scheme were introduced in 2009. A dual system is established where some students are paying fees while the study of others is fully covered by the government. There are quotas on the numbers of state-financed students for individual institutions and fields of studies.