



Lithuania

ESF project "Development of the mediation system"

Key facts

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF THE OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

'Improve business regulation environment'

TARGET GROUPS



- 1) Persons seeking to acquire a mediator's qualification
- 2) Members of the society (both natural and legal persons)

BENEFICIARY ORGANISATION

Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania

PROJECT DURATION

30/03/2018 – 30/09/2020

COORDINATOR

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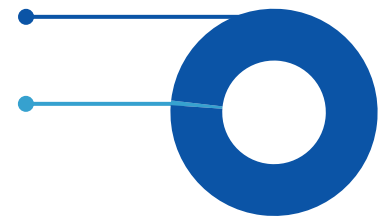
BUDGET

EUR 915,670.51

ESF contribution

EUR 6,677.20

National budget of the Republic of Lithuania contribution



PROJECT/ORGANISATION WEBSITE

<http://bit.ly/3aQhcS8>
<http://tm.lrv.lt/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/teisingumas/>

PARTNERS

National Courts Administration, State Guaranteed Legal Aid Service, State Enterprise Centre of Registers

Activities implemented

PROJECT IN NUMBERS

420

Mediators trained

150

Judges trained

7

Facilities refurbished and equipped

230,000

Leaflets published

MAIN PROJECT TASKS



To prepare qualified mediators (develop an exam curriculum for mediators, train and examine mediators, train judges, carry out three study visits, and organise an international conference for judges in the area of judicial dispute mediation).



To guarantee appropriate conditions for mediation process (create an IT tool – the List of Mediators, and refurbish five and equip seven facilities needed for conducting compulsory mediation).



Inform society about mediation possibilities in civil judicial disputes (release leaflets, report on national and regional TV channels, report on radio shows, publish articles, and launch a banner-ad).

Project journey: from conception to delivery

INITIAL STAGE

CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

In 2017, the Government of Lithuania passed a legislation, which establishes a **mandatory judicial mediation in family matters from 1 January 2020**. The legislation introduced a number of updates. For instance, it stipulates that only qualified mediators that are included on a national mediators' list can offer mediation service. Persons seeking inclusion on the list will need to have undertaken a training on mediation within the period of last five years and had passed a mediator's qualification exam.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The project aims to **increase the effectiveness of Lithuania's judicial system by developing alternative dispute resolution options**. The project has three objectives that seek to: 1) encourage mediation in civil disputes by preparing qualified mediators, training and examining them according to the programme developed; 2) guarantee appropriate technical conditions and environment needed for mediation processes; and 3) inform the society about mediation possibilities in civil judicial disputes.

MAIN CHALLENGES FACED, AND DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The project implementation has been rather smooth and only a few minor issues occurred so far. Such difficulties include combining administrative requirements of ESFA (the agency implementing ESF funds) with regular procurement procedures; or designing a communication plan fitting the project needs. Also, the List of Mediators is going to be a new tool, the creation of which can be challenged by diverse expectations and needs of all stakeholders. Completing the development of the IT tool and testing it might pose some difficulties within the given timeframe, which has been rather tight.

PROJECT PHASE

KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND EVENTS DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The project team has started to implement a number of project activities. The team has developed the examination programme for mediators, which has directly fed into the training curriculum. The team has also started organising the training sessions for people interested in becoming mediators, which proved to generate great interest. Also, the National Courts Administration has completed three study visits to institutions abroad, as well as released first leaflets. More tangible outputs will become evident once other project activities, such as creating the List of Mediators or refurbishing facilities, will be finalised.

KEY RESULTS AND SUCCESS FACTORS

A few factors can be already identified as having a bearing on the project's outputs to date. This includes the willingness of all partners to collaborate and communicate effectively, internal competencies of staff working on project activities, careful planning, risk management, as well as **the support from middle and senior management** at the Ministry of Justice and respective partner institutions. The latter support has enabled successful interinstitutional cooperation.

(EXPECTED) IMPACT ON JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THE SOCIETY

At institutional level, the project should contribute to increasing the effectiveness of the judicial system by implementing new measures for enhancing the mediation system. This should reduce the workload of courts, save funds of the Lithuanian National budget, increase the number of persons choosing a mediator's profession, as well as streamline the processes associated to administering the mediation system. At society level, the team hopes that the project will raise awareness about the mediation practice and more people will pursue solving their disputes peacefully, not only when it is mandatory.

RESULTS, IMPACTS

LESSONS LEARNT: THE ROLE OF ESF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The team identifies a few lessons learnt during the project implementation. First, the continuity of persons working on the project should be ensured from its initial stage to finish. Second, the team feels learning more about the procurement procedures and improving their skills. By securing ESF funds, the Ministry of Justice and its partner institutions have taken significant steps towards enhancing the mediation system in Lithuania. The project has contributed to strengthening institutional capacities needed for coordination and monitoring of the mediation process in Lithuania. Importantly, this project has revealed that it is **possible to align the implementation of reforms with ESF funding processes**.

REFLECTIONS



Source: The front page of the leaflet 'Solve the dispute peacefully. Choose Mediation!', produced by the National Courts Administration

Personal experiences



'We are convinced that a purposeful use of ESF funds contributes significantly to the development of new judicial ideas, the creation of a mediation system and raising public awareness on this topic.'

Vytautė Ročienė, Chief Specialist at the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania

'Projects like this are useful in developing the mediation system in Lithuania. The dissemination of information, gaining and sharing the experience contribute to expanding the mediation system in Lithuania. Perhaps, the more disputes are solved peacefully, the more successful and happier is the society.'

Chief Specialist at the National Courts Administration

The study "Progress Assessment of the ESF Support to Public Administration" (PAPA) aims to present specific cases of ESF-funded public administration reform and capacity building initiatives. The contractor prepared 30 case studies and factsheets on ESF supported projects funded in 17 beneficiary countries of Thematic Objective 11 during the programming period 2014-2020.

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PPMi

Find out more about the project by following the link <http://bit.ly/PAPA-PPMI> or scan the QR code using your smartphone camera.

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