

# NGO Programme Lithuania: Closing Conference

Thematic focus: *Shrinking Space for Civil Society?*

**23 September 2016** **Holiday Inn** Seimyniškių str. 1, Vilnius (Lithuania) **Lithuanian and English** (simultaneous interpretation will be provided)

PROGRAMME

- 12:30 Registration of participants
- 13:00 **Welcome note**  
*Tomas Kubilius, Director of NGO Programme Lithuania | Human Rights Monitoring Institute; HE Ambassador Dag Malmer Halvorsen, The Norwegian Embassy in Vilnius; Päivi Anttila, Senior Sector Officer at EEA Grants Financial Mechanism Office.*
- 13:20 **EEA Grants Financial Mechanism in Lithuania**  
13:20 **EEA Grants in Lithuania: Overview and perspectives - Audronė Nikšaitė, Head of International Financial Assistance Coordination Division, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania**  
13:30 **NGO Programme Lithuania – General Overview and Outcomes of the Programme**  
*Tomas Kubilius, Director of NGO Programme Lithuania | Human Rights Monitoring Institute*
- 13:40 **Programme’s achievements and success stories**  
13:40 **„My Rights – Active Participation“ - Birutė Sabatauskaitė, Director of Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights**  
13:50 **„How EEA grants encourage innovative solutions for unresolved social challenges“ - Liudovika Pakalkaitė, Director of SOS Children Villages Lithuania**  
14:00 **„Communities and investments. Let’s agree“ - Asta Narmontė, Head of Communication at The Lithuanian Free Market Institute**  
14:10 **„NGO Atlas“ - Gabija Lukšaitė, Project Coordinator at Transparency International Lithuanian**
- 14:20 Coffee break
- 15:00 **Discussion: Shrinking Space for Civil Society: Local and Global Challenges**  
**Moderator: Vaidotas Ilgius, Communications and Development Manager at Charity and Support Fund “Food bank”**  
**Speakers: Päivi Anttila, Senior Sector Officer at EEA Grants Financial Mechanism Office, Csilla Czimbalmos, Adviser | Project manager at The Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Gabija Lukšaitė, Project Coordinator at Transparency International Lithuanian Chapter, Peter Nizak, Director of the Hungary Project at Open Society Foundations, Sandra Adomavičiūtė, Director of Open Society Fund Lithuania, Aurelija Olendraitė, Director of NGO Law Institute**
- 16:30 **Closing remarks**
- 16:35 - 17.30 Standing reception at Rib Room restaurant (Holiday Inn ground floor)

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## About conference

Have you heard of the social experiment “Translation”, supported by NGO Programme Lithuania? The anti-racism video went viral and was even aired on TV in Brazil. It is true that local projects can and do make a global impact when they resonate with shared beliefs people hold across cultures and societies, like those, that racism should have no place in our societies and that human kindness is universal.

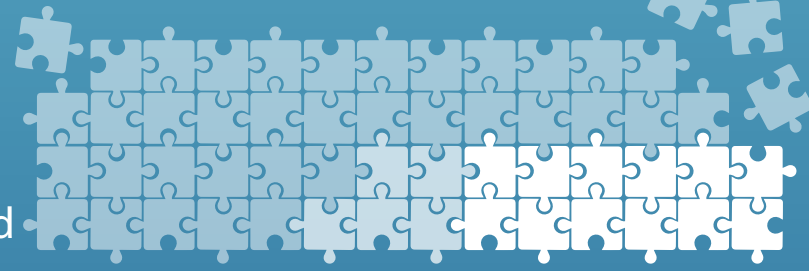
However, the challenges that NGOs, civil society and funders are facing today are also universal. And they should concern us at the local level too. It is counted that since 2012, more than 100 laws have been proposed or enacted by governments restricting NGOs’ and donors’ activities across the globe, causing a wide debate on the shrinking space for civil society.

With our event, we want to bring this debate closer to home and our NGO community. Do we feel that our space of activity is shrinking too? How much influence can we have, how much difference can we still make and how sustainable these changes are? And what about the challenges faced by our region – Europe? Maybe we should start rethinking our role as civil society in shaping local, regional and global policies?

**The Closing Conference of the NGO Programme Lithuania provides a great opportunity to come together and discuss these challenges, as well as share our thoughts and visions for the future of the NGO sector.**

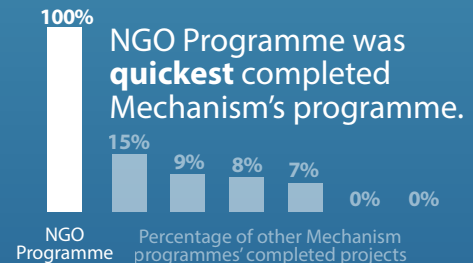
## About NGO Programme Lithuania

**56**  
implemented projects



**17** had partners from donor countries. Including: **5** with Icelandic organisations **12** with Norwegian organisations

**Completed 100%**  
of started projects



NGO Programme consists of **1/3** all EEA Grants projects



NGO Programme's projects received **1/9** of EEA Grants contribution for Lithuania

