

Co-operation Agreement between the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment and the Danish Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

The Lithuanian Ministry of Environment and the Danish Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

- guided by the wish to strengthen mutual relations between their ministries
- underlining the importance of supporting the democratisation process, enhancing growth, promoting sustainable environment and market economy, and more specifically of promoting changes in the public sector by helping to make the sector more flexible and customer oriented
- in pursuance of the Danish Government's policy of support to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as for instance expressed under the Sector-integrated environmental programmes, the technical/administrative programmes and the FEU-programmes
- open for other relevant areas and forms of co-operation which in the future may prove to be viable

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The co-operation will be applicable to the general conditions for agreements concerning sector programmes under the Danish assistance to the reform process in Central and Eastern Europe which have been notified to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania by the Royal Danish Embassy in Vilnius.

Article 2

The Co-operation Agreement establishes the framework for the co-operation between the Parties, the main purpose of the present co-operation being:

1. under the Sector-integrated Environmental Programme to focus on energy saving in buildings, primarily in order to reduce the CO² emission.
2. under the Technical/Administrative Sector Programme
 - a. to develop the basis for registration of real property in Lithuania
 - b. to provide the basis for the establishment of geographic information systems including the introduction of a geodetic reference network database
 - c. to introduce the use of new technology

Article 3

1. The co-operation will take the form of:

- a. Ministers' visits if and when needed
 - b. exchange of experience and meetings at ministerial level
 - c. establishment of one or more joint Programme Group
 - d. a number of coherent and mutually re-inforcing projects
 - e. to a limited extent delivery of Danish equipment to Lithuania as an integral and necessary part of a project
2. Activities selected for financing under this Co-operation Agreement will provide coherent and comprehensive solutions to the specific high priority needs identified by the Lithuanian Party. The Lithuanian Party is - in co-operation with the Programme Group(s) - responsible for formulating an overall strategy for each project programme.
 3. The Lithuanian Party is responsible for informing their national Co-ordination Committee.
 4. Co-ordination with other international or multilateral project programme will be undertaken as and when required, just as the possibility of co-financing from multilateral subsidy schemes continuously will be examined.

Article 4

1. The Parties shall establish joint Programme Group(s), when required one for each separate area of co-operation. Members of a Programme Group shall be persons who are competent to prioritise, decide and evaluate in the overall process of programme management. The precise composition of a Programme Group will be agreed as a part of the additional Annual Project Programme (see article 5).
2. Meetings in the Programme Group(s), including those at the ministerial level, should be held at regular intervals in order to increase the mutual knowledge of the ongoing programmes.
3. It is the responsibility of a Programme Group
 - a. to select and structure projects in accordance with the strategic goals of each project programme
 - b. to supervise an effective implementation of the individual activities under the project programmes
 - c. to ensure projects include a high degree of knowledge transfer
 - d. to formulate Terms of Reference for new projects
 - e. to ensure co-ordination of the activities with project programmes financed by other agencies
 - f. to ensure that previous phases of a project is approved before a subsequent phases is set in motion
 - g. to continuously monitor that the co-operation is running efficiently and according to plan and to inform the relevant authorities and other interested parties about the progress and the results of the project programmes
 - h. to participate in the evaluation of the project programmes.

Article 5

1. In the form of additional Annual Project Programmes, the Parties will, at the administrative level, agree the precise focus and nature of the single projects. The Annual Project

Programmes will describe each separate project intended to be carried out and will specify overall goals for these projects. The Annual Project Programmes will include a three-year project perspective as well as a link to Lithuanian strategic goals and policies.

2. Annual Project Programmes for the coming year will be finally agreed no later than 15 November of the current year.
3. Annual Project Programmes will be worked out in accordance with earlier proposals submitted by the Parties.
4. As a general rule projects will be undertaken by Danish and Lithuanian consultants selected after a tendering procedure. However other forms of project co-operation as for instance exchange of personnel or secondment of experts directly between the Parties may be included.
5. When a project is put out for tender the Danish Party, financing the project, makes the final selection among the tenders.
6. All projects must include clear success-criterias for the entire project as well as its various phases. Environmentally related projects must also include indicators of their environmental impact.

Article 6

1. Lithuanian co-financing is an essential part of the co-operation.
2. The visiting country covers the travel expenses to and from the host country, as well as the travel allowances, accommodation and the cost of insurance.
3. The host country may on request cover some or all of the above mentioned expenses.

Article 7

With respect to the general conditions for the provision of assistance under this programme, i.a. the waving of costumes and taxes, reference is made to the Note Verbale of the Royal Danish Embassy in Vilnius of May 5th 1994 and the Note no. 236/94 of May 6th 1994 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania.

Article 8

Projects and project programmes under this Co-operation Agreement will be subject to evaluation in accordance with the Danish rules for co-operation with Central and Eastern Europe. All parties involved must contribute with all relevant information to the evaluation.

Article 9

Representatives of the Auditor General of Denmark shall have the right to carry out any audit or inspection considered necessary as regards the use of the Danish funds in question on the basis of all relevant documentation.

Article 10

Exchange of correspondence connected with the co-operation will be conducted directly between the Parties and between Programme Group members. Copies will as and when needed be forwarded to other relevant parties including the Danish Embassy in Lithuania and the Lithuanian Embassy in Copenhagen.

Article 11


Modification of the Co-operation Agreement or of the Annual Project Programme may be done with the approval of both Parties in written form.

Article 12

1. The Co-operation Agreement will come into force on the date of the signature.
2. The Co-operation Agreement is established for an unlimited period. Each Party may terminate the Co-operation Agreement at any time. The Co-operation Agreement will lose its validity after six months from the date of delivery of the written notification of its termination to the other Party.

Danish side

Date 12/5-1999



Jytte Andersen
Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs

Lithuanian side

Date



Danius Lygis
Minister for Environment