

## HIS supports Lithuania in establishing a monitoring system for higher education and research

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**The Lithuanian Ministry of Education is currently concerned with building a national monitoring and analysis system for higher education and research, cooperating with the Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre MOSTA. The Higher Education Information System (HIS) with its many years of expertise in this field supports the project in collaboration with its partners Ernst & Young Baltic and S2P (Solutions to Perform). The project's initial phase has been completed during a workshop in Hanover, centred on the issues of how to proceed in terms of strategic targets, of defining the monitoring areas and the actual development of indicators.**

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Like all Eastern European countries, the Republic of Lithuania has experienced a complete upheaval during the last twenty years that significantly affected the educational system as well. Since new structures have been established in virtually every context, the Lithuanian administration is now devising new systems for controlling institutions of higher education as well as research facilities. The objective is to develop efficient tools that support political and social discussions and decision-making processes.

MOSTA assigned a consortium consisting of Ernst & Young Baltic, S2P and HIS with the task of developing and implementing these new tools for monitoring and analysis of higher education and research. HIS contributes its expertise from manifold previous projects. A team of experts from all three company divisions (IT for Higher Education, HIS-Institute for Research on Higher Education, Higher Education Development) guarantees a focused and efficient application of relevant know-how.

The project has been launched in Vilnius in July 2011 after successfully completing an earlier project for a national education report in Lithuania. On December 1 the project partners met for a one-day workshop in Hanover to discuss the theoretical

background of the future monitoring system. The HIS experts could draw upon a broad range of experience in basic research relating to the National Report on Education or the National Educational Panel Study (NEPS) as well as upon practical know-how in implementing monitoring systems such as an indicator-based controlling system for higher education in Lower Saxony or the web-based information system ICE (Information, Controlling, Decision).

Dr. Harald Gilch, director of the HIS team, comments: "We could profit from a constructive and inspiring atmosphere here in Hanover, not only to set important milestones for successive project phases. Such an ambitious project with its impact on social debates in Lithuania requires an unconditional commitment and mutual trust among all project partners to face difficult project phases successfully." Everybody could agree on the concluding statement: "We are now ready to go on!"

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