



**UNITED NATIONS  
RESIDENT COORDINATOR IN LITHUANIA  
2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **1. INTRODUCTION: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OR POLITICAL EVENTS THAT HAVE HAD AN EFFECT ON THE WORK OF UNCT (not longer than half of the page)**

2009 has been the fifth year of Lithuania's membership in the European Union (EU) and NATO. A number of important events locally and regionally happened throughout the year. In May, Lithuania elected the new President, Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė (former EU Commissioner in charge of financial programming and budget of the European Union). In 2009 Lithuania celebrated the Millennium of the state and Vilnius was announced the European Capital of Culture.

The situation in political scene remained unstable throughout the year. The main factor causing instability has been financial crisis and its consequences. Global economic and financial crisis severely impacted Lithuania: foreign investment has been declining sharply, job losses and income decrease resulted in rising absolute poverty levels, increased demand for funds necessary for payment of social benefits, and the imbalance of national and insurance budgets. The GDP was down -19.7% in the second quarter and -14.2% year-on-year in the third quarter of 2009. The unemployment rate in Lithuania stood at 13,8% in the third quarter of 2009 and was one of the highest in the EU. The absolute poverty line in Lithuania reached 7.5% in 2009. Despite fiscal consolidation measures (adopted in December, 2008) to contain the deterioration in public finances and limit debt accumulation, the budget gap shrank by 8 percent in 2009. Policy measures implemented in the country during the economic decline were aimed at reducing state budget expenditure, increasing revenues and where possible, increasing employment; a difficult balance to achieve at times of tight budget constraints. Fulfilling the promise to the EU, Lithuania closed its' nuclear power station in Ignalina on 31 December 2009.

In the context of critical financial situation, public protests, mass rallies, turning into riots, directed at Government's proposed plan to overcome financial crisis, were organized at the beginning of the year by the professional unions. The Government, led by the Prime Minister Mr. Andrius Kubilius retained its position; however a number of state officials have been changed or resigned during the year due to public scandals or having been accused of ineffective performance. Among those were the Minister of Social Security and Labour, Speaker of the Parliament, director of the Lithuanian Labour Exchange.

Despite these political changes, Lithuania continued to be active and consistent in international affairs, stressing its role as a member of the EC and a flagman of democracy in the region. Lithuania has also been active in pursuing its mission as a new donor country. Lithuania's official development assistance consists of contributions to multilateral organizations, contributions to the EU, bilateral projects implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), administrative costs, humanitarian aid projects implemented by other state institutions. Lithuania's ODA is counted according to OECD methodology for calculating imputed ODA. Lithuania's ODA has been increasing constantly - in 2008 ODA was 34,5 mln. EUR ((0,11% GNI); in 2007 ODA was 30,4 mln. EUR (0,11% GNI), in 2006 – 18,3 mln. EUR (0,8% GNI). In 2009 ODA was 30,4 mln. EUR (percentage of GNI cannot be drawn yet, as GNI is not finalized). During the year, 6,7 million Litas (approx. 2,7 million USD) were allocated for development cooperation projects through the MFA. The Department of Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion has been actively involved in formation and implementation of development assistance policy together with local NGOs, UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF.

Lithuania continued to participate in the activities of approximately 60 international organizations. It is active in global organizations, such as the UN and its bodies, specialized agencies and committees. Lithuania gained authority also in a number of European organizations: the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (Lithuania will be chairing OSCE in 2011) and the Council of Europe, as well as in regional organizations – the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Baltic Council (BC) and the Nordic-Baltic 8 (NB8) – where Lithuania is building its regional identity. Moreover, Lithuania decided to stand as a candidate to be elected a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the year 2014-2015; Lithuania's permanent representative to UNESCO Ambassador Ms. Ina Marciulionyte was presented as a common candidate of the Baltic States to the UNESCO Secretary General's position, however she was not elected.

## **2. HIGHLIGHTS ON PROGRESS IN UN REFORM**

### **2.1. Efforts to align the national development processes**

The strategic orientations of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Lithuania in 2009 were directed towards realignment of the United Nations activities with the status of Lithuania as EU member state (closing the gaps of

accession) and as a new donor country. Through the year Lithuania was assisted in the areas of enhancing awareness among various target groups, strengthening capacities to create an enabling environment for a “like-minded” vision necessary for effective planning and implementation of development cooperation policy, and increasing resources and quality of services for development cooperation. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provided a clear link between the country’s development priorities and increasing attention to development cooperation, promoted and supported by the UN. This included joint actions by UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNESCO National Committees and UNODC regional project highlighting the need for Lithuania’s active engagement in development cooperation and citizens’ role in pursuing this goal (more detailed description of the activities provided below).

In 2009 the UNDP played a critical role in bringing together state and municipal authorities, private sector and civil society, as well as educational institutions in the areas of: 1) social inclusion (Economic Crisis Impact Assessment, support to integration of vulnerable groups into society, rural development, HIV/AIDS prevention and responses; business engagement in development); 2) environment/sustainable development (partnership with Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, in disbursing joint support for NGOs and local communities); 3) facilitation of Lithuania’s experience transfer to countries in transition (in the area of employment – Macedonian visit to learn from Lithuanian experience).

Responding to the situation and needs of the country, which is one of the most affected by the economic crisis in the EU, UNDP commissioned a unique initiative on Economic Crisis Long Term Impact Assessment. The initiative involved broad partnership with UNDP BDP, BRC, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, European Commission Representation in Lithuania, the Parliament of Lithuania, as well as local science and education institutions. It resulted in policy recommendations for measures to mitigate the consequences of crisis in three main areas, which were developed in highly participatory way. Final Report and Assessment are available at: [http://www.undp.org/poverty/projects\\_psia.shtml](http://www.undp.org/poverty/projects_psia.shtml)

Previous effective cooperation in implementing joint projects with national bodies allowed UNDP to align its’ programme activities to priorities and actions of the EU structural funds (EU SF) in the new programming period for 2008-2013. Thus the Government of Lithuania approved 6 projects in the area of social inclusion in the beginning of the year with the financial amount of 9 m LTL (~4 m USD). These projects are very timely in the context of economic crisis, as they will address the issues related to integration into labour market of most vulnerable in the society - homeless, Roma, long-term unemployed, families with children and others. The year also evidenced successful completion of the first ESF project on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) which is to be followed by the activities planned under the National programme for CSR promotion in Lithuania (submitted to the Government in 2009 and approved on 12 January 2010).

At the end of 2009 UNDP mobilised financial support and signed a contract for a new regional Corporate CSR Project “Enhancing transparency and Credibility of CSR practices through Establishment of CSR Performance Assessment and Monitoring Systems in New EU Member States”, funded by the European Commission and UNDP; UNDP Lithuania will lead this project. This project aims to enable measuring and monitoring CSR performance and the level of excellence achieved in CSR practices at macro and micro levels in Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Slovak Republic through: a) development of country level CSR performance indicators and CSR practice monitoring systems and brokering agreement on them; b) building capacities for such monitoring, c) as well as developing/testing self-assessment tools for companies and d) enhancing their capacities to apply performance indicators. A special attention within the project will be paid to cover the four key UN Global Compact principles domains: Human Rights, Labour, the Environment and Anti-corruption. Also, a special focus will be placed on making sure that the performance of corporate responsibility to respect human rights, as well as the performance of states to protect people against human rights abuses by business are assessed through the choice of country and company level indicators. This would be aligned with the conceptual policy framework proposed to the UN Human Rights Council by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) on Business and Human Rights: “protect, respect, and remedy”. This is particularly relevant given the current global economic crisis and its consequences on a potential increase of human rights abuses especially in relation to discrimination with regards to lay-offs and employment of vulnerable groups on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, etc, in EU MS as well as through the value chains of EU MS companies. Collaboration with the SRSG and the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group currently chaired by Mary Robinson will be sought in the process of developing the Human Rights related indicators. In 2009 GEF SGP programme has been completed in Lithuania. Over 8 year in Lithuania GEF SGP allocated over 7,4 m LT for NGO, CBO initiatives, aimed at protection of environment and social inclusion. 104 projects have been implemented in Lithuania and over 190 thousand people benefited from the activities of these projects. Above all, protection of 369 kinds of rare animals and plans species has been assured, 135 kilometers of bicycle roads paved, 203 environmentally friendly businesses established, ect.

## **2.2. Support to the national government in the advancing the achievement of the Millennium Declaration/MDGs**

In line with MDG1 UNDP Lithuania started 6 new projects funded by the European Social Fund. Projects are aimed at (re)integration into labour market of vulnerable societal groups (Roma, homeless people, long term unemployed, single mothers with children and others). These projects employ pilot models of addressing social exclusion comprehensively. More specifically, the projects will result in large scale activities focussed on socio-economic development throughout increased employability of marginalised workers, workers coming from disadvantaged regions and parents aiming to reconcile work and family obligations. Economic Crisis Long Term Impact Assessment, commissioned by the UNDP, also contributed to achievement of the MDG1, aiming to assess possible long-term social consequences of the economic recession in Lithuania (with focus on the most vulnerable groups of the population) and put forward recommendations on the implementation of measures aimed at mitigating the consequences of the recession on the most vulnerable groups of the population in the country. The Assessment has also been supported by the RC fund.

In line with MDG8, UNDP Lithuania facilitated transfer of Lithuania's experience in active measures to promote employability to Macedonia. In July, a group of government representatives from FYROM visited Lithuania's institution responsible for employment policy and promotion of employability. Also, throughout the year UNDP and UNICEF National Committee have been actively involved in supporting the Government in creating an enabling environment in the society for strategic decisions and increase of funds for development cooperation in line with MDG8. UNDP has been actively involved in the project "We are ready", funded by the European Commission and carried out the NGO "NGO information and support centre" aimed at raising awareness on development cooperation issues and needs of developing countries. In spring, UNDP facilitated a study visit to Moldova. A group of representatives from Lithuanian NGDO Platform visited Moldova and met potential partners for development cooperation projects, including governmental institutions, UN organizations, local NGOs. As a part of a regional UNDP campaign for development cooperation, funded by the EC, Ms. Eveline Herfkens, founder of the UN Millennium Campaign, visited Vilnius and carried out the lecture on development cooperation.

UNDP continued to play the lead role within UNCT to strengthen the local capacities of private sector to implement UN Global Compact (GC) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) principles and foster business engagement in development. UNDP Lithuania together with the Ministry of Social Security and Labour established a national multi-stakeholder peer group and developed a strategy on CSR promotion in Lithuania and the measures needed to accelerate and support this process. A Programme on CSR promotion for 2009-2013 and the plan of its implementation for 2009-2011 has been submitted to the Government in 2009 and approved in January 2010. Overall, UNDP's involvement in CSR activities in the country has also resulted in Government's commitment to earmark almost about 5 Litas (approx. 2 million USD) for GC/CSR promotion under the EU SF, which will ensure sustainability of support for businesses to engage in development at a national level. At programming level, several initiatives were implemented within this area during the year: (1) project "Promoting CSR in Lithuania" funded by ESF and (2) RC support to capacity strengthening of the National Responsible Business Network (GC Network) in Lithuania through organization of several thematic workshops. Thematic event on corporate volunteering in the context of financial crisis was co-organized with the Global Compact Network on 30 November 2008 for 33 top managers of companies. The thematic event was organized along the lines of the Annual International Conference of the Network that took place the same day and was devoted to the value of volunteering for business and society. The Conference also served to initiate the first of this type initiative in Lithuania – the "Auction of Volunteers". 8 project ideas of NGOs were selected and were offered to business companies for their contribution by assigning volunteers. During the Auction, 165 volunteers were offered by companies to participate in the implementation of selected NGO projects during a period of one year. Several training events took place during the year for the companies to strengthen their capacities in realigning their operations to GC principles. GC reporting tool has been developed under the ESF project. At the beginning of the year UNDP together with MSSL awarded 12 national and international companies for their performance in the area of GC/CSR. The national CSR award, as state acknowledgement mechanism, allows evaluating CSR progress according to objective and strict criteria and encourages private sector to engage in practical implementation of CSR.

In May 2009 UNICEF Good will ambassador Mr. Roger Moor visited Lithuania with the support by RC fund and MFA. His visit was part of UNICEF yearlong campaign aiming to raise funds for UNICEF "Schools for the children of the Planet". His visit included various meetings with state officials, public events, golf tournament and official benefit gala event and attracted tremendous media attention and public interest. Also UNICEF continued raising awareness on MDG2 through social advertising, direct mailing and other marketing tools, events for specific target audiences (for example, screening of the movie "Slum Millionaire", interactive discussions with children and youth, etc.).

Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO (UNESCO Commission) continued to be actively involved in Lithuania's representation in UNESCO as well as in promotion of the education (MDG2) and world heritage nationally and worldwide. In January Ms. Ina Marciulionyte, Lithuania's permanent representative to UNESCO was officially presented as a common candidate of the Baltic States to the UNESCO Secretary General's position. In April, at UNESCO building in Paris an exhibition "Lithuania: history and Culture" has been opened on the occasion of the Millennium of Lithuania. In May, the President of Lithuania participated in the meeting of the UNESCO goodwill ambassadors in Paris. In September Lithuania was elected to the International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. During the year National Commission for UNESCO supported projects aimed at promotion of Lithuania's scientific work, adult education, ethno-cultural education of youth and other initiatives aimed at preservation of national arts and culture.

In 2009 UNHCR in Lithuania continued to support Lithuania's authorities and NGO's in improvement of refugee reception policy and conditions: provided comments to Lithuanian Parliament on amendments to the EU Reception Directive as well as to Dublin II Regulation, initiated discussion with politicians, Government and NGO's on Lithuanian participation in Refugee Resettlement Programmes; launched and promoted co-operation between different asylum - related NGO's; was advocating for NGO co-operation with municipal authorities in addressing urgent needs of persons granted asylum. In April, UNHCR, jointly with IOM, introduced educational toolkit on asylum and migration "Not just numbers". Lithuanian version of the toolkit is available at UNHCR Lithuanian web site [www.unhcr.lt](http://www.unhcr.lt). Also, UNHCR contributed to capacity building by providing various trainings to migration and border guard officials in Lithuania as well as on EU level by introducing international standards to joint EU trainings organised by FRONTEX Agency and CEPOL. With the RC fund support in December UNHCR in Lithuania organized 2-days seminar in Vilnius on Work with Asylum Seekers with Special needs for asylum- related agencies (both Governmental and NGO's). The aim of the seminar was to highlight special needs of the vulnerable asylum seekers and importance of their early identification and assistance in Lithuania. As a starting point, the information on international standards, practices of different EU MS in addressing special needs, experience of other EU MS in the field (Hungarian practice), experience of work with victims of torture and trauma was introduced to participants in order to provide a basis for development of sensitive national asylum system, where special needs of vulnerable groups are considered. Recommendations prepared during the seminar were shared with migration authorities.

UNCT, lead by WHO, continued substantive discussions and activities with local partners on strengthening the health system for preparedness for non-communicable diseases, alcohol, HIV/AIDS, TB prevention/control, and environmental threats and actively represented UN priorities within the area of public health on the occasions as the World Health Day, World No-Tobacco Day, World AIDS day and others. Also, WHO and UNODC regional project Office for the Baltic states took part in UNDP administered UNAIDS project "Vulnerability assessment of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in Lithuania. In September 2009, WHO held a seminar "The Injury and Violence Prevention" and presented the WHO expert's "Injury and violence prevention training tool Teach-VIP". The training course was designed for professionals whose work is related to trauma or violence prevention and control issues: the medical and public health professionals, public institutions, NGO representatives, politicians and others. Also, WHO country office facilitated WHO monitoring and experience exchange visit on MDR-TB interventions and national TB programme implementation in Lithuania as well as WHO/EURO, Communicable diseases unit visit to discuss the Programme of Immunization. At the end of the year WHO Office in Lithuania presented the report and recommendations regarding the environmental threats in Lithuania. WHO country office undertook active role on the peak H1N1, held regular meetings with health officials and the Emergency Situations Management Centre; distributed information about the current situation in the world and recommendations for the public.

UNODC Project Office for the Baltic States continued implementation of a regional project "HIV/AIDS prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prison settings in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania". The project aims to build national consensus on effective implementation strategies to address HIV/AIDS among injecting drug users and in prisons; to increase coverage of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care services, and to generate and share strategic information to respond appropriately to the evolving HIV/AIDS epidemics. Through project activities the need of evidence informed HIV prevention among injecting drug users (IDUs) and in prisons has been brought to the attention of high level policy makers. In 2009, UNODC provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in revising the Lithuanian National HIV Programme for 2010 – 2012 according to the recommendations of the peer review by UNAIDS co-sponsors. A new protocol for methadone maintenance therapy has been developed in cooperation with Vilnius Centre for Addiction Disorders and Lithuanian Psychiatrists Association. The protocol has been reviewed by WHO experts and presented during a national conference for psychiatrists. Training programme on social work with IDUs has

been prepared and approved by Siauliai Medical College. Furthermore, 17 training seminars were organized for psychiatrists, social workers, pharmacists, prison staff and NGOs. Two international conferences on HIV in prisons and new drug trends were organized in cooperation with the Prison Department under the Ministry of Justice and Drug Control Department. In January, a regional conference "Universal Access to HIV prevention and care by 2010: can we achieve it in the Baltic States" was organized for policy makers and public health experts from all three Baltic States. In addition, UNODC supported participation of more than 50 Lithuanian experts in the international conferences and expert meetings. Round table discussions on scaling up services for IDUs were organized with local policy makers and experts in the Lithuanian cities of Siauliai, Marijampole and Mazeikiai.

Also, in line with MDG 6, UNCT, particularly UNDP in cooperation with UNODC regional project Office and WHO, commissioned a research initiative sponsored by the UNDP Regional Centre for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) that aims to identify barriers to the full social integration of people living with HIV (PLHIV). This study focused primarily on access to healthcare, education and employment.

UNCT, lead by UNDP, have been actively involved in advocacy, communications and resource mobilization activities throughout the year. UN Lithuania website has been reconstructed to represent UN work in Lithuania more adequately and to promote UN global efforts locally. Together with local partners UNCT members organized and participated in various UN commemorative days: World AIDS day, World Health Day, Earth day in support to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties and others. In October, UNDP, together with IOM and other ICT members launched locally Human Development Report 2009 "Overcoming barriers: human mobility and development". Support through the RC system was also provided for a number of activities, dedicated for the week against racial discrimination (March 16-26) and local campaign "16 days without violence" organized in relation to the campaign UN General Secretary campaign "Unite to End Violence against Women". UN week has been commemorated with intensive outreach through media and global campaign "Stand Up Against Poverty", which was organized with the Lithuanian Schoolchildren's Parliament. Only in the capital Vilnius 5 secondary schools participated in this event; almost a thousand of participants overall were part of Stand Up in Vilnius. The event had dual aims – it aimed not only collect the volume of participants, but also included educational element (short lectures on MDGs were held in schools).

### **2.3. Progress UNCTs are making collectively in support of the national partners' endeavours towards capacity development and aid effectiveness**

Lithuania is not among the countries that adhere to Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. UNDP together with the other members of the UNCT extensively advocated for the MDGs and, in particular, MDG8. Besides the knowledge and awareness raising activities, UNDP was intensively involved in consultations for NGOs about MDGs and their role in strengthening Lithuania's aid policy effectiveness. In particular, UNDP provided continuous support and advice during the year to the Non-Governmental Organisations Information and Support Centre in the implementation of project "We are ready", funded by the EC. The project aims to increase awareness, develop public support for national development cooperation policy and effectively engage Lithuanian national development NGOs into the process. At the beginning of the year UNDP facilitated a visit of local NDGO to Moldova, to establish future partnerships in joint programming.

UNDP Lithuania has partnered in various awareness raising activities. Most notable were: Word March against Hunger, and Stand Up campaign, organized by UNDP, other UN agencies in the country, civil society and student organizations and local celebrities, which resulted in considerable media coverage during the UN week. Besides that, UNDP Lithuania was intensively involved in dissemination of information related to MDGs, global MDG report 2009, publications, and advising local NGOs on MDGs and their involvement in development cooperation. National HDR launch also served as an outreach activity and gained attention from various audiences as well as media. UNICEF continued to serve as an awareness raising partner for the Government in the area of development cooperation; MFA co-sponsored the visit of UNICEF goodwill ambassador Mr. Roger Moore to Lithuania.

### **2.4. Experiences in common programming including HACT and progress on results achieved in cooperation with UN peacekeeping, peace building, political, and humanitarian actors in line with the Secretary General's decision on Integration of June 2008 (where relevant) as well as other highlights in coordination.**

No new joint programmes were launched during the year and HACT is not applicable for Lithuania. However, UNDP Lithuania implemented the UNAIDS PAF 2008-2009 programme in 2009 for ensuring continued efforts vis-à-vis empowering PLWHIV for effective and active participation in HIV prevention, treatment and care with a special focus on localization of activities. Also UNDP Lithuania has carried out a PLWHIV vulnerability survey. In addition, partnerships

with UNODC in implementation of the regional project on HIV/AIDS prevention and care among IDUs and in prison settings in the three Baltic States led to close and continuous collaboration between UNDP, WHO and the Government of Lithuania in HIV/AIDS practice area in 2009. As a result, partnership with UN agencies enabled capacity development of local and national stakeholders, NGOs and CBOs as well as academic institutions to generate quality response to the HIV/AIDS challenges in Lithuania.

### **3. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE UNDAF OUTCOMES**

UNDAF is not applicable for Lithuania.

### **4. THE KEY ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED 2010 WORKPLAN AND LINKAGES TO ONGOING ISSUES OF CONCERN WITHIN THE COUNTRY**

The UNCT advocacy activities in 2010 will continue focusing on MDGs in general and on the role of UN in the solution of global and local problems in particular (focusing on social inclusion, development cooperation, prevention of HIV/AIDS and other diseases such as TB). This will include support to prevention of discrimination in the labour market, reduction of social risk, efforts to mitigate the social consequences of economic crisis. As part of social inclusion/poverty reduction process, UNDP will continue to be involved in CSR and UN Global Compact initiatives due to its catalyst role played across the sectors and recognition gained among partners, and actively support/ encourage the process of implementing the National CSR Agenda as a Government strategy on CSR promotion in the country. In March 2010 National responsible award ceremony is foreseen to award best companies of 2009 as well as competition of the best CSR companies of 2010 will be organized in autumn 2010.

In 2010 UNDP Lithuania will coordinate new EC funded regional CSR project which aims to enable measuring and monitoring CSR performance and the level of excellence achieved in CSR practices at macro and micro levels in Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Slovak Republic.

Also, UNDP Lithuania will continue to work in the area of mitigation of economic crisis consequences (follow up on Economic Crisis Long Term Impact Assessment is planned and will focus on support to policy options in reforming State Social Insurance Security Fund and finding a proper balance between the labour market and the social security system in the country). In line with MDG8 UNDP Lithuania will launch a cross-border partnership with Belarus under European Neighbourhood Policy and possibly with Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on social inclusion related issues.

A major international initiative for the Ministry of Education (to be funded under ESF) will be launched around May 2010. It aims to establish a state level network/system, encompassing cooperation between international organizations worldwide, international and local companies and educational establishments, and enabling facilitation of cross-border cooperation. Funding in the amount of 3 mln Lt (approx. 1.3 mln USD) was approved by the Ministry in December 2009. As a result of this initiative, national system for international exchanges will be established, while 150 young people and 80 lecturers will be able to benefit from actual internships in international organisations and companies. This project will also promote Lithuania's participation in UN organisations.

Implementation of significant initiative on gender equality advancement will be started if the funding is approved by UNIFEM. In 2009 substantive partnership was mobilised for this initiative that brings together the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson, the Centre for Equality Advancement, the Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Business Employers' Confederation. The project will focus on improving institutional gender mainstreaming mechanism (regulatory framework) to include legal instruments for equality planning in Lithuania.

Advocacy for Lithuania's active involvement in development cooperation will be promoted by the UNCT through joint awareness raising events together with NGOs, business community and state institutions. Also UNCT will continue promoting country's partnership with the UN and associated agencies as well as more active private sector's engagement in development processes through support to the implementation of UN Global Compact principles. In order to support advocacy of UN promoted development issues and the organization's role in solving these issues, under the RC fund UNDP will coordinate UNCT activities in organizing advocacy events around the topical concerns within the country and globally: millennium development goals and the 10-year review MDG Summit (20-22 September) will be advocated through the launch of the Secretary-General's report for the Summit, the annual MDGs report and the MDG Gap Task Force report; Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, will be supported at a national and local levels; Stand Up Campaign campaign will be organized in September with UNCT and local partners aiming to generate public support and momentum before the MDGs Summit. Additional there is a commitment from MFA to cost-share release of the national MDG report, which would present a unique opportunity to localize MDGs

and to promote them locally. As it has been set in 2010 DPI communications priorities, the key target audience of communications activities will be youth between the ages of 15 and 24.

In 2010, the UNCT Lithuania will function with seven member organizations on board (UNDP, UNHCR, WHO, UNODC, IOM and national bodies of UNESCO and UNICEF). UNDP will continue as a major player in facilitating UN communication and advocacy events and joint activities with other UN agencies, under the leadership of the Head of UNDP Office. Launches and presentations of various reports and publications developed by UN, UNDP and other agencies will be carried out.

Advocacy related to UNDP supported projects contribute to the creation of knowledge and understanding of UN/UNDP values and principles within the civil society, general public and the decision-makers. Therefore the services of UNDP Communications' Officer will continue to be provided for the UNCT activities. UNDP will continue to provide operational support and host UNODC Regional Programme Office and UNHCR, as well as provide services in administering projects of non-resident UN agencies (FAO, UNEP, IAEA, IMO, UNOPS, WIPO) in the financial volume of 1.7 mln USD.