

The role of EU structural assistance during financial and economic crisis: case of Lithuania

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29 September 2009

Background information

EU structural assistance for Lithuania for the period of 2007–2013 – **6,8 billion Euros** is implemented on the basis of following operational programmes (OPs):

- OP on Human Resources Development (13,8 %, ESF);
- OP on Economy Growth (45,72 %, ERDF, CF);
- OP on Promotion of Cohesion (39,08 %, ERPF, CF);
- OP on Technical Assistance (1,4 %, ESF).

Economy promotion plan of Lithuania

- Approved by the Government of Lithuania on 25th of February:
- Has five goals:
 - Extend access to financing for enterprises;
 - Increase energy efficiency of building;
 - Accelerate implementation of EU structural assistance
 - Improve business environment (diminishing bureaucratic burden);
 - Promote export and investment.

4 out of 5 goals are implemented with EU structural assistance

Implementation of Economy Promotion Plan

- Reallocation of EU structural assistance among priorities of operational programmes;
- Acceleration of implementation of EU structural assistance.

Reallocation of EU structural assistance among priorities of operational programmes

- Operational programme on Economy Growth;
 - Additional financing of 143 MEUR reallocated to the financial engineering measures for enterprises.
- Operational programme on Promotion of Cohesion;
 - 137,5 MEUR reallocated to the energy efficiency measures in multi-family housing.

Acceleration of implementation of EU structural assistance

- Amendment of project administration and financing rules in order to:
 - allow advance payments to projects (up to 30 % of total value of the project);
 - Shorten the period for verification of payment requests (from 60 to 30 days).
- Increasing intensity rate of EU assistance for projects of enterprises (from 30-40 % to 50-60%).
- Signed contract with the EIB as regards loan for ensuring national contribution to projects co-financed by EU structural assistance.

Acceleration of implementation of EU structural assistance – actions at EU level

- Important amendments to EU regulations have already been made as regards:
 - Increased advance payments from structural funds;
 - Increased possibilities for investments in housing to improve energy efficiency of the buildings;
 - Acceleration of implementation of major projects;
- Additional amendments are negotiated in the Council at the moment concerning:
 - Simplification of procedures for modification of operational programmes;
 - Additional measures to simplify implementation of major projects;
 - Increased possibilities to use financial engineering instruments.

Thank you for your attention!