Lithuania: Research Assessment Exercise

Panel H: Humanities
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Panel H: Humanities

MOSTA, March 2015
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Introduction

Background

The overall objective of the research assessment exercise of the Lithuanian Higher Education and Research Institutions was:

To provide the Lithuanian public, policy-makers and decision-makers and the academic community with the most objective picture possible of the excellence and competitiveness of Lithuanian science in comparison with the global practice in the respective area of science.

The assessment produced evidence based analytical material that carefully and in details analyses the research excellence and competitiveness of Lithuanian research, combining its socioeconomic impact and the capacity of its research institutions. This material provides evidence for research policy making at different levels as well as enabling the research institutions involved in the process to gain a significant impetus for improving their activities. The research assessment was directed at institutions that were Higher Education institutions and their constituent faculties/departments/research groups or State research institutes.

Altogether nine panels were appointed to perform the evaluation. This document is the report of Panel H: Humanities.

Scope of Panel H: Humanities

The Panel was asked to evaluate research in the Humanities in 24 Units of Assessment (UoA) using the following criteria: research quality, economic and social impact, infrastructure, research management and development potential and to score each Unit on a five point scale, namely, ranging from outstanding [5] to poor [1]. The overall objective was to benchmark research in Lithuania against international research in the Humanities.

Material on which the assessment was made

Each Unit participating in the evaluation provided the Panel with a self-assessment report for the years 2009 - 2013. The self-assessment report contained the following categories:

1. General information about the unit of assessment (UoA)
2. Human resources
3. Research output
4. Doctoral training
5. National and international collaboration
6. Other scientific and social activities
7. SWOT analysis
8. Funding

The self-assessment also included a list of best publications which were sent to the panelists. The Panel also had access to a bibliometric analysis including information on citations and international co-authors.

The evaluation by the Panel was based on the self-assessment reports prepared by the Units of Assessment themselves, bibliometrics based on the data from the Scopus database, publicly available information via the websites of the research institutions as well as site visits and meetings with the representatives of the Units of Assessment. The Panel and the organisers of the assessment exercise do not take any responsibility for the quality and accuracy of the information submitted by the individual Units of Assessment.
Assessment procedure

Experts from Panel H visited Lithuania on January 11 - 16, 2015 and during this period they made site-visits to all UoA. The final Panel H assessments were based on both, the self-assessment report and evidence gathered during site visits. At least two Panel members were present at each visit. Each self-assessment report was read in details by at least two Panel members and then discussed by the whole Panel on at least two occasions, namely, before and after the Panel visits to the Units.

Institutions involved

Panel H was asked to evaluate 24 UoA within 16 institutions. The scientific disciplines of these institutions include Education, Philosophy, Theology, History and Theory of Arts, Philology, History, Ethnology. The institutions were as follows:

Universities

1. Kaunas University of Technology
2. Klaipėda University
3. Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre
4. Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences
5. Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
6. Mykolas Romeris University
7. Šiauliai University
8. The General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania
9. Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts
10. Vilnius Gediminas Technical University
11. Vilnius University
12. Vytautas Magnus University

Research Institutes

1. Institute of the Lithuanian Language
2. Lithuanian Culture Research Institute
3. The Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore
4. The Lithuanian Institute of History
Assessment of the Unit
## Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre

<table>
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<th>Name of the UoA</th>
<th>Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre</th>
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<td>Composition of the Unit of Assessment (UoA)</td>
<td>1. Faculty of Music; 2. Faculty of Theatre and Film</td>
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### Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

| Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA | 2 |
| The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania | 3 |
| The physical infrastructure of the UoA | 3 |
| Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA | 2 |
| The development potential of the UoA | 3 |

### OVERALL SCORE

- 2

### Overall score

The overall score recognises the research unit’s difficult past regarding its research activities, outputs and profile. This is offset by a growing strategic sense of focus and management, supported by some changes in developing excellent specialist facilities and appropriate art-focussed postgraduate programmes. The unit is on track to develop from being a satisfactory national player to a strong national player in the close future, even to becoming an international player given appropriate support and clear strategic direction further down the line.

### Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

This is a relatively small unit which is, as might perhaps be expected of a specialist academy, very focused on regional and mostly national music. This gives it a clear remit and solid base to work on, given the richness and complexity of this musical culture, though more ambition and a greater focus beyond Lithuania would equally be very welcome, especially as the unit’s plans develop. Most of the unit’s publications have appeared in Lithuanian, on Lithuanian topics and in Lithuanian publications, as is also the case with its...
doctoral theses. Some staff are publishing in English-language publications and with established and highly regarded publishers, such as Ashgate and Routledge, but some also with less well regarded publishers like Cambridge Scholars Press. The selected publications in English generally have a sound methodological base and are well contextualised historically and within musical lexicons, many with a particular ethnomusicological bent, though some veer too much to the descriptive rather than the analytical. Povilioniene’s article was more innovative than the others in its interdisciplinary focus. The panel would encourage more collaborators from outside Lithuania, thereby opening up the research to a less specialised audience and a wider readership. As well as music, its main strength, the academy also specialises in film and theatre but these areas are much less developed. It has very limited international contacts or participation in wider networks and there are no international collaborations in terms of joint publications according to the given data. Several staff have received honours and awards but overall they are not much involved in non-Lithuanian editorial boards or scientific committees. There is a big emphasis on preparing databases and encyclopaedias which can be very time consuming. This can lead to the generation of some useful resources but does not necessarily enable high quality research or a high volume of research. The significance of the research is deemed just about adequate, and its position nationally is stable.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

Music and theatre are important components in any national culture and research and can be very meaningful in shaping and contributing to national identity. Accordingly, impact can be identified as having a bearing in particular on music and culture within Lithuania. This occurs with and across an impressive range of institutions and public bodies. The academy’s research feeds clearly into Cultural and Artistic policy as well as various heritage projects at a national level. This goes alongside high level collaborations on specific events, many of which combine academic and professional bodies and are often organised with major national partners such as the Lithuanian Composers’ Union or the Polish Institute. Notable events include the conference on Chopin in 2013 and the International Conference of Young Theatre Critics in the same year. Many staff work with and advise national organisations such as the Theatre and Concert Organisation Council. Interaction with external users nationally is satisfactory and can be described as important for society, as might be expected of such an academy.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The Unit appears to have the basic necessary equipment for film, music and audio research housed centrally in a beautiful but perhaps not very functional building. An exception to this is the Spatial Sound Sphere – a pioneer in the Baltic countries - at the Unit’s Music Innovation Centre, whose development was supported by EU funding. Its wider potential is yet to be realised but it is very impressive, as was confirmed at the site visit, with excellent prospects for future research. The Unit has a very good (national) funding level per researcher, in fact the highest within this subset (88k Eur annual average funding in 2011-13), though probably this is mainly down to the Innovation Centre funding. Lots of projects are being supported, mainly in music. The Unit’s library is a specialised art education and research-oriented library with a considerable collection of titles and subscription to 17 databases. It houses well established musical archives that are accessible to external users, notably the Musical Folklore Archive. There are no international doctoral students or postdoctoral researchers, and the Unit currently has little to attract researchers from abroad, apart from the Innovation Centre. A new planned building might change all that providing more desirable specialist facilities and an attractive working environment. The Academy is certainly a strong national player but collaborations tend to be too regional alone.
Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The low intensity level of research done in the Unit is reflected in the seemingly quite passive way that the research activities have, until recently, been managed. The Unit has a long-term strategy but it seems that a more systematic effort to plan and manage research is only very recent. This might explain why there seems to be some tension among the Unit’s staff between teaching and research. The strategy aims to do three things: further develop Lithuanian studies as well as more internationally-focussed projects; encourage and develop interdisciplinary research; and foster an environment which encourages innovation and knowledge exchange. The self-assessment document mentions as a weakness ‘the insufficient involvement of some lecturer-researchers into the project-related activities of research’. This needs careful management as plans develop. Many schemes and activities are therefore in a very early stage of implementation, such as the ‘employee motivation plan’ and the new administrative Research Centre, set up in 2012. These should hopefully change the culture for the better over time.

The Academy publishes three journals of its own which is impressive, though perhaps too many given the small number of researchers (8.4 FTE) within the academy. There are a surprisingly large number of PhD students - 22.7 - many of them recruited directly from Masters programmes at the Academy. This seems rather anomalous, given the low number of FTE researchers, and could put pressure on staff in terms of supporting and supervising them. It might well be though that some of these PhD students are in fact staff, but nevertheless, they still need careful supervision. It is also surprising that so few doctorates have been awarded, especially in relation to this large number (2011= 3, 2012 = 1, 2013 = 1). The Postgraduate Studies Office supports early career researchers but their main task seems to be providing information on topical matters. Staff mobility both from and to the institution is rather limited, though there are a good number of international conference presentations.

Research plans at a strategic level are still very nascent though show lots of promise in the shape of two formal bodies especially - the Music Innovation Studies Centre set up in 2014 with interdisciplinary research ‘planned’ and the Research Centre to help organise research, set up in 2012.

The development potential of UoA

As the Unit clearly acknowledges, it needs a good dose of internationalisation to rise to the next level, and especially to get to a grade of 4 in this area. This would mean participating in more competitions to win funding from European research programmes, more cooperation with foreign researchers, more active participation in international conferences and researcher networks and, in general, more engagement of staff in research activities. There are strong plans and aims for what could be done with extra investment, ranging across renovation of an archive, digitisation, as well as more standard management and internationalisation processes. The academy acknowledges opportunities for developing applied and practice-based research which has lots of potential, especially given the nature of the institution, with high levels of expertise and embodied practical knowledge in its staff. There are many nationally recognised specialists working here who have the potential to develop and flourish and become more known internationally. It is less clear from the document though how staff will be managed and how strong the human resources plan actually is. Overall the assessment is quite mixed with some successes, but also some weaknesses, though it has the potential to become a recognised international player.

Conclusions and recommendations

The self-assessment report acknowledges that the research is currently ‘interregional’ and that ‘international research is also being developed’, which statement the panel found to be an accurate and fair description. The panel was pleased to hear about the plans for a new future building which will allow more flexibility and a wider range of activities, given that the current site has architectural constraints. It noted though that the
current central position is a great asset for such an educational and cultural site. Evidencing what can be achieved through new material investments, it was considered that the Music Innovation Studies Centre can really help raise the unit’s game, nationally and internationally, encouraging international research and attracting researchers with its highly specialised plant.

The panel has several recommendations: 1) the development of arts-based postgraduate research is very welcome and proving very attractive – the panel believes this needs to be furthered and encouraged. 2) Staff mobility should also be encouraged to help develop and internationalise the research. 3) The academy should pay more attention to its early career researchers and provide incentives for them to get involved in international activities. 4) The academy wants to develop music therapy which is considered a good idea. It can thereby build on the nationally-funded ‘Thinking Body’ project in finding ways to apply the research in community settings. Music has the potential to cut across languages and cultures and there is a good base and effective plans are in place to make this a strong area of research growth and potential impact.
## Humanities research unit, Vilnius Academy of Arts

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### Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

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<tr>
<td>The physical infrastructure of the UoA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA</td>
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<tr>
<td>The development potential of the UoA</td>
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### OVERALL SCORE

| OVERALL SCORE | 3 |

## Overall Score

This score is based on an attractive and diverse infrastructure yielding a very good level of research that would benefit from greater internationalisation and a more strategic deployment of its facilities and resources.

## Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

Vilnius Academy of the Arts plays an important role in the study and creation of art in Lithuania and the Baltic region. Despite some collaborations with other similar institutions, mostly in the Baltic area, the main focus of the Unit’s activity appears to be national. The academy is spread across different cities and also contains a long established (1998) UNESCO centre on Culture Management. Its research explores many aspects of visual culture as well as heritage, and is quite broad and inclusive in its objects of study, a definite strength. Staff’s articulation of their research was exemplary. It has achieved very high annual funding per researcher (82,7k EUR annual average funding in 2011-13) - the second highest in the subset - including a good amount from international bodies. It also participates in international academic programmes such as the...
SHARE network (Academic Network for Research in the Arts) coordinated by ELIA. Staff have given many papers across Europe, from Ireland to Russia, but there were not so many important international research collaborations or research prizes awarded. Low international mobility is self-identified as a weakness. In some cases outputs are published in prestigious journals (such as Icon for instance) and the publication of the two volumes of the catalogue of Lithuanian synagogues arising from an international project is a remarkable accomplishment. There is a newly developed artistic creation doctoral programme (Practice as Research as it might be termed) including a new international doctoral programme. Generally the quality of the unit’s research is as a strong national player with some international recognition.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The Unit seems to have engaged in activities aimed at raising social awareness of the arts and culture in a Lithuanian and Baltic context, most notably the ‘Synagogues in Lithuania’ project. It is active specifically in the area of research in monument protection and management and also has a strong focus on art heritage. It has contributed to two regional heritage-based projects (the synagogue one and ‘Art of the Balts’ which covered Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Germany), both of which are a good model for further collaborations. The document also describes other ways the unit applies its research for the benefits of society. For example, staff are active in many external committees and apply their expertise externally as evidenced in a (very long!) list. Little concrete information is provided though about what could easily become a very significant area of impact, in terms of how the Unit’s research is used and can be applied more widely. Given the specific domain of research conducted at the Unit, and the constant interaction with the artistic field, one would expect a multiplication of efforts aimed at bridging the gap between academic research and social interest in art and art history and theory. Overall, the economic and social impact of the Vilnius Academy of the Arts is at a good level for an institution of this kind, but with barely any international resonance as yet.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

This is described in the self-assessment document as inadequate and it details the range of issues that have led to such a self-criticism. This includes basic office facilities, which are not deemed sufficient for international researchers nor to efficiently enable and support research activities for its own staff which count 11.7 FTE (research staff). That is apparently the case regarding office space as well as for libraries, which are described as insufficiently endowed. There is little of note in its infrastructure, in terms of specialised resources, or aspects which might be used by others. External users are apparently able to use resources such as the library and Nida Art Colony, though little is said about how this works in practice. The unit houses the long established VAA press and publishes other notable texts including substantial dictionaries. These scholarly texts are no doubt useful resources and can be very helpful for research but might not necessarily be considered research outputs as such.

The site visit gave a very different picture from that described in the self-assessment document and the visitors were very impressed by both the old and new facilities they saw in Vilnius, and also the potential of the new buildings at Nida Art Colony, which were not visited but which were looked at ‘virtually’. The publication house has good office space and the central library seemed to be very conducive for research work. The ‘cells’ where students and staff work in the former monastery were considered, as part of the whole infrastructure picture, to be potentially attractive for international researchers. Overall we considered the infrastructure to in fact be very good, and certainly comparable with excellent facilities elsewhere. The unit might better advertise and market its facilities.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The self-assessment report provides scant information about career progression at the UoA but points out that brain drain and overload of both teaching and bureaucratic tasks is a major problem in the development
of its human resources. Some money has been given to support overseas visits by researchers to deliver papers at conferences and to counter the threats but in general, international collaborations are very limited, at both institutional and individual levels. Funding is described as a major problem, holding back the wider international potential of the research, but money is an issue for everyone everywhere so this is not surprising. What is lacking are very concrete steps as to how to offset this problem, such as increased non-national funding applications with international partners. Management of research is not detailed extensively but strategies are developed and approved for 5 years at a time, and monitored and revised annually. In these terms it is a strong national player.

The development potential of UoA

The Vilnius Academy of the Arts occupies a key position in the research panorama of Lithuania. It also aims to be the leading arts research centre in the Baltic region. Its plans of how it would use increased funding to achieve this aim are defined but they could still be even more precise as they are rather generic. There is a constructive focus on bringing in and supporting early career researchers, and inevitably also internationalisation, but it is not evident from the panel’s visit, research and reading all documentation that this is being concretely implemented. There is also an interest in further generating cultural/social impact from the research. There is a well-established doctoral programme with exciting plans for further development with a Finnish partner and also the presence of some postdoctoral researchers which enhances the research environment and indicates its strength. Given the longevity and ambition of some of its activities, one might have expected the reputation and influence to be not so localised and more firmly established in the international arena. Overall the assessment is quite mixed with some successes, but also some weaknesses. Consistent investments, major restructuring of the Unit’s human resources, and more efficient knowledge infrastructure would be required to advance toward a more accomplished internationalization; but the unit generally appears to be in a very healthy state.

Conclusions and recommendations

Overall the research quality seems of a good level and the academy appears to have a recognised position in the national scientific community, with some exciting recent developments auguring well for the future. The panel has the following recommendations: 1) It is both essential and urgent that the unit designs and implements a strategy in order to allocate more resources to the most productive researchers, encouraging in particular those at the early stages of their careers; 2) As the self-assessment report points out, the lack of skills in foreign languages by members of the unit is one of the major obstacles to its internationalization, (a common issue across Lithuania). Converting part of its research and publication activities into English will be fundamental to securing both national and international visibility for the Academy. Accordingly, both academic and administrative staff should be prepared to work in international research networks; 3) The Nida Art colony seems to have lots of potential, but this is not explored in the documentation, beyond its use for doctoral training. The panel recommends that the unit can better announce and market its facilities. 4) Overall, better management of existing funding, with emphasis on the unit’s research niches and participation in national and international research networks are all recommended as strategies for the improvement of the level of physical infrastructure and research capacity.
VMU Art Criticism science field, Vytautas Magnus University

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<th>Name of the UoA</th>
<th>VMU Art Criticism science field</th>
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| Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA | 4 |
| The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania | 3 |
| The physical infrastructure of the UoA | 4 |
| Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA | 4 |
| The development potential of UoA | 4 |

**OVERALL SCORE**

**4**

**Overall Score**

The overall score indicates that the unit can be considered a strong international player. Still, there is room for improvement in some areas, especially regarding the economic and social impact the unit’s research has in Lithuania.

**Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

VMU Art Criticism is a small and focussed unit. The staff have been very active in a number of Baltic, Nordic and European research networks and some individuals are evidently very well-known abroad. Many researchers (8) have visited institutions abroad. Poland and other countries of the Baltic region dominate the list but there have also been visits to the USA and Switzerland. Articles by the researchers have been published in international journals and other publications such as The Journal of Baltic Studies, Nordic Theatre Studies and Lituanus. These are engaging in debates that are recognized internationally as being of importance and they contribute to these with new insights and without being too parochial. However, the themes and topics of the researchers have been overwhelmingly Lithuanian. This goes also for all the recent
doctoral dissertations which all have been written in the Lithuanian language. All the publications viewed for this assessment fulfilled the requirements for a scientific presentation. The unit has its own peer-reviewed international journal MIK, publishing in Lithuanian and English. It is a high-quality journal. There have been no international doctoral students or international postdoctoral researchers at the Unit. Still, the importance of research by the unit is unquestionable and it can be considered a strong international player in its field.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The research of the Unit is important for the Lithuanian society in the way it pursues new avenues in interdisciplinary and theoretical research. Interaction with external users, such as ordinary citizens, nationally is satisfactory and as might be expected. Staff are active on various national boards and programmes, for example Research Council of Lithuania and Ministry of Culture. Library resources are made open to external users. Impact can be identified as having a bearing on Kaunas’s cultural and architectural heritage (e.g. the wooden buildings projects). A sceptic could ask whether the wooden architecture database by itself can really have such an impact as to motivate the citizens to "implement ecological principles of relation to one's environment". However, it may well have achieved that and in any case there is a good emphasis on social impact. What is less clear is how this impact is encouraged and achieved. The number of articles etc., typically around 20 per year, by the Unit's staff, popularising science has not been very high. There seems to have been lively collaboration with several museums, galleries and theatres but this has almost all taken place within one joint research project.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The unit has impressive facilities. There are practical spaces with lots of up-to-date equipment and technical staff who can expertly take care of it. The equipment includes a variety of computers, laboratories for data processing and photo lab, photostudio and sound studio, video and sound editing rooms. How these enhance and are used for research could have been explained more fully in the self-assessment report. The University library is for the staff's and researchers’ free use with all the collections and electronic resources. The unit is able to provide a research environment that is comparable with globally recognised academic institutions in its discipline.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The strategic long-term research plans of the Unit are based on the "national programs of research support and the general strategy of VMU". In the VMU cluster system early-career researchers are integrated in different ways to the scientific culture and have the chance to interact with more experienced researchers already at an early stage. For example, some young researchers have an opportunity to do research together with experts. The students the panel interviewed seemed satisfied with their career prospects and enthusiastic about their studies. The three topics of the unit’s research are well organised and focused, exploring areas of interest for both national and international researchers. These hinge on research priorities but also emphasise interdisciplinarity. There appear to be well managed processes for supporting staff at all levels. For example, financial support for disseminating research results in international conferences and other events are reportedly readily available. Oversight of publications is provided by the council of the Faculty of Art, which can help maintain quality control.

The development potential of UoA

The Unit has staff with good international connections and willingness to develop innovative theoretical and methodological approaches bridging the scientific traditions of East and West. The unit has a confident vision of its future and the opportunities it could avail itself of. The self-assessment of the unit’s weaknesses and threats also feels realistic. There are limited details about what a funding increase would enable, beyond
reducing the heavy teaching loads and increased networking. This load seems to be the main handbrake on research. There is the potential to develop Practice as Research using facilities such as the VMU Theatre and Gallery 101. Funding levels are limited and mostly from national sources currently, but there are ambitions and plans for this to grow and change, allowing it to participate more fully in European funded projects.

There is an identified and manifest strength in architectural research.

Conclusions and recommendations

The unit can already be considered in many ways an international player and it has the potential to become a strong international player. Before it happens, the new generation of researchers must become even more willing to create international contacts and gain experience of working abroad, even for longer times. This goes also for the research orientation. The researchers, especially the doctoral students, should try and move away from studying only Lithuanian subjects and writing their theses only in Lithuanian. The Unit must find ways of recruiting good teachers and researchers from abroad and attract international doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers. This could eventually also lead to increased funding which could bring the teachers more time to research. The projects which aim to connect the research done in the unit with the wider society’s interests are commendable and should be developed further.
Faculty of Architecture, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University

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<tr>
<td>The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania</td>
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<td>The development potential of UoA</td>
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<td><strong>OVERALL SCORE</strong></td>
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**Overall score**

The overall score recognises the unit’s very good potential, building on a very well established base with some excellent impact, but with the need to maintain investment in the infrastructure and develop more collaborative research.

**Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

The Unit is clearly a strong national player whose research is nationally and often also internationally recognized, with articles by the Unit’s research are being published in non-Lithuanian as well as nationally-based journals. It is very productive in terms of producing research publications related to architecture (e.g. 71 refereed journal articles cited in SCOPUS during the assessment period and 13 monographs in 2013 alone) in what is a very established subject area at this institution (over 50 years) but with a very small number of researchers (6.1 FTE). These include high quality publications addressing wider methodological concerns even if the focus is on local and regional spaces and buildings. The best among these is Professor Stauskis’s article which is pioneering. The piece by Rimantas Buivydas and Almantas Samalavičius...
represents a more conventional and less innovative approach to research in this area. The main fields and topics of the Unit’s research are quite broad, covering a range of architectural/methodological approaches. There is an excellent account of the modes of research the unit produces. However, the research carried out in the Unit concentrates very heavily on national Lithuanian themes; universal or comparative topics are in the minority. It has a few emerging international collaborative outputs in terms of publications and has worked with European partners on EU-funded programmes, but this is mostly limited to institutions which are geographically near, such as Aalto University (Finland) and Bialystok University of Technology. Listed are a wide range of countries where papers have been given by academic staff, and it is promising that these are not just in Europe but include Singapore, Scotland and Kazakhstan. It has achieved modest sums of funding (30,2k annual average funding in 2011-13) and also modest annual numbers of PhD students (enrolments are 2011 = 3, 2012 = 2, 2013 = 2), but there are no international doctoral students or postdoctoral researchers in the Unit. The presence of the Routledge journals within the university and faculty and the relationship of the unit to this remained a little unclear, though this is still clearly a strength with some potential, as long as Routledge continues to support this particular journal. Overall there is a good standard of quality of its research and the Unit is a strong national player with some international recognition.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The Unit’s research is very important for Lithuanian society because it affects the way people live, in what sort of environment they work and play and how they experience their environment aesthetically. Staff are very involved in national committees and boards such as the Parliament’s Heritage Commission and several other heritage-based organisations like the Council for the Protection of Ethnic Culture, as would be expected of such a professionally-based area of research like architecture. In addition there is a very close connection between the research and practice of the faculty and broader public users, mainly regional councils and authorities but also NGOs and business partners. These include Kenneth Ferguson and Partners in Edinburgh and the Lithuanian Green Building Council. The latter is a consortium of 16 business partners. The unit has over the years contributed a great deal to, for example, the urban design of Lithuanian cities and towns and architectural heritage conservation. Its activities in this area range across different types of collaborations encompassing town planning, sustainable environments, landscape architecture, heritage protection, industrial design and building acoustics. It is also working with business partners on sustainability and using virtual tools. Almost none of its resources are available to external users which is surprising as there could be some benefits in this. Overall, this aspect of its research activities seems to be very important and sought after and this aspect impressed the panel.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The panel found a big discrepancy between the description provided by the unit and knowledge gained from the site visit. According to the self-assessment document, the faculty has a supposedly very established infrastructure across 6 departments with two main laboratories in which research is focused. Within these it appears to own a lot of specialist equipment, supported by technicians, though what and how much this is used for research rather than teaching is not specified. The infrastructure of the Unit seemed on paper to be on a satisfactory and sufficient level; at least improvements to it are not included on the list of what the Unit would do with a 25 per cent increase in funding. As there were no negative comments, the panel assumed from reading and research alone that it is satisfactory. It houses and publishes a journal mainly in English by a major publisher (Routledge, Taylor and Francis), which brings it international recognition, with an international editorial board.

The site visit painted a quite different picture from that gleaned from the self-assessment document. We were surprised how little equipment there was in the two named laboratories, which seemed more like classrooms than fully equipped laboratories, especially given the potential tools and facilities needed for architecture (eg
3d Scanners, high spec computers, ‘crit’ spaces, sophisticated acoustic equipment, etc.). These facilities as they stand would certainly not be attractive to international researchers. The panel also agreed that too little is made of the fact that the unit houses a Routledge journal. More information about this aspect would have been welcome (e.g. readership, circulation, special issues etc). Overall, in this category, the Unit appears to be a satisfactory national player, though the panel were struck by the discrepancy between the reality and the textual description provided beforehand.

**Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA**

The development of long-term research plans in the Unit is based on several official documents: there is a three-year University Strategic Plan and the Unit’s three-year plan which specifies the most important goals regarding research. The Faculty plan is built upon the different departments’ plans and they in turn are based upon individual researchers’ planned activities. The fact that the research strategy is very much individual researcher-led has some advantages, but it would perhaps benefit from more cohesion and planning as well as some more defined steering from the top of the unit, rather than from the university as a whole. Research focuses on the two laboratories, but how this works in practice could be much better articulated. Students in all cycles of their studies are provided opportunities for research. They are also encouraged to build research relations and expertise/consultancy activities. They are also offered the opportunity to publish articles in a peer-reviewed journal. The fact that newly qualified doctoral students are usually given work as an associate professor in the faculty immediately after graduating is very supportive; though as a downside it perhaps does not make them aware of the rigours of external competition that usually prevail in academia world-wide and can foster introspection and possibly even nepotism. Such competition does, however, exist for longer term appointments. The performance-related pay procedures can be assumed to encourage staff to develop their research and there are good procedures for supporting younger staff. All things considered, the Unit takes good care of early career researchers.

The presence of the Routledge journal in the department is a bonus, and it is noted that staff are nevertheless encouraged to publish elsewhere in other journals rather than in what might be considered this ‘in-house’ publication. The Unit is able to provide a research environment that is comparable with globally recognised academic institutions in its discipline.

**The development potential of UoA**

The unit’s proposed plan in the self-assessment document for development given an increase of funding has three strands: one to build research capacity, the second to increase business-focused collaborations, and the third to develop the doctoral community. All seem very viable, building on a firm and secure base. This is a small team but is productive on several counts, so has good potential for development and growth, given increased input and funding. The Unit has a great deal of architectural expertise it could use in international cooperation and research projects, but a lot depends on how the economic situation in Lithuania develops and whether the Unit can attract and recruit both Lithuanian and international doctoral students and thus secure the continuation of the Unit’s research traditions. Ongoing material support and investment for laboratory-based research is also deemed important by the panel. Research engages fully with new digital tools and seems to possess a strength in using these for applied research. This is a national leader with a distinctive profile and specialisation – ‘the largest university-type school in Lithuania preparing architects’. This position is to be recognised and supported so it can develop to become a strong international player.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

The collaborations leading to social and economic impact have resulted in scientific works, recommendations, legal documents and expertise evaluations. Few humanities research fields have such potential and this is certainly an impressive aspect of its research. There was a concern about the actual state
of the core physical infrastructure and a clearer plan for the support and development of this is needed for the future.

The panel has two main recommendations: 1) There is a tradition of researchers working alone and not so much in teams. A cultural change in this regard could help in planning new larger scale projects. 2) So far, international cooperation has happened mainly with partners from neighbouring countries and from the German language area; a planned widening of contacts to the Anglo-Saxon countries could give new impetus to research visions.
Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Kaunas University of Technology

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| Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA | 3 |
| The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania | 3 |
| The physical infrastructure of the UoA | 3 |
| Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA | 3 |
| The development potential of UoA | 3 |

| OVERALL SCORE | 3 |

Overall Score

The overall score rewards the efforts made in the UoA to invest in the promotion of international visibility, research based careers and the importance of publishing in international journals. These efforts could also be seen in the enthusiasm of the researchers. The panel also appreciates the efforts to find a research identity for the unit in the context provided by the University of Technology. The challenge to identify the research areas of the UoA, which will develop the potential of the unit and lead to multidisciplinary research at a deeper level, still remains.

Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

The UoA covers three big units, Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities that had existed separately until very recently. The panel is told in the self-assessment report that as a result of the restructuring, the UoA reassessed its strategic goals, prioritizing excellence in research, international visibility and research that is focused on both discipline oriented and multidisciplinary topics. Researchers are often active in international research groups, and have established fruitful relations with universities and research centres abroad. The
Panel H: Humanities

The panel took note that among the list of publications submitted, several have been published with prestigious publishers (Routledge, Oxford). The number of articles and books published by the unit is impressive (at least 200 items every year during the period of evaluation), the number of Scopus publications (115 in total) is also high, but the number of international publications in peer reviewed journals is very small (2) given the size of the unit and its description in the self-assessment report as a unit “which believes in research per se”.

The doctoral theses are written mostly in Lithuanian even when they bear on topics of broader scientific interest. Among the prioritized research areas, the first five centre around research topics in social sciences; among the 10 items in the list of publications in Arts and Humanities, only one is in philology, and the same holds of the list of presentations at international conferences. This is a bit surprising given that philology constitutes more than 30% of the resources of the unit. All in all the profile of the publications in Arts and Humanities as illustrated by the publications submitted and by the list of 10 publications in the Arts and Humanities list in the self-assessment report (semiotics of non-human animals, Italian popular music, Setu songs, computational methods for rhythmic analysis) is not entirely representative of the research output of Arts and Humanities departments, from which more diversity is expected in traditional humanistic disciplines.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

This is one of the few institutions in Lithuania, which advertises itself as doing research per se. It has joint doctoral study programmes with many academic institutions in Lithuania and has organized training seminars and consultations for several other non-academic administrative entities (municipalities, philharmonic societies, museums), internships for students in businesses, and consultancy for international organisations (EU). The self-assessment report tells us that the Unit has a high expertise in strategic planning and urban development and is committed to develop partnership with business companies and reach out to the Lithuanian community via various activities of cultural and social type. This is a welcome development but it is not clear from the report to what extent this kind of cooperation sustains the quality of the research and is visible in the publications of the unit. The publication list of the UoA shows rather that it does not, and this is likely to undermine, in the long run, the theoretical and methodological innovation basis of the UoA. All in all the partnership with administrative entities is quite good, but the relationships with business companies remains yet to be developed, which means that this UoA has a satisfactory level of interaction with non-academics.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

On the basis of the self-assessment report and visit on the premises of the UoA, the unit relies on good facilities, which provide basic access to online services, international journals, etc. Future investments and developments in the domain of physical infrastructure should go in the direction of attributing specific working places to the research niches of the UoA, in order to give greater visibility to research activities carried on in these domains and in order to offer an internationally competitive research environment to foreign researchers.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

It is not clear how the UoA perceives itself in the international context. The self-assessment report witnesses that the unit aims at internationalization and establishing contacts with top universities and networks with prestigious universities but nothing more concretely is said about substantial issues behind internationalization. The report mentions two major niches in which it aims to play a major role: semiotics, and cross-national and cross sectional comparative studies which take the form of social survey programmes. The first is justified given that the unit hosts an Institute of semiotics, but one wonders why the other fairly large resources in Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities are not at all mobilized for creating strategic niches...
in the unit. The same questions arise with respect to the relevant research projects of the unit during the assessment period: none of them, either with Lithuanian partners or abroad has involved disciplines in Arts and Humanities. The long-term research plans aiming at promoting excellence, multi-disciplinarity and greater international visibility are on the target but the methods and especially the thematic research contents in terms of the underlying disciplines in Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities are largely unspecified. All in all it is not clear whether the UoA has made any strategic priorities about the disciplines of the unit and its thematic focuses. The two measures mentioned in the report for balancing national and international requirements on the quality of publications go in the right direction, but it would help to implement them already at the level of the doctoral theses: with one exception, all of them have been published in Lithuanian. In terms of human resources and career development, the measures taken and the prizes offered for promoting excellence in research and helping young researchers to enroll on a scientific career are welcome. The report also mentions that there are research positions that are not associated with a teaching load. This tendency is diminishing in many European Universities as research based teaching is regarded as improving both the quality of the teaching and enlarging the possibilities of the researches on the job market. On the other side, many of the members of the staff (e.g. philologists) seem to be engaged mainly in teaching. This is a general issue in many Lithuanian academic institutions that will be addressed separately. Also the fragmentation of research positions (11 senior researchers for 3.5 FTE) should be avoided if the UoA wants to enhance the quality of research and international visibility.

**The development potential of UoA**

The development of the potential of the unit depends on the extent to which, as indicated in the self-assessment report, the identity of the unit, grounded strongly in humanities and social sciences, finds a natural environment in a technological university. The report mentions that the environment provided by the Technical University favours strong multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary projects and gives several examples of such projects (Digital humanities, the analysis of the musical/cultural heritage space, the HOWTO project). These developments go in the right direction but one also expects in such an environment interactions at a deeper level, which bring together humanities, social sciences and technical disciplines and lead to research outputs at a more foundational level (foundations of science and technology, etc). This potential has not been realized as may be seen, among other things, from the doctoral dissertations defended in the Unit, which bear, to a large extent, on educational and pedagogical topics. The self-assessment report mentions, among the research outputs of the UoA, the combination of traditional and innovative tools as well as research results at a both multidisciplinary and basic level. It is not clear whether the unit has the critical mass of students and researchers to sustain both developments. The overall impression based on the publications submitted, the list of top publications, and the projects in which the unit has been involved, is rather a lack of methodological unity and profile. This is a problem that the unit will have to address.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

The UoA performs quite well when it comes to international visibility, research based careers and the importance of publishing in international journals. However, these qualities are quite unevenly distributed across the various subunits of this UoA. Therefore, the challenge for the research management is to identify and to strengthen the most promising research areas of the UoA, and to enhance the level of multidisciplinary research.

- The units should strive to achieve a sufficient critical mass of students and researchers in the traditional disciplines in order to create the preconditions of multidisciplinary research projects at a deeper level. This presupposes the identification of strategic research areas to be further developed.

- There seems to be a large subgroup of the unit engaged in language teaching. Language teachers do certainly an important job especially in the present historical and cultural context of Lithuania but perhaps it
would be better to dissociate them from research requirements so that they could focus on the development of language and translation services subordinated to the needs of the hosting institution.
Faculty of Philosophy, Vilnius University

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| Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA | 4 |
| The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania | 2 |
| The physical infrastructure of the UoA | 4 |
| Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA | 3 |
| The development potential of the UoA | 3 |

**OVERALL SCORE** 3

**Overall Score**

The panel appreciates the quality of the research performance in research topics that are relatively new for the present historical context of Lithuania. It also took note, in this connection, of the efforts of the researchers to update the research agenda in the various disciplines, which goes hand in hand with the creation of a new cultural and scientific language. The economic and social impact of the unit is not very high, although this is often the case with philosophy departments all over the world. What is more pressing, and determined essentially the overall score, is the identification of the research profiles which will lead to the methodological unity and the critical mass needed for a greater international visibility and research impact.

**Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

The UoA consists of 5 units that have been joined together for the purpose of the evaluation. The biggest unit is philosophy, which employs 72.7% of the human resources. On the basis of the number of international publications in Scopus journals, the international research contacts with prominent universities in Europe and
United States, research visits abroad, and joint research projects, the UoA deserves the high score of 4. However, the international publication record of the whole unit is uneven and there is room for improvement. From the list of 10 publications submitted for evaluation, 4 have appeared in the local journals edited by the Unit. The paper by Mackonis published in a blind, peer reviewed high impact journal (Synthese) should set the standards for the publication policy of the UoA. Also Lenarte’s contribution to the Routledge volume is the kind of publication expected to increase the international visibility of the unit. From the list of 20 top publications mentioned in the self-assessment report, 14 are published in Lithuanian. Sliogeris’ monographs published with two prestigious publishers constitute a good example to follow, as acknowledged in the self-assessment report. The overall majority of PhD theses (eight out of nine, with the thesis of Mackonis being the only one published also in English) have been written in Lithuanian even when the topics bear on more general, non-local interests. Research in philosophy and religious studies seems to cover many research topics and interests that create the context for multi-and interdisciplinary interactions. But this potential is not yet visible in the publications of the UoA. The same holds of the thematic focuses of the philosophy unit (philosophy of cognitive science, experimental philosophy, analytical metaphysics and philosophy of science): they are in line with similar preoccupations at top Western departments, but they are not yet reflected in the publication output neither in the topics of the presentations at international conferences.

**The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania**

The research focus of the UoA is clearly on theoretical, foundational issues, and far less on applied research, which can be seen in the fact that the UoA has a rather modest societal impact. The members of the unit are well represented in various professional and governmental associations, research councils and especially societies associated to the relevant disciplines. They are also present as experts in the media, governmental and nongovernmental associations. Interaction with non-academic society and policy makers remains yet to be developed. The self-assessment report acknowledges correctly that there are no important research projects developed with public or private non-academic partners. It became clear during the visit of the unit that in the present context of Lithuanian culture and history, the researchers of the unit are deeply engaged in extensive translation work, which has also the important role of creating a scientific and philosophical vocabulary badly needed in Lithuanian language. But this effort should not undermine the endeavour of the UoA to encourage and sustain the publication of results in high impact journals and volumes abroad.

**The physical infrastructure of the UoA**

The subunits of the UoA are located in the old part of the University of Vilnius, which is impressive. The members of the panel had the opportunity to visit the premises, the libraries, working spaces and computer facilities of the UoA and appreciated the efforts and the investments made recently for the restoration and the maintenance of the buildings. The discussions during the visit showed that the size of some of the libraries could be extended and the book-acquisition system could be rendered more transparent and more effective.

**Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA**

The management has a clear view of the broader research environment of the unit, at the University of Vilnius level as well as at the national and international levels. It rightly emphasizes the competition with the Baltic and Central European regions and the necessity of a better integration into the European research infrastructure. However, compared to similar departments in e.g. Poland, Czech Republic, and Hungary, the unit seems to be more in search of an identity and research profile that will enhance its international visibility. There are certainly objective reasons for that but, on the other side, some of the strategic objectives and the niches of the UoA are either underspecified or too ambitious relative to the resources and the size of the unit. Some of the niches in which the unit wants to play a leading role, like Lithuanian heritage and
Lithuanian research infrastructure are shared with several other academic departments in the country. Some others, like the combined expertise in philosophy, philosophy of science, phenomenology and hermeneutics seems simply too broad and too ambitious. The UoA takes pride in concentrating interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research in philosophy, religion, gender and Oriental studies. It is not clear, however, at least based on the publications, to what extent the unit can create the critical mass of researchers and students and the methodological unity needed to sustain scholarship in these fields at a high theoretical level. In terms of human resource management, it is very good that doctoral students are engaged in teaching, encouraged to participate in conferences and exchange programmes and doctoral dissertation award are in place. The panel took note of the enthusiasm of the PhD students, but recommends a more structured doctoral programme, preferably in cooperation with other units in Lithuania and other Baltic countries; this implies going beyond the model of personal supervision. The lack of a PhD programme in gender studies is a serious shortage, especially given the large demand for it. Most Western universities have such a programme in various forms. For a small country like Lithuania one option would be to build a separate, independent programme, in a separate unit.

**The development potential of UoA**

The UoA has the potential to become a strong international player and this is also its strategic objective. However, in order to fulfil it, the unit has to make some important strategic decisions. The fields and thematic focuses identified by the UoA as research objectives are too broad and too general. For instance, it is not clear why philosophy of cognitive studies, experimental philosophy, or philosophy in post-Soviet Asia are the kinds of new knowledge needed in the unit. The division in the area of philosophy (Logic and History of Philosophy, and Philosophy) is not standard: logic usually goes together with systematic philosophy (philosophy of science, epistemology, metaphysics). All in all some degree of specialization necessary for achieving critical mass and methodological unity is desirable. It has to be combined with an optimal balance between the teaching load and the time allocated to research, a sabbatical system and an additional funding. Although the UoA has attracted a large amount of competitive R&D funding, it needs to improve considerably on R & D international funding, which remains almost inexistent and on funding for research visits and publishing activities.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

The UoA has a high research potential as attested by some of the publications and the international contacts. It covers a variety of research fields in philosophy, religious, gender and oriental studies, which also creates the basis for interdisciplinary research. However this potential has not been yet realized. Also given the size and the resources of the subunits, less diversity and more specialization in the research topics may be a reasonable strategy to achieve a critical mass of students and researchers and increase international visibility. A more balance teaching/research load together with a competitive sabbatical system, which is in place in all Western European Countries, will bring more time for research to those who have shown research potential. A PhD programme in gender studies would also be desirable.
VMU Philosophy and Ethnology science fields, Vytautas Magnus University

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| Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA | 2 |
| The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania | 2 |
| The physical infrastructure of the UoA | 2 |
| Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA | 1 |
| The development potential of the UoA | 2 |

**OVERALL SCORE**

| Overall Score | 2 |

**Overall Score**

The overall score (average level) is based on the lack of focus of the UoA (research input is divided over two quite heterogeneous disciplines, each of them consisting of a great number of subfields), the absence of international articles and the low impact of research output in general according to Scopus, and the impression of the panel that the research management lacks a clear strategy in order to improve the research quality and impact of this UoA.

**Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

As to this criterion, the UoA is a satisfactory national player. The significance of the research of this UoA is nationally recognised, as becomes clear from its key-publications. The UoA occupies a stable position in the national scientific community, but its position within and impact on the international scientific community is still limited and undetermined.
The UoA pursues an interesting strategy of concentration its research in research four clusters across the fields of philosophy and ethnology (Nation and Tradition in the Modern World; Interdisciplinary Research on Social Minority Groups; Research in Religion and Culture; Research in Practical Philosophy). However, only two of the submitted publications can be related to the first and the third cluster, respectively; a fair number of the key-publications can be linked to the first cluster, but none of them to the other three. This creates the impression that a substantial part of the research is not related to any of the clusters. In sum, a relatively small part of a by itself small UoA (8.9 FTE research input) is participating in four clusters, so that the research output of this unit is inevitably very fragmented. The fields of phenomenology, applied philosophy, and contemporary folklore studies seem quite developed and promising. Moreover, during the site visit the researchers told the Panel that it was questionable whether the researchers really have 33% of their time for doing research, because of their high teaching load. This results in a situation, in which the research niches of the UoA are not clearly defined; moreover, in most of them there is overlapping with national competitors, but hardly any structural cooperation.

The international relevance of the research group is limited. The number of international publications, mentioned in Scopus is zero, as well as their impact is rather low (H-index is 1). Submitted publications are interesting and reach national standards of publication. However, little evidence of publications in international blind peer-review journals is given. Most research carried on by the UoA results in national publications, predominantly published in Lithuanian. The overall majority of the dissertations is written in Lithuanian, which is detrimental to the international recognition of this UoA. Participation in international projects is also sporadic. For the future development of the UoA, it will be essential to invest considerably more resources in participating in national and especially international networks of research, resulting in major publications in English and in application to European and international funding.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The research of this UoA is important to society, but the level of interaction with non-academics, which has been realized so far, is still low.

Some of the researchers of the UoA have been active as consultants for several entities outside of the academia. However, little evidence is given about this collaboration. Most of the social impact of the UoA seems to be limited to traditional ways of academic communication, such as conferences and symposia. There is strong need to increase and qualify the visibility of research carried on at the UoA in Lithuanian society, so as to multiply possible synergies with non-academic stake-holders and contribute to satisfy the social demand of knowledge. Given the potential of ethnology to cooperate with actors outside the academia, its social impact is rather modest.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The UoA is a satisfactory national player, and has the potential of becoming a strong national player. The physical infrastructure of the UoA is described as adequate for the level of activity at this research institution and actually better endowed than most comparable academic centers in Lithuania. Workspace is widely available and, as indicated by the self-assessment report, well equipped. But during the site visit, the Panel noticed that the offices were rather small and not well equipped, which corresponds with the UoA’s SWOT-analysis. By and large, the comparatively good research infrastructure should be organized and managed so as to encourage the research activities of the most productive staff at the UoA.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The UoA is a satisfactory national player, but it still has a long way to go before it achieves the level that is expected in the international scientific community of a respected institution in the given discipline. The
workload for teaching is very high, which means that researchers spend less than 33% of their working time on research. Moreover, the UoA has too many part-timers, divided over two quite different fields of research and a lot of interdisciplinary clusters, which is very detrimental for the international scientific impact of its research, as well as for its organization and management. The level of international research cooperation of the senior staff is rather modest; most of the dissertations are written in Lithuanian, which means that the ph.d. students are hardly aware of the international environment of their research.

The UoA laments the same shortcomings that most humanities research institutions in Lithuania as well as overall Europe are confronted with: limited budget, difficulty of offering competitive conditions to early career researchers, and insufficient critical mass in human resources (number of researchers per thematic cluster) so as to enable ambitious investigative endeavours. The research management does not seem to be stimulated to play a more active role, since all major decisions are taken on a central level.

The decision of the UoA for interdisciplinary cooperation in several clusters is a good one, and is in line with the strategy of VMU, but there are too many isolated fields of research remaining. Some of the strengths and opportunities in the SWOT-analysis are not confirmed by objective data, especially as regards the international scope of the unit. Information about how the UoA would use a possible increase in funding is not satisfactory provided in the self-assessment report, which only mentions an increase in young researchers’ salaries. There seems to be no strategy to improve the level of internationalization of the UoA. The UoA research management should better define its priorities for future development, singling out realistic priorities in terms of improving the internationalization of research and encouraging the most productive young researchers.

The development potential of UoA

The UoA has the potential to become strong national player, but in order to realize this, a lot of things have to improve. Research conducted in some of the investigative niches of the UoA is extremely promising, for instance the study of contemporary folklore, life styles, and identities. Also the field of philosophical counselling has an interesting potential. The capability of the scientific environment is certainly sufficient to support the chosen fields of research. Moreover, if the UoA succeeds in working in clusters, and to cooperate more closely with non-academic partners in the field of ethnology, it has a quite good potential to enhance its societal impact. However, during the period under assessment this potential has been realized insufficiently, due to the fragmentation of the research of the UoA and its scarce attention to internationalization. In the preceding years, the UoA has been predominantly active in the national context, which limits the ambitions of the UoA, so that it has not been successful in attracting external funds on a competitive basis. In order to improve this situation, much greater effort should be made in order to better concentrate the UoA resources in the most productive research domains, mentioned above. Currently, the research management does not seem to have the managerial competence and tools or the scientific personnel to initiate new research directions, resulting in a rather poor view of the UoA’s future. This is confirmed by the quality of its SWOT-analysis. Because of its fragmentation (as regards its great number of part-timers and the number of disciplines it wants to be active in) this UoA lacks the critical mass in order to attract high-level ph.d.-students and researchers from abroad.

Conclusions and recommendations

The research performance of this UoA is on an average level, because of its lack of focus, its very modest international scope and impact, and its rather weak management. In order to improve this situation:

- The UoA should reduce the number of topics and clusters it wants to do research in, and substantially reduce the number of part-timers in order to reduce the current fragmentation.

- Much greater effort should be made in order to better concentrate the UoA (material and human) resources in the most productive research domains.
- Given the potential of ethnology to cooperate with actors outside the academia, the UoA should be more active in realizing its societal impact.

- For the future development of the UoA, it will be essential to invest considerably more resources in participating in national and especially international networks of research.

- Research on the intersection between philosophy and ethnology is promising and could become a niche in which the UoA is an international player.

- The decision of the UoA for interdisciplinary cooperation in several clusters is a good one, and is in line with the strategy of VMU, but there are too many isolated fields of research remaining.

- It is very important that ph.d.-students get a more international scope. In order to realize this, they have to write their dissertations in English and their work has to be more firmly embedded in (inter-)national research groups.

- The research management of the UoA should play a more active role as to the definition of its priorities for future development, singling out realistic priorities in terms of improving the internationalization of research and encouraging the most productive young researchers. The central management of the university should give the UoA’s management the necessary instruments to assume such a role.
VMU Theology science field, Vytautas Magnus University

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<th>Name of the UoA</th>
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Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA: 3

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania: 4

The physical infrastructure of the UoA: 3

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA: 3

The development potential of the UoA: 4

OVERALL SCORE: 3

Overall score

The overall score results from the fact that this UoA is so small that its obvious assets depend to a great extent on the qualities of a very limited number of people. This not only puts its critical mass at risk, but even jeopardizes its overall sustainability. Having said this, the UoA deserves to be complimented for what it has accomplished in the period under review, not only as to the quality and impact of its research (primarily on a national level, but to some extent also internationally), but also regarding its societal impact, and its realistic policy to focus on a niche, in which it can be an important player, nationally as well as in the Baltic and wider East-European region.

Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

The Unit of Assessment is a strong national player with some international recognition. The publications submitted to the panel are of good quality, but have not been published in international journals; the same holds true for the key publications, mentioned in the self-assessment report. On the basis of the Scopus overview, the total number of international publications is 2 on a total number of 55 publications. The
importance of research by the UoA is unquestionable in the panel’s assessment, especially insofar as it focuses on practical theology (with special attention for bioethics) and serves as a bridge between Christianity and society. It hosts a center of marriage and family and one in Lithuanian Church history, which are of national importance. Because this UoA is the only one in theology in Lithuania, it is considered as a respected and recognised centre of competence, although it still lacks international recognition, especially outside the Baltic region. Almost all researchers of the UoA participate in three interdisciplinary research clusters, defined by VMU, viz. Research of Human Relationships in Bioethics; the Church’s Relations with State and Society in Lithuania; Research on Religion and Culture), which is a very positive evolution. Given the very small size of the UoA (total research input 4,2 FTE) the quantity and quality of its research is very good, especially on a national, and to a lesser degree on an international level. This is partly a consequence of the fact that not all lecturers are involved in research (most input is concentrated on the above research clusters), which seems to be a sensible strategy.

The UoA has good international contacts and many of its researchers are very active in creating new ones. It is part of international theological networks, as becomes apparent from the fact that it has been the main organizer of six international conferences during the period under review, and collaborates structurally with universities abroad (Lublin, Leuven, Rome). Theological research has usually good potential of being international topic-wise. Most of the research done in the UoA has appeared in Lithuanian but a significant number of the subjects are not narrowly Lithuanian. This goes also for the themes of the doctoral dissertations. However, almost all of them are written in Lithuanian, which is a serious handicap for the UoA's internationalization. On the other hand, the researchers of the unit evidently are linguistically quite capable which gives them the chance to publish also in languages other than Lithuanian.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The Research of the UoA is very important for society and it is sought-after by non-academics, as becomes apparent from its impressive number of structured contacts with society at large and with ecclesiastical institutions in particular (eight research projects with non-academic national partners and seven researchers serving as experts for non-academic organizations). Since this UoA is the only one of its kind, and because Lithuania is still markedly a Catholic country, it plays a pivotal role in Lithuanian society, and serves as a mediator between the past and the future of Lithuanian society and the church. A large number of the workers in the church are alumni of the UoA, which makes that its cooperation with society at large is extensive and dynamic. Also Catholic schools and catechetical centres belong to the Unit's non-academic cooperation partners. The Unit has carried out several research projects with non-academic partners during the period of evaluation. Many of the Unit's staff belong to various church-related committees or boards. The Unit's researchers have been very active in giving interviews to the media and submitting popular articles to various publications. In sum, its researchers serve as ambassadors of the Church in the intellectual field.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The UoA is a strong national player, being able to provide a research environment that is comparable with recognised academic institutions in its discipline in Lithuania. The Unit has not assessed its own physical infrastructure. This is perhaps because there is nothing special to mention in this respect: the researchers have a workplace, some of them even a room of their own, they have access to online databases and to the university library. When talking about its strengths, it claims it has "excellent facilities and equipment needed for research activities". During the site visit, the panel noticed that the infrastructure is good, but not excellent, especially in comparison to the research facilities in e.g. the University of Leuven, which the UoA mentions as one of its most important international competitors.
Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The decision of the research management to concentrate research in interdisciplinary clusters and, more specifically, to focus on practical theology and Lithuanian Church history deserves to be welcomed, because it enables the UoA to be a recognizable player, especially in Lithuania. Ph.d.-students complete part of their research at universities abroad, and senior researchers are involved in international research networks and participate in conferences abroad. The main problems of the UoA are its very small size (4.2 FTE research input), its great number of part-timers (the 4.2 FTE research input is divided among 35 persons), and its very high teaching load.

However, in spite of all these problems, the UoA is a strong player, primarily in Lithuania, but to some extent also internationally. The process of the UoA research management is well explained and one also gets a picture how it is tied with the University's long-term goals and the cluster system's workings. The UoA is aware of its own weaknesses in this regard and has ideas about how to fix them. Like many others, this UoA complains about the lack of human resources and lack of time in implementing important goals, but it follows a cohesive strategy to adapt its focus and scope to its modest resources. Furthermore, it seems to be successful in aligning its strategic goals to those of VMU, as becomes apparent from the portion of the researchers involved in the so-called interdisciplinary clusters. The UoA has many external and part-time lecturers for specific disciplines, but because of its focus on practical theology, researchers have to have practical experience. This is a sensible strategy, which enables the UoA to play an important role in a well-chosen niche. The UoA has a clear view on its strengths and opportunities and has a clear and cohesive strategy for the future. However, almost all weaknesses of the SWOT analysis are attributed to external factors. A more critical self-assessment is needed in order to improve the unit’s strategy.

The UoA takes care of its Ph.D. students and young doctors in an excellent way, especially by making them familiar with the international context of their research, although there is no systematic Ph.D. training. Most of them go abroad to do research for some time, and the UoA has structural contacts with a number of foreign universities (e.g. the Catholic University of Leuven, the Catholic University of Lublin, Lateran University, Rome) where they can study. This is an excellent preparation for further internationalization.

The development potential of UoA

The UoA has the potential to become a strong international player, especially in the Baltic region, because it has a clear focus on practical theology and Lithuanian Church history, and, above all, because the staff is motivated to concentrate its research in accordance with this focus. The UoA has a clear vision of its future and its plans are in accordance with its SWOT-analysis. However, the small size of the UoA, in combination with its high percentage of part timers (4.2 FTE research input, divided over 35 persons) affect its critical mass negatively, and will make it difficult to raise competitive funding from international research organizations. On the other hand, the UoA’s focus on practical theology in the Lithuanian context and its excellent contacts with ecclesiastical organizations are important assets to raise external funding from (international) charity organizations, and to participate in the international network of Catholic theology. Due to its specific focus, it is unlikely that the UoA will be able to attract high-level doctoral students and scientists from abroad, especially from outside the Baltic region.

In order to participate in international competition for funding, a first step could be a closer collaboration with theological faculties in Poland and/or the Baltic countries, in which its clear focus is an important asset. The research environment is good enough to support initiatives like these. What the UoA has been able to accomplish so far in this respect is very good. However, this potential is put at risk by the fact that more and more economic factors jeopardize research quality, as well as the number of researchers; in fact, the number of researchers of this UoA has been decreasing since 2011, due to structural lack of adequate funding. This
evolution is a real threat to the critical mass of the UoA. Against this background, a realistic strategy would be to try to attract high profile ph.d.-students and senior researchers from East-European countries.

The UoA has the potential of becoming a strong international player. It is uniquely positioned between eastern and western theological traditions and in the process of developing original Lithuanian theological traditions. The UoA’s wide and all the time widening network of alumni working in private and public sectors increases opportunities for new, topical projects and also funding channels. Still, there are many obstacles that must be overcome. The UoA must strengthen its international character by employing quality teachers from abroad.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

The UoA is so small that its obvious assets depend to a great extent on the qualities of a very limited number of people. This not only puts its critical mass at risk, but even jeopardizes its overall sustainability. Its strategy to focus on a research niche and the willingness of its staff to implement this strategy is an encouraging sign for its future. The panel deems that the UoA will be able to play a prominent role in the Baltic region and other neighbouring countries, but probably not on a larger European level.

- The UoA should continue its strategy to define a clear focus, and to invest its material and human resources accordingly.
- The UoA should try to become the leader in one of the clusters. This would enhance the UoA’s reputation inside the university, and also on a national level
- The focus on practical theology should also include fundamental research.
- In pursuing this strategy, the UoA will be able to attract international doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers, especially from the neighbouring countries.
Languages and literature, Vilnius University

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| Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA | 4 |
| The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania | 4 |
| The physical infrastructure of the UoA | 4 |
| Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA | 4 |
| The development potential of the UoA | 4 |

**OVERALL SCORE**

4

**Overall Score**

The Faculty of Languages and literature at the Vilnius University is one of the largest units submitted, having 59.8 FTE reported staff. This is a well-established Unit with an ambitious and diverse research agenda covering practically all philological disciplines across the board, with particular strength in Linguistics, Lithuanian Studies, Baltic, Germanic, Roman and Slavonic Languages and Literatures, as well as Classics, semiotics and other sub-disciplines. The overall score reflects the undoubted achievements of the Faculty in these various areas of expertise.

**Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

The Unit has a long record of outstanding research and the RAE confirms its strong standing on national and international arena. It produced large number of important publications (50 monographs and almost a thousand articles, some are in SCOPUS journals; it publishes some major journals in the field, which are included in international databases; it has a large number of graduate students and doctoral degrees awarded. There are some important cases of productive international collaboration and the members of staff actively
visit research institutions abroad. The research impact of the Unit becomes apparent from the numerous prizes and awards it has won. The most important room for improvement consists in attracting international PhD students and supporting postdoctoral research as well as research (not teaching) visits to the Unit which are currently quite rare. The same could be said about participation in international conferences. Members of staff are actively participating in editorial boards of research journals but practically all these journals are published by the Unit. More active participation in international journals abroad would be very important as well. There is considerable imbalance between language and literary disciplines which is not particularly helpful for such a flagship national institution. Languages range widely and studied through well-established language departments while literature is in some way side-lined with Lithuanian literature clearly dominating over comparative and world literature and literary theory. These areas of research need to be supported and developed.

**The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania**

As mentioned before, the Unit is a flagship national institution, a major philological centre in the country, which together with the Institutes of Literature, Lithuanian Language and Lithuanian culture constitutes an intellectual hub for the humanities in Lithuania. It should be noted, that collaboration with these other institutions needs to be broadened and improved. The Unit co-operates with a wide range of companies and organizations in Lithuania, and makes use of a national system of ‘innovation vouchers’, aimed at facilitating the commercial use of the Unit's intellectual products. It has also initiated a number of co-operative projects in the fields of information technology and computational linguistic applications for the Lithuanian language. Several members of staff are members of The State Commission of the Lithuanian language and the Ministry of Culture's Board of Literature. Although it has developed cooperation with non-academic organizations and more than 20 businesses, it seems not much research funding comes from these collaborations. Its effectiveness needs to be assessed. Unlike purely research institutes, Vilnius University is first and foremost an education institution and its role is to be a cradle for a new generation of Lithuanian scholars. The score reflects achievements on this front.

**The physical infrastructure of the UoA**

As a consequence of major renovations in the Faculty during the years 2010-2012, the physical infrastructure of the Unit has improved considerably. The library services appear to be on a good level, and also provide the researchers with sufficient access to electronic resources and databases. However, as the Unit's self-assessment report points out and as the site visit confirmed, there is a serious shortage of space in the Faculty premises, which is partly due to the fact that the Unit operates in old and listed buildings. This situation can hardly be altered as the faculty is located in historical buildings which are part of Vilnius University architectural ensemble. But without serious redistribution of working space development of research activities is hardly possible.

**Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA**

It has a robust and well-structured system of research management with detailed procedures and well-established structures to maintain high standards and to facilitate career development for scholars. The Unit has set itself a clear and ambitious goal of becoming a leading research centre in its focus areas. The Research group structure helps to create a supportive research environment for early career researchers; the Unit also has a thriving community of postgraduate students with an efficient structure of supervision and mentoring. The FTEs and the budget allocations are growing every year, but the Unit faces the same problem that all institutions of HE are facing: heavy teaching workload that prevents the academic staff from engaging more consistently in research, the possibility for staff to use sabbaticals is limited and more grant capturing support is needed. The self-assessment report of the Unit identifies the heavy teaching load of the
academic staff as one of the major obstacles for the further increase of research activity in the Unit. It was confirmed during the visit.

The development potential of UoA

The Faculty has set itself the aim of becoming the leading player in the field of the Humanities in Eastern and Central Europe. This is laudable, and the Unit certainly is already an internationally recognised centre of research, especially in the areas of Baltic Linguistics, Lithuanian Studies, and Classical Studies. The internationally recognised status of the Unit is also evident in the extensive international collaboration that the UoA is engaged in and in the fact that the UoA hosted a major international conference, the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europea in Vilnius in 2010, with more than 340 participants from all over the world. Being a strong international player, the Unit has excellent potential for maintaining this status. It has a detailed strategic long-term plan with specified goals and objectives. But there is still some potential for growth. For instance, more than half of Unit’s research funding comes from the basic budget, provided by the state, and the rest also comes from the state’s budget, but on a competitive basis. However, nothing comes from international programs of funding. Such participation in international bids bring more competitiveness in the process and leads to stronger and internationalized research culture.

Conclusions and recommendations

Being one of the oldest and most authoritative research Units conducting research on the Lithuanian philology gives the Faculty of Languages and literature a special responsibility for keeping up-to-date in international research, with regard to methods, paradigms and research domains. The Unit needs to do more to attract international research students and support of postdoctoral research. Considerable imbalance between language and literary disciplines in the Unit needs to be addressed. The Unit needs to do more to support and develop research in such areas, as comparative and world literature and literary theory. The Unit could do more to make its collaboration with both academic and non-academic organizations and businesses more productive. The fact that the faculty is located in historical buildings which are part of Vilnius University architectural ensemble is an asset but the lack of space for research is an issue and requires serious attention. There is a serious potential for successful grant bidding but the faculty needs to appoint professional Grant Capture Officer. It is money well spent. The Faculty’s emphasis on its “patriotic mission” to preserve national language and culture, while in itself very commendable, should not exclude studying its latest developments in the contemporary national and international context. If comparative literature, literary theory, world literature, Lithuanian language and culture in European and global context, openness of research to the wider audience are vital for the future of the discipline, then we should advocate a fundamental reconsideration of the Unit’s strategic goals and vision.
VMU Philology science field, Vytautas Magnus University

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Composition of the Unit of Assessment (UoA)


Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

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<td>The development potential of UoA</td>
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OVERALL SCORE 4

Overall Score

The overall score reflects the vitality of the UoA in several different areas of assessment, especially in research performance and economic and social impact. The UoA has a very good development potential and is likely to strengthen its profile as a recognised and respected player in the international scientific community in the near future, especially in its focal areas of language acquisition and computational linguistics.

Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

According to the data of the self-assessment report, the UoA has published on average 4.8 refereed articles per FTE researcher annually during the assessment period. This figure is very good. Furthermore, 14
monographs and 16 textbook have been published during the assessment period. While a large proportion of the publications have appeared through national publication channels (which is not in itself a bad thing – researchers in general, and linguists especially, also have a responsibility on national level), there is also evidence of a satisfactory number of publications through internationally recognised publication channels (c.f. the Scopus data: 17 refereed articles and 26 other Scopus-listed publications). Nevertheless, to strengthen the Unit’s international standing, a more powerful presence in high quality international publications is necessary (the total number of international publications in the Scopus database is 8). The impressive and internationally recognised work in the field of language acquisition, examples of which are also included in the publications submitted for assessment, deserves a special mention here. The UoA has a very good track record with doctoral degrees awarded (35 during the period of assessment), though some of the degrees appear to have taken a very long time to finish. As the UoA’s self-assessment report indicates, the staff have been very active in participating in international conferences, research visits abroad and in editorial boards of various scientific publications.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The UoA has extensive contacts with non-academic organisations in Lithuania in the areas of translation and translator training; the Unit’s Centre for Computational Linguistics has active contacts with the Lithuanian IT business sector and the Unit’s language acquisition researchers work in close co-operation with speech therapists and teachers both in Lithuania and abroad (cf. the Friendly Resources for Payful Speech Therapy - project carried out in co-operation with speech therapists from Lithuania, Germany, Estonia, and Slovenia). The staff of the UoA are very active as experts in various non-academic governmental bodies and business companies.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

As the Unit’s self-assessment report acknowledges, the physical infrastructure of the Unit is far from ideal, with serious shortage of workspace and insufficient funding for technical equipment and software. However, the Unit anticipates that the problems with the lack of workspace should be resolved when the UoA moves to new premises around 2016. The recently opened new library premises are good, and the selection of electronic resources and databases offered by the library is relatively good; the library thus provides the staff and research students a satisfactory environment for research.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The UoA has a good system of organising research activities via Research clusters, Research Centres and Departments with clear and well spelled-out strategic goals. The fact that staff members, PhD students and masters level students are all expected to join a research cluster according to their interests should foster the formation and development of strong and focused research clusters. However, the teaching loads and administrative duties in the UoA are at a level which leaves the staff with insufficient time for research. The Unit is thus a strong National Player in its field and is able to provide a research environment that is comparable with globally recognised academic institutions in its discipline.

The development potential of UoA

The well-organised, cluster-based research organising system in place at the VMU ensures that the UoA will maintain its position in the international scientific community, and will also be able to initiate new research directions. The Unit has good potential for development and an established record of success in competing on an international level. It also has research potential and capability to achieve its objectives if sufficient time for research is allocated for the staff. The Unit also has the potential to attract high-level doctoral students and researchers from abroad, although further effort is needed in attracting international research
students. The Unit is already an internationally recognised centre in the study of multilingualism and language acquisition, and its emerging focus on corpus linguistics should also attract international recognition in the future.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

Overall the research quality at the UoA appears to be of a very good level and the unit seems to have a recognised position both nationally and internationally, especially in its focal research areas (first and second language acquisition, corpus linguistics and computational linguistics, and multilingualism and language policy). The UoA’s extensive international contacts and partner institutions offer good prospects for both maintaining and strengthening the unit’s existing research areas and developing new research areas. The unit should focus even more effort on publishing its research outcomes in high-level international journals, and hosting major international conferences that would increase the visibility of the UoA in the eyes of the international scientific community. If possible, a system of competitive sabbatical leave should be introduced to relieve the best researchers periodically from their onerous teaching duties to conducting full-time research.
Institute of the Lithuanian Language

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**Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

- The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania: 3
- The physical infrastructure of the UoA: 5
- Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA: 1
- The development potential of UoA: 3

**OVERALL SCORE**: 3

**Overall Score**

This score reflects the very important position of the UoA in Lithuanian society, which would make it possible for the unit to be truly a highly respected player in the international scientific community. At present the UoA, however, falls short of its high expectations and international potential.

**Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

According to the self-assessment report the UoA has published on average 1.4 refereed articles per FTE researcher annually during the assessment period. In addition, the Unit has produced 26 monographs and 19 textbooks during the assessment period. These figures are relatively low for an institution where the majority of the staff are full-time researchers with no teaching duties. Furthermore, there appears to be a somewhat alarming downward trend in the articles produced by the UoA (down from 119 in 2009 to 27 in 2013). Despite the general drop in the research output of the UoA, some pockets of excellence remain, for instance in the section of old manuscripts. The majority of the publications produced by the Unit have appeared through Lithuanian publication channels. In one sense, this only to be expected and good, given the very
important role the Unit has as the only institution in the world devoted to the study of the Lithuanian language. On the other hand, a somewhat higher visibility in the international publication channels in the field of Linguistics would be a welcome addition to the research profile of the Unit (cf. the Scopus data: only 1 refereed article in the Scopus-listed journals and 3 in other Scopus-listed publications during the assessment period). The researchers of the UoA should also aim at higher visibility in international conferences (the self-assessment report lists only 12 papers given in international conferences, mainly in Europe, during the assessment period). The UoA does not offer support for post-doctoral research and has not attracted any international research students. The UoA’s success in international grant capture is modest.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The UoA has a very important role in the Lithuanian society in the study and maintenance of the Lithuanian language. Sections 6. (National and International Collaboration) and 7. (Other Scientific and Societal Activities) of the self-assessment report of the Unit, however, are surprisingly short given the considerable scholarly expertise represented by its members. The unit’s research outreach and public dissemination inside the country are very limited, and national research collaboration appears to be practically non-existent. The dictionary- and database projects of the Unit (e.g. Standard Lithuanian Dictionary, Dictionary of Lithuanian Place-Names, Historical writings database…) and the excellent Museum of Lithuanian Language must be mentioned in this connection as having a major social impact in Lithuania.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The physical infrastructure of the UoA is outstanding and provides the staff an excellent research environment for their work. In principle, the physical infrastructure should be very conducive for high-quality research, and the UoA has, in terms of its infrastructure, the potential to attract the highest quality of international researchers to the Unit. This potential, however, remains underutilized.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The Unit is undergoing a reorganization of its research system within the next five years. The division into six main research fields mentioned looks sound and promising. On the whole, however, the self-assessment report of the UoA is very poorly written, and not very informative from the perspective of career development and human resource management in the Unit. The site visit confirmed the panellists impression that the UoA’s research management is in a poor state. This is reflected in a number of ways by the research performance of the Unit: the very low numbers of high-quality international publications, the very alarming downward trend in the number of publications the Unit produces, the lack of national and international collaboration, the very low numbers of visits abroad by the members staff and visits to the Unit by international researchers. What is euphemistically mentioned in the report as “incoherent scientists’ generation change” seems, in fact, to be a serious issue. The generational change which took place in the Institute and brought a new generation of young scholars to the unit was not properly managed and balanced and lead to a serious disruption in research and dramatic drop in the quantity and quality of research. The low score reflects current system of management, which needs to be changed.

The development potential of UoA

In terms of its size, the UoA would appear to be in a very good position to maintain and strengthen its position in the international scientific community as the most important research centre for the study of the Lithuanian language. The Unit is comparatively well-funded in terms of both its state budget appropriations and competitive R&D funding distributed by the Lithuanian government. Evidence for international R&D programmes funding, however, is very modest (the Unit’s self-assessment report only lists €244,000 from Framework Programmes in 2011-2012). The self-assessment report and the site visit, however, paint an
alarmingly insular picture of the Unit, there appears to be very little national or international research collaboration with other University departments or research centres, few visits abroad by the members of staff, and no information at all about visits to the unit.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

The Institute of the Lithuanian Language has a very important role in the Lithuanian society as the centre for the research and maintenance of the Lithuanian language. The UoA appears to be well-supported for its nationally important tasks, and in principle the unit has the potential to be an important and internationally highly regarded research institute in its field. However, the research management of the UoA appears to be inadequate and in almost a chaotic state and, as a consequence of this, the research performance of the UoA is not at the level where it should be. The management of the UoA should make a concentrated effort to raise the quantity and quality of the research output of the unit, and focus especially on encouraging the research staff to publish at least a part of their work in the leading international forums of the field. National and especially international research collaboration should be fostered much more actively than appears to be the case at the moment. As an alternative, the possibility of transferring the purely research-related work of the unit to suitable university departments should be explored. This would allow the UoA to focus on the very important tasks of archiving, dictionary compilation, promoting the Lithuanian language and its national importance in the policymaking bodies and media, and popularising the Lithuanian language and linguistic knowledge in collaboration with schools and other educational institutions.
**Humanities Sciences, Šiauliai University**

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### Quality of the Research Performance and Impact on the Scientific Research Discipline of the UoA

- **Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**: 2
- **The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania**: 3
- **The physical infrastructure of the UoA**: 3
- **Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA**: 2
- **The development potential of UoA**: 2

**OVERALL SCORE**: 2

### Overall Score

The overall score recognises the UoA’s important role in the region both in terms of its research focus on Northern Lithuanian topics and its major socio-cultural impact. The UoA is certainly capable of being a visible local player in its focal research areas, and also has potential to become an influential centre for research in Baltic studies in its focus areas.

### Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

According to the self-assessment report, the UoA has published on average 1.5 refereed articles per FTE researcher annually during the assessment period. This is a reasonable number. Most of the publications, however, are published through local and national channels. While this in itself is not bad, and locally or nationally published research results serve an important function, more emphasis on publication through internationally recognised publication channels is recommended. The UoA and the University are very actively promoting the publication of a number of scholarly periodicals at the Šiauliai University (according to the UoA’s self-assessment report, the Unit issued 36 periodicals during the assessment period), and the...
academic staff of the UoA are very active as editors and members of the editorial boards of these periodicals. While some of the periodicals are well-known also internationally (e.g. Acta Humanitarica Universitatis Saulensis, Archivum Lithuanicum), it appears that many of the periodicals have a limited international impact on their respective fields of scholarship. It might be advisable to reduce the number of locally published periodicals, and to channel a larger portion of the publication activities of the Unit through established international channels of publication in the future.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The Unit appears to be active in fostering co-operation with other societal organizations and industry, both locally and nationally (e.g. Šiauliai “Aušra” Museum Committee for commemoration of the Uprising of 1863, Šiauliai Municipal Administration Commission for selection of names of public buildings and streets, Fourth Assessment Board at the Department of Cultural Heritage, Awarding Committee of Augustinas Gricius’ Prize for prose debut (Šiauliai Disatrick Department of Culture), and to some extent also internationally (Euroform, Italy). The UoA’s self-assessment report lists a number of interesting and successful joint ventures with local industry, including the ‘Chocolate factory project’ and ‘Industrial Heritage for Tourism and Business Development project’, in which it plays an active role, involving 70 employees of the UoA in the implementation of 79 projects. The academic staff of the UoA are also active as experts in various regional and national organizations outside their academic research (e.g. Lithuanian Culture Foundation Board, Šiauliai Commemoration Commission of Lithuanian Millennium, Association “Lithuanian and Latvian Forum”).

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

On the basis of the data provided in the UoA’s self-assessment report, the physical infrastructure of the unit appears to be good. The equipment seems to be up-to-date, and the library services appear to be on a satisfactory level, with a relatively extensive selection of electronic databases available for the staff and students. The site visit confirmed the panel’s view that the physical infrastructure of the UoA is on a good national level.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The UoA’s research environment appears to be still evolving (for example, the doctoral programme in the field of Philology has only been running since 2011), but the self-assessment report indicates that the Unit has clear and realistic structures and plans for career development and human resource management in place. The research plan and strategic research plans of the UoA, however, are very vague and not cohesive. Furthermore, the strategic research plan seems to refer mainly to education rather than research. The publications of the UoA do not seem to result from a cohesive strategy, but are rather haphazard instead. The UoA’s international co-operation is very vague, and focused primarily on education and with non-academic institutions. The self-assessment report of the UoA refers rather vaguely to the university’s research policy, which does not appear to be very well defined either.

The development potential of UoA

The UoA’s profiling on the Baltic region and Lithuanian-Latvian contrastive research is promising, and the Unit should be able to maintain and strengthen its research profile in these areas, and thus become an influential centre for research in Baltic studies. Some units of this faculty, especially theory of arts and ethnology, are too small and too isolated to survive; moreover, the research focus of philosophy is too dispersed. The Unit has been active in a number of research projects, both within Lithuania and with Latvian partners, and with the establishment of the new Humanities Research Institute in 2015, the prospects for initiating further research projects in the Baltic area look promising. A doctoral programme in Philology has
been operating only since 2011, but the joint doctoral studies with a number of other Lithuanian universities should offer a competitive program for doctoral students in the future.

Conclusions and recommendations

The UoA has a strong presence and visibility in Northern Lithuania, and has an important role as a socio-cultural centre in the region. However, the research and strategic research plans of the UoA are very vague and lack cohesion. The research focus of the UoA is predominantly on Lithuanian language, and it might be advisable for the unit to profile its research focus even more strongly on the Baltic region and Lithuanian-Latvian contrastive research. The recently established joint doctoral programme in Philology together with Vytautas Magnus and Klaipėda universities and Lithuanian Language Institute looks promising, and it should be developed further. The Unit should reconsider its publication strategy: it would be advisable to concentrate less effort in locally published scholarly journals and channel a larger proportion of the UoA’s publication activities through established international scientific publications.
Faculty of Humanities, Klaipeda University

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<td>The development potential of UoA</td>
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OVERALL SCORE 2

Overall Score

As indicated in detail below, the general score, referring to the whole of the assessment criteria, reflects a potential situation of research quality, which is nevertheless frustrated by specific problems in research management mostly concerning the distribution of teaching loads and a lack of awareness of potential niches of excellence in both research and social-economic impact.

Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

In relation to other similar research institutions, Klaipeda University appears to be a centre mostly engaged in production and circulation of knowledge concerning Lithuanian culture, with specific interest in historical and socio-linguistic issues, as well as in Lithuanian musicology and religious identities. The nature of the UoA’s focus is such that international cooperation has been mostly limited to interaction with research partners in the Baltic region. Submitted papers give sufficient evidence of good quality in research and publishing. Prof. Vygantas Vareikis’s paper, for instance, offers a lucid overview of the socio-economic and political roots of the Shoah in Lithuania, and it was published as a chapter in an international collection.
However, what affects the quality in research negatively is that most submitted articles do not provide bibliographic data. They appear as solidly documented pieces of scholarly writing, but it would have been essential to know whether they were submitted to international, peer, and blind evaluation. Overall, reviewers have the impression that knowledge produced at the UoA could more effectively be integrated into international circuits of research and publication, especially given the high number of staff listed. That might be explained by the fact that the main focus of the research is on Baltic Cultures, a reason which is posited in the self-assessment document; given this though, one might still expect more regional collaboration. Greater efforts should be made to increase participation in international research and publication projects, specifically if resulting in major publications in double-blind, peer-reviewed, and prestigiously indexed journals or in collections published in internationally directed series. There is a history of funded projects carried on by the Centre of Architecture, Urbanism and Design under the leadership of Prof. P. Grecevičius (7 from 2009 to 2013), as might be anticipated given the large body of staff, but nevertheless, annual average funding is comparatively low (392k EUR in 2013). There is a good range of international partners, including beyond Europe, again as might be expected; but there are surprisingly few presentations made at international conferences. This might be down to budgetary restrictions that are mentioned in the self-assessment document. Overall, the quality of the research is acceptable with a stable position in the national academic community.

**The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania**

The self-assessment report shows evidence of a sufficient level of interaction with the non-academic environment, through the organization of interesting symposia, some of which are of international ambition, and especially through collaboration with artists. Particularly significant is also the interaction of urban planning specialists with local administrators. Important points are made about the benefits of and need for humanities research (such as that conducted at KU) for society and the economy. Mention is made of various projects in culture, education at school level, in heritage, in religion, and with local Klaipeda institutions, although specific examples are not provided. There are also well established collaborations regarding music and folklore and amateur theatre. These have a strong local focus. Staff members are especially active on various national boards and programmes. In general, reviewers have garnered the impression that more efforts could be made to circulate the very useful insights produced by researchers in humanities at the UoA among a wider audience, for instance through the organization of cultural events of not strictly academic nature. Some of the insights on urban planning and architecture produced at the UoA could fruitfully give rise to a spin-off, although there is no sign of planning in such direction.

**The physical infrastructure of the UoA**

The self-assessment report and the visit of the UoA indicate that researchers at the University of Klaipeda are mostly satisfied with the quality of research infrastructure, although this does not compare with resources granted to researchers in scientific and especially technological and medical fields. From this point of view, panel experts were not entirely satisfied during their visit. The library resources and materials on local history and culture have been recently enhanced with substantial European and governmental funding, which seem to have been put to use, although there is no clear evidence that means will be secured to maintain the quality of such resources in the future. Researchers in architecture and urban planning are mostly not autonomous in satisfying their need for research infrastructure but rely on the cooperation of colleagues in ICT, which occurs on a regular basis. On the one hand, greater efforts at participation in European projects should be made so as to secure increased funding and independently acquire research infrastructure. On the other hand, researchers should be encouraged to see colleagues in applied and medical sciences not only as competitors, but also as potential collaborators, to be involved through design and implementation of strongly interdisciplinary research projects.
Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The research strategy is managed in quite a standard way, with a 5-year strategy developed to synchronise with the university’s wider policies. Research management at the UoA appears to be confronted with two major issues: a systematic lack of funding, which is described as minimal, and an overwhelming teaching load, which does not seem to leave enough time for research. The self-assessment report provides scarce evidence of participation in European programs, which could be a viable method to complement the institutional budget of the UoA. Internationalization and greater cooperation with both private and international partners will be essential elements to improve the research management strategy of the UoA. Also, the visit to the UoA evidenced a somewhat unsystematic process of research management, leading to excessive fragmentation of teaching loads and potential situations of tension among researchers who are granted unequal time for fundamental research. Human research management and allocation seems from this point of view inappropriate, since it does not plan career development for the younger staff, does not efficaciously distribute teaching and training workload, and includes a limited number of students in research in relation to the overall number of staff members (five doctoral thesis from 2009 to 2011, none after 2011).

The development potential of UoA

There are several positive aspects to the unit’s research: its research focus is clearly worked out; it is showing some positive outcomes and results at a national level; it appears nationally (and to some extent regionally) important. But its research needs to be more focused outwards and targeted at a wider international audience. A somehow disorderly research management indeed risks creating a situation of fragmentation where no area reaches critical mass in order to have a significant impact at the national or even less at the international level. The UoA is a central academic, intellectual, and cultural institution in the Klaipeda region, but does not appear to have sufficiently embraced the task to integrate its activities into an international context. That is partially caused by structural problems of minimal infrastructure, funding, and, as a consequence, only partially effective research management, resulting in an overwhelming teaching load and lack of generational change among researchers. On the other hand, given the quality of research produced at the UoA, more energy could be invested in establishing effective intellectual cooperation with international partners. Participation in national and European networks of research will be fundamental to restructure the financial and logistical situation of the UoA. Research management needs to tackle the problematic situation of researchers in a more dynamic way, and improve the age-profile of the staff, where younger researchers are a minority. The plans for what would be done given additional funding are rather generic. The UoA is capable of remaining a visible local player, which from time to time can be expected to contribute to the activities of the international scientific community.

Conclusions and recommendations

Research carried on at this UoA is of satisfactory quality level, with some peaks of good and even excellent quality, also in terms of dissemination. The intellectual products conducted by researchers are certainly relevant for the Klaipeda region, meet national standards of quality of investigation, but are still only on the way to securing a place in the Baltic, European, and international arena. Most of the deficiencies in internationalization stem from a lack of creative and dynamic research management, resulting in a seriously problematic distribution of teaching loads, which appear as excessive and fragmentary. The UoA manages to cooperate with social and economic stakeholders on a good basis, but has the potential to develop more fruitful initiatives, such as the creation of spin-offs in the field of urban planning and architecture. Infrastructure was mostly negatively described in the self-assessment, but the site visit showed it in fact to qualify as sufficient. Researchers themselves express their satisfaction on this regard. Recommendations are to 1) re-organize the teaching load of research staff so as to allocate more time for investigation and eliminate disparities of treatment among researchers; 2) at the same time, concentrate on niches of excellence
like religious history and religious studies, landscape and urban planning, and music research and migrant music, with increased cooperation with partners in non-humanistic departments and research centers; 3) promoting dynamic participation in international research and publication projects, possibly appointing or sharing human resources able to improve the international visibility of the UoA.
Lithuanian studies, Lithuanian University of Educational sciences

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**Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

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<td>The development potential of UoA</td>
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**OVERALL SCORE**

3

**Overall Score**

The overall impression is that the Unit – and broadly, the LEU as a whole, – is in crisis and somehow has lost its sense of purpose. It is still a relatively strong institution, but signs of decline are visible. It could be a result of a dramatic drop of student numbers, overall underfunding or long overdue generational change, but most probably, a confluence of these factors. Structural transformations which are now underway do not address these fundamental issues. Nevertheless, over the last five years the Unit worked hard to maintain the quality of research (only partially succeeding). The overall mark should be viewed in conjecture with quite a low mark for the development potential. Using market terminology, it is still positive rating but with negative mid- and long-term outlook.

**Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

The research areas, topics and types of research output of the Unit responds well to the needs of the present context of Lithuanian society and culture. Given that the Unit consists of practically all of the Humanities departments of the LEU with a very diverse area of expertise (Philology, History, Philosophy, Theology and...
Ethnology) and pedagogical focus of the institution (the number of publications is quite significant, which is very commendable), but it is extremely difficult to formulate some kind of cohesive strategic vision and a long-term research plan. It also points to the fragmentation of resources. The practices and structures that guide good research are not very well detailed and remain somehow too general. Although the research results are presented at international conferences and published in peer reviewed journals, the number of publications in SCOPUS journals remains very small, taking into consideration the size of the unit. There are no doctoral dissertations published and the number of doctoral degrees awarded is very small (3 in 5 years) with a very low completion rate (average period of PhD completion is 10-12 years!) and a low number of PhD students (with no international Research Grants students). There has been only one doctoral dissertation on the topics mentioned in the research areas of the Unit. All the dissertations have been published in Lithuanian, although some of them are of broader research interests. International research collaboration is not systematic (sometimes based on individual and occasional research links) but wide, judging by the number of visits to the Unit by international scholars and visits abroad by LEU members of staff.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The Unit is involved in active research exchange and its members sit on various Language and Culture Committees and advisory boards of governmental bodies, but cooperation with non-academic business partners remains to be developed. It would be reasonable to note that some opportunities for commercial activities and projects are overlooked. The organization of major international conferences and some important and productive cases of cooperation with other organizations (such as, standardizing the use of Lithuanian language under a contract with the State Commission of the Lithuanian Language) can be viewed as indicators of dynamic research culture, but research outreach, promotion, popularization and public dissemination both inside and outside the country and, therefore, the social impact of LEU’s research activity could be much wider. It is not clear how the Unit’s research is integrated into the teaching process and how wide research-led teaching changes the learning environment.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

Although conditions for research and academic work are satisfactory (significant number of foreign research visitors is a good indicator of this) the visit to the site demonstrates that the claim that “conditions for scientific, as well as academic work are very good”, that the “researchers have separate working places with computer and internet connection”, and that “the research is carried out in specialized laboratories” is overoptimistic. The reality reveals another picture: “only an insignificant number of researchers have their individual workplaces for conducting research (a desk, a PC, a research room, etc.). The majority of researchers carry out their research at home using personal facilities, i.e. PC, internet charges, electricity, etc.” There is a need to enlarge the database and software facilities. There is clearly a superfluity of space at the LEU because of a drop in student numbers, but underfunding does not allow it to transform into proper working space for researchers.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The Unit tries to present itself as a coherent research entity, but is still in fact just a loosely connected conglomeration of different departments/faculties. It tries to identify its long term research plans but could have been more specific about the means to achieve them. The number of doctoral students enrolled is quite small compared to the size of the unit and so is the number of theses defended during the period 2009-2013. The practices of fostering good research and publication results are well detailed, although in the five-year plan too much attention is paid to quantitative criteria and less to the quality and form of the publications. For the last two years the unit has had only one postdoc researcher. National and international collaboration remains rather fragmentary and very often takes the form of writing a joint article, but is not sustained by
long-term network activities. The system of professional development is not particularly effective (study leaves, eligibility for sabbaticals, etc.). The fact that there are not many grants coming from outside, indicates that career development and research mobility are limited, as lion’s share of time goes to teaching. On the other hand, a very active and diverse program of staff visits abroad (some through bilateral agreements) shows that some productive ways to conduct overseas research can be found. The situation with the preparation of a new generation of scholars is most worrying. There is a comprehensive research plan for 2015-2020 with detailed research output allocated for each sub-discipline, but clearly not all aspects of career development are managed properly. In LEU it is especially important as most of the time goes to teaching and without proper research time allocation all these plans will be very difficult to implement. The fact that the Unit’s R&D budget decreased by 30 per cent and of FTEs in practically all categories – from professors to technical personnel – over the last two years, as well as a complete reliance on state funding, is a worrying development which can only aggravate situation with academic staff research mobility and access to research data.

The development potential of UoA

The most dynamic part of the Unit is in the language and literature studies. This is made clear by the self-assessment report whose first (and only) strategic priority is the functioning of language and literature in the sociolinguistic context of Lithuania. This is also reflected in the research projects in which the unit has been engaged over recent years and in the themes of the international conferences organized. The potential of the unit in this area may be increased and actualized through the attraction of external funding and international cooperation. But research-wise, the speciality of the Unit, which is to combine expertise in German, Roman and Slavonic languages with expertise in the Lithuanian language, is not sufficiently visible in international publications. These aspects appear in the research strategy of the Unit but the means to achieve them remain underspecified. The factor of underfunding makes it questionable whether the LEU has the capability to support all areas of research. There are also some doubts about the ability of researchers to compete on an international level (no international grants, very few international projects). Some SCOPUS publications indicate that the Unit has some potential to achieve outlined objectives. The plans are ambitious and detailed, but the Unit is in serious crisis both conceptually (there is a serious sense of uncertainty) and financially (the lack of resources is quite visible) and it is not clear whether members of staff have enough time for research. It seems, the Unit does not always realistically assess its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and whether the institution has a carefully considered plans to manage such factors. For instance, the LEU is nowhere near a competitor for Sorbonne (esp. Comparative Literature!), Charles University, Jagelonnian University, Tartu or Stockholm. If we add to the mix a very bad situation with PGR teaching and absence of any specific plans to deal with the problem the picture would be quite bleak. The size of the Unit (its critical mass) could potentially attract doctoral students and scientists from abroad but the Unit failed to attract PGR students even from Lithuania, not to mention international students. There is no evidence of ability to raise funding that is awarded competitively. The fragmentation of the unit and its decreasing research capacity hamper the development of the disciplines and, with the decrease in staff and the extreme financial cuts, also threatens critical mass to an alarming level.

Conclusions and recommendations

An independent future of the Unit is problematic as it is difficult to see the future of the LEU. With the main research interests pointing toward areas that are much more developed in Vilnius, such as Institutes of Literature, Language, Culture, History and Vilnius University, all of which have very strong profile in practically all of the same areas of research. The Unit exemplifies the dissatisfactory fragmentation of the Lithuanian research landscape, impeding the further development of the humanities in the country, which leads to further dispersion resources that are already scarce. We recommend that the Unit, as well as the LEU
as a whole, be allowed to enter a larger institutional structure where the present research interests can be strengthened and resources consolidated.
Institute of Lithuanian literature and folklore

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### Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

- The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania: 3
- The physical infrastructure of the UoA: 3
- Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA: 3
- The development potential of the UoA: 3

**OVERALL SCORE**: 3

### Overall Score

Given its size, the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore is in good position to maintain and strengthen its role in the international scientific community as the most important research centre in the world for the study of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore. The UoA has sufficient critical mass to operate successfully in its field of study, and it has been successful in attracting competitive research funding at the national level. Evidence for success in attracting international R&D funding, however, is lacking. The UoA is relatively active in research collaboration within the Baltic region.

### Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

The UoA occupies a central place in the cultural and academic panorama of Lithuania. The relevance of this UoA field of activity for the country is unquestionable. Submitted articles and chapters mostly meet international standards of research and publication. According to the self-assessment report data, the UoA has published on average 1.8 refereed articles per FTE researcher annually during the assessment period. In addition, the Unit has produced 39 monographs and 6 textbooks during the assessment period. These figures
are relatively good, though one might expect somewhat higher figures from an institution where the majority of staff is composed of full-time researchers with no teaching duties. Furthermore, there appears to be a somewhat alarming downward trend in the articles produced by the UoA, (down from 124 in 2009 to 79 in 2013). There is evidence that LLTI is at pains positioning itself in the international landscape of research. Publications in internationally indexed journals are scant, and most of the submitted materials belong to two collections published by publishers of average quality. The self-assessment is praiseworthily sincere in indicating the several difficulties the UoA is going through, which are similar to those faced by analogous research institutions in Europe. Investing in a new generation of researchers with international backgrounds, developing international research and publication projects with partner institutions abroad, and, above all, carry on comprehensive digitalization of bibliographic materials could decisively improve the UoA prospects. There is little evidence, at the time being, of strong commitment in applying for major European research grants. Several interesting international schemes of funding are already in place (HORIZON, etc.), that could be resorted to in order to extend the international reach of the UoA.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

Interaction with the public is adequate but, again, could be intensified at the international level. The UoA efforts to disclose the literary and folkloric patrimony of the country to the new generations are significant, leading to the production of major exhibitions and cultural events. The UoA collaborates extensively with museums and schools, and researchers actively engage in offering further education to teachers and other educators. Staff members participate in a wide range of committees and scientific advisory boards of governmental bodies. In this field too, international cooperation should be given more space.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

From information garnered from the self-assessment report as well as from previous and assessment visits, the UoA seems to have a very good physical infrastructure with sufficient workspace, a well-stocked library, and an extensive folklore archive. The IT infrastructure is adequate, and the UoA has access to a number of electronic databases. Also, the UoA disposes of physical infrastructure that is extremely significant in terms of its historical and cultural value in the Lithuanian context. However, thus far, initiatives to take advantage from this potential have been interesting but not decisive. Greater efforts should be made to profit by the urban and architectural significance of the UoA premises, linking them with the research activities carried on at the Institute. Moreover, while the premises of the UoA are extremely significant from the historical and architectural points of views, containing some gems of early 20th Century interior design, work- and library space is somewhat limited. More efficient relations between the UoA and the University of Vilnius should be arranged, at least as regards library privileges for doctoral students as well as their applications for local and national grants. More in general, having doctoral students freely access library resources at research institutions in Vilnius would be extremely productive.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The UoA is a strong national player with the potential to become an international partner and a young, dynamic research management. In 2012, the UoA established five long-term scientific research and activity programmes for the period 2012-2016. Ca. 50% of the Unit’s researchers work within these research programmes. In addition, the Unit has two active doctoral programmes, which also function as avenues for recruiting new members of staff to the Unit. According to the Self-assessment report, seven doctoral defences have taken place during the assessment period (2009-2013). Major problems currently involve difficulties at binding scholars’ level of productivity and available funding. Introducing of measures able to foster internationally recognized research is of essential urgency. Decrease of teaching load, which is seen as an issue at the research institute, and increase in funding and remuneration should be granted to the most
productive among the young researchers. PhD students should be strongly encouraged to write or at least disseminate their theses in English. Doctoral students should be given sufficient access to library resources at the University of Vilnius. Career development is reasonably managed in terms of variety and quality of opportunities but greater efforts should be made to link productivity and career progression, for instance through structured access to research funding. There is no evidence at the moment vouching for initiative meant to facilitate and accelerate the career progression of active scientific staff (except the customary national provisions for periodical assessment and re-assessment). The number of professors and chief researchers (respectively, 2,5 and 6,5 in 2013) appears as insufficient to secure research leadership.

**The development potential of UoA**

The self-assessment shows lucidity in singling out the main weaknesses of the UoA, which are similar to those that analogous research institutions are being confronted with in other European countries. Research centres of this kind should not be forced to lose their nature and character, but encouraged to slowly readapt to a research environment dominated by digital technology and global exchange. LLTI has good potential, if appropriately financed, to remain a central institution in the Lithuanian panorama and to become a major partner in international research and cultural endeavours. Research leadership and staff seem to be both highly motivated to maintain and improve the current intellectual productivity and social and economic impact. As in other Lithuanian research institutes, so here too the transition from a predominantly national to a mostly international system of funding is not unproblematic, for instance in terms of lacking of skills for the writing of major European research projects. The impression of the experts is that researchers at this institution would be eager to embark in international competition for funding, were they better seconded by people with technical competences in this domain. The Unit appears to have good critical mass in the Lithuanian context and to have carefully and strategically selected investigation themes so as to start to profile research niches. However, the Institute is still not in the position to systematically attract researchers and staff from abroad.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

LLTI is a research centre that carries on significant activities of research and dissemination in the panorama of Lithuanian humanities. Experts were sufficiently satisfied as regards all the assessment criteria, but would like to point out some directions for potential improvement. Digitalization of the archival patrimony, internationalization, and greater interaction with society should rank as priorities in the future actions of the UoA management. Research staff and especially PhD students should be encouraged to publish and disseminate their research outputs in English. The UoA should conceive itself as entrusted with the duty to disclose the richness of the Lithuanian literary and folkloric heritage not only to fellow Lithuanians but also to regional and international audiences. Participation in European research funding schemes (not only structural funding) is paramount. Also, full library privileges for doctoral students should be negotiated with the University of Vilnius. More generally, the institute should seek to integrate in the network of research infrastructures of the city of Vilnius (for instance through agreements of mutual access to libraries and laboratories with other research institutions, especially for doctoral students).
Faculty of Medicine (Social and humanitarian), The Lithuanian University of Health Sciences

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<th>Name of the UoA</th>
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**Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

- The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania: 1
- The physical infrastructure of the UoA: 2
- Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA: 1
- The development potential of the UoA: 1

**OVERALL SCORE**: 1

**Overall Score**

The overall score reflects the objective lack of the structural conditions and facilities needed for carrying research in the UoA given that the profile of its members and its goals have not been designed for training scientists and producing new knowledge but rather for teaching languages to the students in the Faculty of Medicine. The panel took note of the efforts of the director of the UoA and its members to create a niche for research in the direction of pedagogical studies. However, given the background of the members, these efforts cannot lead to research at a level which would go beyond developing “soft skills” for medical students.

**Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

The UoA is placed in the Faculty of medicine, and does not have permanent research positions. It consists largely of language teachers who teach foreign language courses to the students in the Faculty of medicine and Lithuanian to foreign students who enrol for medical studies. The research outputs of the Unit are of a
practical, applied nature consisting of language packages and various materials for the development of pedagogical skills. National and international research collaboration bear on educational problems, and most of the items in the list of publications are on educational issues, like, for instance, organizing interdisciplinary teaching groups formed of art students and computer science students, the evaluation of the needs and competences of Polish and Lithuanian students concerning English language skills, E-learning, expression of creativity in medical studies etc. The UoA has published on average 0.9 referred articles per FTE researcher annually during the assessment period, which is low, and the list of most important publications supplied by the UoA shows little evidence of publishing research in internationally recognized or leading journals. There has not been any doctoral student hired during the evaluation period. In the self-assessment report, very much emphasis was put on the unit’s profiling towards “educology” and “socializing” medical sciences. It became clear during the visit that these are just labels created in the unit for the development of the pedagogical and “soft” skills, without any theoretical foundation.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The UoA’s self-assessment report does not list any achievements under the social impact of the unit. On the contrary, the report acknowledges a total lack of cooperation with any other organisation or societal partner, the absence of research projects with any non-university partners, and the impossibility of the unit’s members to function as experts outside their own department. Certainly the unit fills a need in the educational system of Lithuania created by the transition from the autocratic, Soviet style educational system to a liberal educational programme. Also, as language teachers, the members of the unit do a very useful job in teaching foreign languages to the medical students. Teaching foreign languages is very important especially at the present stage of the social and historical context of Lithuania. The panel also notes the special efforts of the members of the UoA to investigate new teaching methods, and to research the integration of audio-visual modern techniques into teaching. However these efforts are not linked to the unit’s research understood in the standard sense.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The self-assessment report is minimalistic with respect to the physical infrastructure. During the visit on the premises the panel visited several lecture halls. They are decent lecture rooms, which offer basic conditions for the language students. The panel visited also several study offices. These look more like “teachers’ offices” where teachers gather in between the classes. There is no research library and the research facilities are far away from the level required from a research institution.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The structures and practices that foster good research and help young researchers into a career are missing altogether. This is not surprising given that the unit has no possibility to implement doctoral studies and to train scientists as the self-assessment report acknowledges. Half of the 11 persons we met have a PhD that has been obtained elsewhere. The applied research that is done in the unit is focused on the development of pedagogical and soft skills in connection with the language teaching. The head of the department explained to the panel various details about the organization of the research activities into 8 research subgroups but the general impression was that the other members of the unit, who mostly remained silent, were not aware of them.

The development potential of UoA

The self-assessment report mentions a tension between the Unit’s profile, anchored in Social Sciences, and the profile and methodology of the hosting institution (Faculty of Medicine), which has a critical attitude towards the members of the UoA perceive as social studies. It is not clear to the panel why social sciences
gives the methodology profile of the Unit given that out of its resources 62% go to philology. The report indicates the integration of scientific methods from philology and educology as one of the strengths of the Unit leading to its members’ acquiring a double competence. Such a competence is not visible in the scientific output of the Unit and was not visible either during the visit of the site. Units like this one are very important for a country, in which English is not the native language. For this reason, perhaps, the focus of the unit should be just on language teaching and dissociated from research requirements.

Conclusions and recommendations

Language teaching is important in the present context of Lithuania, and the members of the unit have an useful role to play. The services of the unit could be subordinated more extensively to the needs of the hosting institution (Faculty of Medicine). An alternative possibility would be to reorganize it into a separate “Language Centre” which provides teaching and translation services in connection with the Faculty of Medicine, organizes the teaching of Lithuanian for foreigners, and correction services for doctoral theses and articles in English.
## Lithuanian Institute of History

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### Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

- 4

### The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

- 4

### The physical infrastructure of the UoA

- 4

### Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

- 4

### The development potential of the UoA

- 4

### OVERALL SCORE

- 4

## Overall Score

The UoA is the largest and most qualified centre of research on the history of Lithuania and is a strong international player. It is a leading institution in Central and Eastern Europe in the field and has a stable and abundant scientific production. Its research areas include the history from the earliest times up to the 21st C. the study and publication of Lithuanian historical sources, the study of the prehistory of Lithuania (archeology), the development of cities in Lithuania, and Lithuanian ethnology. The main fields of research are social groups and structure in the 16th- beginning of the 20th C., history of the Lithuanian nation in the 20th C., auxiliary sciences (unique in Lithuania: Heraldry, Sigillography, Paleography), and the publication of sources. The UoA has a very important impact on Lithuanian society, as it focuses on long-term projects that are affecting not only academia but also the broader Lithuanian public in creating a more scientific narrative of the past and destroying historical myths (synthetic or academic histories of Lithuania or Vilnius). There is also interaction with non-academics, mainly in contract excavations, providing valuable data for scholarly conclusions. The research infrastructure comprises archives, books and printed sources that are unique. It includes important archeological and ethnographic archive. The UoA has its own publishing house.
and abundant publications. The material infrastructure has been updated. The UoA is able to provide an excellent research centre for international historical researchers. The research infrastructure is very good (ICT, library, archives, publishing house of the institute). The organisation and management of the UoA is very good as well. A problem though is the financing by the authorities.

Quality of Research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

This UoA can be considered as a strong international Player. Its research has a very good standard of quality in terms both of originality and importance. That is also reflected by the quality of the submitted papers. S.C. Rowel’s paper on Lithuanian Catholicism of the 15th C. could serve as an example of excellent historiographical research. The paper by Saulius Grybkauskas on the role of the Second party secretary in the appointment of the successor to Antanas Sniečkus in 1974 is a solidly documented piece of scholarly writing, bringing new evidence. This is also the case for the study by Darius Staliūnas concerning Lithuanian antisemitism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The two archeological articles by Gytis Pilčiauskas a.o. and Giedre Motuzaitė are both the result of international cooperation and apparently a contribution to the scientific debates in that field. It did arouse the interest of the international community. The contribution of Česlovas Laurinavičius on Lithuanian reactions to the loss of Klaipėda is based on new sources without neglecting the existing literature in international history. The contribution of Auksuolė Čepaitienė on the discourse of adoption can be considered as innovative and uses also anthropological literature, but its basis is rather small.

In the period under review the UoA has published 53 monographs and 392 articles in journals and conference proceedings, which is an average of 89 publications a year for a staff comprising (on average) 82.55 FTE researchers. Moreover it edited several series, sometimes in collaboration with the History Faculty of the University of Vilnius. These include a.o. sources (Books of Metrica: documents of the chancellery of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, published in original languages, translated and annotated) every year 8-9 major publications of sources are published, a twelve volume History of Lithuania (Lietuvos Istorija), a joint research project with Russia on "The USSR and Lithuania in World War II" has been set up, bibliographies are published. As such it covers a broad range of research, focused on Lithuania itself, although there is an effort to include the neighbouring regions and to approach the national history in a comparative way.

The UoA has its own publishing house editing 4 scientific journals of which 1 in English (with an editor in chief coming from the UK), four serial publications and every year about 20 publications prepared by the researchers of the institute. This shows the UoA’s strong effort to disseminate its research results, both nationally and internationally. Moreover 20% of its research output is published abroad. There are many visits abroad of staff members: over the period under consideration there were 76 visits to 15 countries (Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenian Switzerland, Ukraine, USA), 1/3 of them for a duration of at least a month. Nevertheless perhaps more international dissemination would be possible, by setting up a larger number of international projects. Unfortunately the UoA has no research students from abroad, the level of international grant capture is low, and also the number of doctoral degrees is limited. Perhaps this is partly the consequence of the nature of an institute outside a university, which has to rely for education on the collaboration with the universities.

The UoA is the only academic institution worldwide specialized in the history of Lithuania. There exist two research institutes specializing in the history of Central and Eastern Europe in Germany (Nordost-Institut Lüneburg, Herder-Institut Marburg), but in both institutions there is only one scholar whose research is directly linked to Lithuania. In Poland, Belarus and part of Russia there are also research institutions dealing
with this area, but in each of them only some historians are focussing specifically on Lithuania, and even then in most cases only on a specific layer of the population in a given period, whereas the UoA tries to hold a view on the society as a whole, and has of course a larger staff dealing with the subject matter.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

As the largest and most qualified centre of historical expertise in the national history of Lithuania, the UoA has an impact on Lithuanian society. It is not only acquiring public funding but also doing contract research (mainly archeological). Its ethnology research is not limited to a 'microscopic' Lithuanian view. The UoA is trying to give a boost to the national research collaboration and is very active through membership in committees and advisory boards of governmental bodies. (e.g. E. Rimša is chairman of the Lithuanian Heraldry commission and member of two other councils, Zigmantas Klaupa is chairman of the Council of the State awards of the Republic of Lithuania and one other council, Darius Staliūnas is chairman of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Studies of the Culture and History of East European Jews and member of two other commissions, Rimantas Miknyš is chairman of the Polish-Lithuanian Bilateral Experts’ Commission for investigating problems with history and geography education, and member three other councils, 9 other staff members are member of 11 other councils). From 2009 to 2012 there were 14 research fellows from abroad mostly staying for at least a month, but 9 of them came from Belarus, 4 from Poland and 1 from Germany. Perhaps the institute could do more to disseminate its historical knowledge among the greater public and enhance so its research outreach.

One of the problems the UoA is facing, is the dissonance between the historical knowledge of the general public and the historians. This includes the tension between those who want to use history and historical myths for political purposes and the scientific approach who wants to demystify the past and to explain 'how and why it really happened'. That is of course a tension that exists in all countries, but two major aspects are particular for Lithuania. Firstly in some of the direct neighbouring countries (Russia, Belarus) the history - supported by a strongly indoctrinated historiography - is used as a political weapon to legitimize actual policies. Secondy as a young nation-state (with ancient roots of course) the nation building of Lithuania today needs very much the history as a legitimization for its own existence. Hence here the danger for politicization of the historiography is much greater than in older established nation-states. It could lead to the narrowing of the scientific autonomy.

This problem is explicitly mentioned in the self-assessment report and was commented as well during the visit by the Panel. It was emphasised by the UoA as one of the major threats today for scientific historical research, or at least for the dissemination of results of independent research (if they are considered by the authorities politically too sensitive. This is of course a problem for all historical research, also at the universities, but the position of the Lithuanian Institute of History is particular, as it is the only institution in Lithuania, with a mission directly assigned by the State. The UoA also serves as a role-model for historical research in the country. Therefore it is very important that this institution is aware of this situation, and can serve as a watchdog for the preservation and the defence of a real scientific historical production in Lithuania. This UoA has a particular mission here, more than the faculties of history in the universities.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The unit seems to have appropriate facilities for its staff. Its library comprises not only books and periodicals on the history of Lithuania, but also original sources, especially newspapers and other publications from the end of the 19th century on, but also a large (350.000 storage units) library including 270 books from the 16th-18th C., and the main sources of Lithuanian history important for the study of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. There is an especially valuable fund for the research on communism and the soviet time (16.739 physical units, publications of Lithuanian communist and Social Democratic parties since the 19th C.). There is a large archive of previous archaeological expeditions, an interesting collection of original sources (a real ethnological archive, accumulated since 1907) for ethnological research, covering all the regions of
Lithuania, and the locations in Belarus, Latvia and Poland inhabited by Lithuanians. There is also a database
the archaeological atlas of Vilnius There is a laboratory for archeological research. All the scholars are
provided with computers, there is Internet access, a server for storage of research sources. The reading room
has recently been refurbished completely. But the digital infrastructure remains not sufficiently developed,
due to the lack of funds again. This hampers of course the research.

**Research Management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA**

The Unit developed five years programs in accordance with the Ministry of Education. At the moment nine
research programs are implemented, involving 67.3% of the staff. The UoA has many staff (84 persons). The
age distribution of the researchers is sound (18 researchers under 34, 23 in the age group 35-44, 24 between
45 and 54 years old, 16 in the group 45-64, and 3 over 65). Their research quality is currently high, but it is
not clear whether the Unit works on systematically bringing up a new generation of scholars, or what the
career pathways are. The UoA has experience in group research, with researchers of universities and other
research institutions. This is shown by the participation in competitive research funding in Lithuania. In the
humanities this UoA is the most successful in obtaining research funding (67,3 % of the applications were
successful). The UoA plays also a role in the management of those projects. The interdisciplinary and inter-
institutional character of the UoA’s research is enhanced by international projects, conferences and
publications. Within the five years under consideration 5 EU-projects were carried out.

The researchers are receiving some administrative support when applying for projects (especially to fill in
the financial part of project applications). The content is of course produced by the researchers. With the
applications for the European grants there is a problem, as there is too little know-how in the institution
itself: it is only available at the Research Council of Lithuania

The lack of funds is of course a major threat. It hampers trips of historians abroad. The UoA suffers from the
fact that due to the economic crisis in 2009 the funding of the institute was reduced by more than 27%,
which causes a yearly financial deficit, and a reduction of the number of employees. The basic funding does
not cover the needs. The international network with universities and research institutes is mainly oriented
towards the neighbouring countries, and could therefore be enlarged, although the presentations made on
international conferences have a wider range development potential of UoA. For the researches teaching is
regarded as a supplementary financial source, although there is no possibility of teaching on a regularly
basis.

The Unit is aware of the necessity to publish in English, builds up an international research network, and
encourages its researchers in that direction. The lack of funding possibilities is once again here an obstacle.
The answer to the question "What would the UoA do with an increase of 25 % in institutional funding” in the
self-asessment report was: "About 20 percent of the funds would be allocated for the hiring of young scholars
and a general increase in the salary level of the institution scholars”. That is a significant statement, as it
reveals that the financial situation is critical for the motivation of the researchers. Despite these financial
problems (yearly deficits, low salaries for researchers, no financing of publications, too low budget for
financing research trips) the UoA is able to carry on its mission. Its research is recognized at home and
abroad.

**The development Potential**

The institute has great potential as among its members of staff are a number of highly qualified and
productive scholars. They are able to compete on an international level, and should be more active in
international fundraising. If funded adequately they are absolutely capable of initiating new research
directions and maintaining a high level of research that would have an impact on the international level of
historical research and the Lithuanian society at large. It could become a global leader, but has also a role as the main coordinating centre of historical research within Lithuania itself.

The panel noticed that all centres of historical research in Lithuania are dealing with national history. This has also to do with the national priority given by the authorities to Lithuanistics in the broad sense. A comparison between the history faculties and the Lithuanian Institute of History shows great parallels. This raises the question: is it necessary to maintain a separate Institute of History, or would a merger with a Faculty of History at the university be better. The Lithuanian Institute of History emphasises that being an independent institution facilitates the possibilities for big projects. It wants to defend its separate existence. The panel discussed the problem of the incorporation of institutes in the universities, but could not reach unanimity in that question, and therefore decided not to give any advice here. It should remain the responsibility of Lithuanian academics and politicians. A solution to avoid too much overlap in this case, could be to broadening the research scope of the history faculties at the universities, and maintain (and even reinforce) the specific mission of focusing on national Lithuanian history for the Lithuanian Institute of History.

Conclusions and recommendations

The Unit has the potential of becoming a global leader in historical research of Lithuania. In order to arrive there it has to pay attention to wider elaborate its international network and disseminate more its research results in international journals and publications. Searching for more international grants should be a priority, as also attracting international postgraduate students. Given the special mission the state assigned to the UoA, and its position as role-model for historical research in Lithuania, the unit should assume the role of a watchdog defending the non-politically instrumental historical research in Lithuania against any politicised historiography, be it abroad or in Lithuania itself. Therefore its domestic role of popularizing new historical findings and unmasking historical myths should be strengthened as well.
VMU History science field, Vytautas Magnus University

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| Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA | 3 |
| The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania | 3 |
| The physical infrastructure of the UoA | 2 |
| Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA | 3 |
| The development potential of the UoA | 3 |
| OVERALL SCORE | 3 |

**Overall Score**

The overall score reflects the fact that the unit is in many regards a strong national and regional player but not yet really in the league of international players. It could reach this status by investing more strongly on the study of international themes and subjects and attracting teachers, researchers and students from abroad.

**Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

The Unit is concentrated on multifaceted research on national Lithuanian history, the topics ranging historically from the 15th to the 20th century. The unit is in possession of the Lithuanian Emigration institute with its diaspora archive, which seems to be a fruitful source of research themes. There is also research on the local history of the Kaunas city and region. All the publications of the Unit's staff as well as the recent doctoral dissertations have been on Lithuanian history topics, and when the staff have travelled to international conferences they have read papers on Lithuanian history. This is undoubtedly good for the development of Lithuanian historical research but shows that the scope of the Unit is perhaps too limited to national subjects. On the other hand, the staff of the Unit have lectured abroad and visited foreign...
universities and research centers. There have been only a few cited publications by the Unit's staff during the years under evaluation. All the publications viewed for this assessment fulfilled the requirements for a scientific presentation. There has been one international doctoral student but no international postdoctoral researchers. There were quite a few articles in refereed journals cited in Scopus. The overall number of articles in refereed scientific journals and conference protocols was satisfactory during the period of assessment.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The research conducted by the Unit can be considered important for the society and especially for Lithuanians living in Kaunas. The Unit's Lithuanian Emigration Institute is the only one of its kind in Lithuania and perhaps has the potential to become a factor that could increase the attractiveness of the Unit for international researchers too. The Unit's staff have been very active in popularising science through articles, radio and television programmes and such, in fact to a degree that we found nowhere else. A few researchers have researched the history of local businesses, e.g. the Kaunas public transport history, the history of a local brewery and the history of a local basketball club, thus contributing to the social and even economic impact of historical research. It should be noted that this section of the self-assessment report is based on a misunderstanding, since it states that “people from [the] non-academic field are not invited as experts in activities of the unit”, while the intention of this section (8.4.4) is the other way round, and has been confirmed by other sections of the self-assessment report. This leaves the panel in the dark about the expert activities of the research staff outside their own academic research field.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

There is nothing special to observe about the unit's infrastructure. It doesn't have a library of its own but the researchers can freely use the university library and its collections, databases and such. The archive of the Lithuanian Emigration institute has its own facilities in connection with the unit. The panel experts are pleased to see that this is to be developed in the future with significant investment, ensuring this remains a national hub.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The research objectives of the unit are consistent with the cluster system which operates in the university. The majority of the unit’s researchers belong to three clusters: Interdisciplinary research on Lithuanian cities, Research on Lithuanian War History and Heritage, and Research on the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and its society. Long-term planning, organizing conferences and arranging the publication of the research results are done within the clusters. The system entails certain advantages for the young researchers, for example, they are able to do research with more advanced researchers and thus learn the ropes of research in practice. This also helps them in their career development. However, not all seems to be going as planned in doctoral training, considering that there were no doctoral degrees at all awarded in 2013. One possible explanation for this is that the students have too heavy teaching load.

The development potential of UoA

At this stage the Unit is a national player with some international recognition. It has the potential to become an international player if the economic situation improves and it can recruit international level teachers and researchers. There is also a lack of international doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers. Perhaps the situation could be alleviated through international exchange programs. The unit should also take care that it becomes more attractive to Lithuanian students. But for this to happen it would be good if the unit could widen its horizons with new sorts of topics, not only on Lithuanian history. Internationalisation would also
be facilitated with improved language skills. Unless reforms along these lines take place, the question whether the unit has enough critical mass, must be asked.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

The unit is doing reliable and multifaceted research on Lithuanian history. The projects which aim to connect the research done in the unit with the wider society’s interests, especially those of the city of Kaunas and the surrounding region, are commendable and should be carried on. The unit could perhaps make better use of the Diaspora Archive which seems to offer exciting topics to investigate. Among the doctoral dissertations there were only a couple of topics that seemed to directly relate to the sources found in the archive. In general, there should occur a widening to research themes dealing with non-Lithuanian history, perhaps first through the opportunities provided by the Diaspora Archive. This would be a good way to start developing a more international profile for the unit.
Faculty of History, Vilnius University

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</tbody>
</table>

**Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

- Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA: 4
- The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania: 4
- The physical infrastructure of the UoA: 4
- Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA: 4
- The development potential of the UoA: 4

**OVERALL SCORE**

4

Overall score

The overall score reflects the strong position of the UoA. It is one of the largest history research and study centres at a University in Lithuania. Its goal is training highly qualified specialists (historians, archeologists, researchers of culture and heritages) and to promote the development of Lithuanistics as one of the main priorities of the Lithuanian state. It promotes a balance between research and studies. It comprises four departments: archeology, ancient and medieval history, modern history and theory of history. The Faculty provides three BA- and three MA programs (800 students), and a graduate program (40 Ph.D. students).

**Quality of research performance and Impact on the scientific research of the UoA**

The UoA focuses on the Baltic region, the history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, the period of Soviet Lithuania and on historiography and cultural studies (with a recent book on the Soviet-Lithuanian historiography 1944-1985). This means that there is a considerable overlap with other units with the same focus. The quality of research is very high. This is shown by the papers that were presented as well. Irena Vaišvilaitė's elaborated contribution on the changing face of Vilnius ‘from capital to administrative center
and back’ is outstanding and can serve as an example. The article by Jurgita Verbickiene on the social and legal status of the Jews, Tatars and Karaites, is thoroughly researched. Marija Dremaitė’s chapter on industrial heritage in the rural country that Lithuania was, shows an innovative approach and opens new perspectives for research. Arturas Vasiliauskas’ chapter on citizenship in the 16th and 17th C enfeebles convincingly the myth of the political backwardness of the great majority of the Lithuanian nobility.

The UoA published between 2009 and 2013 29 monographs, 24 doctoral theses, 3 textbooks, 697 articles in scientific journals and 309 popularising ‘publications’ (per year: 6 monographs and 86 articles). These are realised by a staff of (on average over three years) 27 FTE researchers. Looking at the list of 20 most important publications one can conclude that it comprises 12 publications in English, 6 in Lithuanian and 2 in German. They were published in Lithuania (7), United Kingdom (5), Germany (2), Sweden (2) The Netherlands (2), USA (2) and Austria (1). Given the places of publication one can say that there are a lot of international contacts.

This is also shown by the many visits abroad of staff members: over the period under consideration there were 85 visits to 21 countries (to Afghanistan, Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ukraine, USA), 46 of them for a duration of at least a month, and 10 for 3 months or more. The UoA made in this period 20 presentations at international scientific conferences (in Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA). At least 16 scientists are actively involved in more than 25 different international scientific organisations (f.e. Rimvydas. Petrauskas (German Historical Institute Warsaw, International Historical Commision for the Research of German Orders, the Scientific Society of Torun), Mykolas Michelbertas (the German Archaeological Institute, the Latvian Council of Sciences) and Enonas Butkus (Commission of Historians of Latvia). In 2013 the UoA was able to attract two postdoctoral researchers of non-Lithuanian citizenship.

The UoA is collaborating with the Lithuanian Institute of History in editing the Lithuanian Metrica (documents of the chancellery of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, published in original languages, translated and annotated) and the History of Lithuania in 12 volumes. It also carries out research on ethno-confessional groups (Jews, Tatars, Karaites). The emphasis on the multilingual situation and the multi-ethnicity of the region is interesting, and can only be carried out because of the Lithuanian researchers’ language skills, but the results should be disseminated also outside Lithuania. In this respect, an extra effort could be recommendable, by setting up a larger number of international projects. As far as Lithuanistics is concerned one could say that the research carried out in the Unit is comparable with the best work internationally in the same area. It is striking though, that also this UoA - like all other history faculties in the country - is focusing on the development of Lithuanistics. This is at least partly the result of the priorities chosen by the Lithuanian State. Perhaps a broadening of the research perspective beyond the geo-focus of Lithuania and its region would be recommendable.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The wide-ranging and intensive research on Lithuanian history that the UoA conducts is clearly very important for the Lithuanian society. And it is not just academic research. Some representatives of the UoA obviously provide a significant contribution to the public debate, e.g. on the Lithuanian national identity and historical memory. (Through thematic events, museum exhibitions, publications, heritage protection, debates concerning national memory and history policy). 23 staff are members of the editorial boards of scientific journals some as editor in chief (in Lithuania but also in Poland, Russia, Estonia and Romania), 15 are members or experts of scientific boards of 18 governmental bodies (e.g.: the State committee for Cultural heritage, the Editorial Science council of the Lithuanian Encyclopedia, the Lithuanian Council on Archives, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe). However, one can ask whether the members of the UoA are especially ‘sought-after’ or whether this is just the normal level of societal interaction.
It has also to be mentioned that the UoA founded public institutions such as the Academy of Cultural Heritage, the Centre for Studies of the Culture and History of the East-European Jews, and the Academy of Historical Memory. In those projects the UoA was successful in attracting non-academic R & D partners. As the development of 'Lithuanistics' is one if the main priorities of the Lithuanian state, the UoA follows this priority policy in formulating its research topics. But, as already noted above, this strategy implies that there is a considerable overlap with other institutions that are also involved in the development of Lithuanistics. The UoA tries also to keep up pace with the developments in the European scientific world. One of the priorities is the joint program 'Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a new Challenge for Europe'. Especially in medieval and modern history. But it also is on the international wavelength in the field of the history of historiography and theory of history.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The UoA offers an excellent research infrastructure. The History Faculty is situated in a historical building (the building of the old Jesuit Academy in the centre of Vilnius) which has been renovated and expanded recently. It occupies a separate unit, with workplaces between the open racks, plenty of possibilities for discussion and library work in several study and reading rooms, where people easily can meet (which encourages the academic debate and the exchange of knowledge). It has a good library which contains specialised collections, comprising some 30.000 books in different languages, with recent acquisitions and ca. 50 current periodic publications. Researchers and students have easy access to the Vilnius University library (virtually in the same building) with a fund containing more than 5.4 million documents.

They have also access to electronic resources. They comprise 45 Lithuanian and foreign databases (f.e; JSTOR, Web of Science, Ebrary). The researchers of the UoA created themselves 5 databanks, two of them are freely accessible on internet (www.archeolitas.if.vu.lt, www.mdl.projektas.vus.lt). The UoA disposes since 2007 over a laboratory-computer class, which has hardware, specialized software and specialized databases (ArcGIS SDesktop, ArcView 9.3.1 a.o.) used mainly for archeological and heritage studies and research. In order to present the most recent scientific research, concerning the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, by means of virtual reality the UoA developed a project 'Orbis Lituania' (www.ldkistorija.lt). This internet portal received several awards). To disseminate historical knowledge among the broader public it developed a similar portal 'Virtual Historical Vilnius' (www.viv lt).

According to the self-assessment report in the archeological research there seems perhaps to be a lack of modern equipment, that hampers the development in the field, but this was not corroborated during the visit.

Research Management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The UoA is an institution of both research and study. The larger part of the research staff of the Faculty is also involved in teaching. The average number of master degrees over the years 2011-2013 is 52 and the average number of doctoral degrees awarded 5. As the funds come from the state assigned grants for students, the opportunities for the formation of the research staff are limited. The employment of researchers is usually related to the needs of the study process. Only the members of the research group preparing the publication of the Statutes and Lithuanian Metrica, (i.e. 3 - 4 researchers employed during the period under consideration) are not teaching. Each department employs 1- 2 researchers conducting commissioned research.

Guiding rules related to research planning are: joining larger international projects and networks, participating in conferences, publishing the research results in peer reviewed publications both national and abroad, enhancing the international prestige of the Faculty by publishing more articles in a foreign language in the journals edited by the Faculty itself (Archeologia Lituana, Lietuvos istorijos studijos) and by encouraging doctoral students to go on study trips to research centres abroad and to approach their research objectives from an angle of comparative history.
Research topics are planned for a medium (5 years) or long term (11 years) period, with defining for each topic its aim, unit in charge, team leader and team members. Also Topics for specific years are planned. It is all part of the UoA's Strategic Plan. The funding of the institute is based on state-assigned funding grants for students. Budget allocated and own funds are sufficient for the salaries of the employees and the maintenance of the infrastructure, although competitive project funding constitutes the most significant part for financing research. During the period under review the UoA received funding for 8 major research projects and ensured publishing of its journals. Funding was also received for partners abroad (new contacts established with Oslo University). These projects were the main source for the implementation of innovative research ideas and methods and for promoting the internationalisation of the Faculty of History.

Considering the list of visits abroad there seems to be enough funding for foreign research and study trips (supported by VU Research Support Fund, Faculty of History funds or Erasmus program). The other way round the UoA does not show strong evidence of attracting "high-level international researchers", although in 2013 it could welcome two post-doctoral researchers, which can be a good sign for the future.

The UoA has a high number of staff, 74 persons (= 58,5 FTE) with a sound balance among age groups (25-34 y.: 15; 35-44 y.: 33,45-54 y.: 12, 55-64: 11, 65 +: 3) partly due to the fact that after the independence several staff members, who did not fit in the post-soviet historiography starting at that moment, left the University. Since 2011 the UoA started together with the Lithuanian Institute of Lithuanian History a joint doctoral studies program, with about 40 Ph. D. students.

During the visit of the panel the rather young and dynamic group of researchers (from seniors to Ph. D. students) expressed their satisfaction with the organisation of the Faculty. The Ph. D. students emphasised the good work climate, and what they called: the 'stimulating' and 'very productive' contacts between the different generations of professors and scholars.

The development potential of UoA

The UoA has a very high development potential. It is now already an international player with a good reputation abroad. It has the critical mass and shows enough dynamism to improve its position on national and international scale. This is shown by the staff's activities in a variety of national and international contacts (international conferences, research carried out abroad, international publications). The Faculty could develop further to the level of a 'global leader', if it could broaden the scope of its research field beyond "the Lithuanian perspective", and publish more in English.

The "outer world", and especially the international community of historians, can be interested in Lithuanian history as part of the European history, but therefore even more attention and effort should be given to the dissemination in English of the Lithuanian research results. Much depends also on how the Unit can help the upcoming generation of researchers to rise to a new level of international activity.

It is the impression of the panel that the UoA has a clear and realistic vision of its own strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and that it is carefully managing, and with good results until now, the problems that arise.

Conclusion and recommendations

The UoA is already a strong international player. Research quality, social impact and research management of the Unit are very good. It is clear that historical research should in the first place be beneficial to the own community. In that sense the UoA is doing a lot also in disseminating new research results to the broader public, a.o. by the history portals on internet, and popular publications.

Nevertheless, given the fact that the Lithuanian Institute of History is focusing on Lithuania as well (as is defined in its Statutes) one could expect that, in order to become a’ global leader’, the Vilnius History Faculty should widen its research horizon, and try to cover history in a broader sense (European and global). Anyway, the considerable overlap between these two Units should be reduced urgently.
Another recommendation could be made here. As this UoA is the largest and most important university centre of historical research, it could perhaps be its role to take the initiative for the organisation of a graduate school (in the form of a seminar with Ph. D. students) on a national scale (or if Klaipeda is too far away, at least on a regional one), including not only the Lithuanian Institute of History, as is already the case, but also Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas. Only then enough critical mass could be available, to stimulate a real scientific debate among doctoral students and their supervisors.
Baltic Region History and Archaeology Institute, Klaipeda University

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<td>OVERALL SCORE</td>
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</table>

**Overall Score**

The overall score reflects the unit’s strong national and regional position in its own field, especially underwater archaeology. Especially this subdiscipline can be considered as a strong international player. However, other subdisciplines of the unit still have a long way to go before they reach the same international level.

**Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA**

The UoA is clearly one of the leading, if not the most significant, players in south and eastern Baltic Region research, especially in the field of underwater archaeology. In terms of quality, the research output of the unit is comparable with the best work internationally in the same area of research. All the publications viewed for this assessment fulfilled the requirements for a scientific presentation. Although the Unit quite naturally has its eye especially on the eastern Baltic region, many of its research themes and topics have a comparative and innovative character and can - and indeed have - raised international interest, which is shown by the number of presentations in international conferences. The results of research done in the Unit are being
published in the leading scientific journals of the field, such as Medieval Archaeology and Archaeologia Baltica, and its researchers have wide international contacts with other researchers and research centers especially in the neighbouring countries but also wider in the region. Still there is work to do to become a global leader. For that to happen, the Unit’s staff and students must become more international and also start using English to a greater degree than before.

**The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania**

The Unit’s work can be considered very important for the Lithuanian society. Its quality research and the international reputation of its researchers benefits the whole Lithuania. It is a highly esteemed partner in research and development projects outside the academic environment, for instance with many Lithuanian and German archives. Staff members are in high demand as experts on the international level. Since the unit was positively evaluated by the Norwegian Research Council in 1996, it has obviously been somewhat of a pioneer in Lithuania in innovatively integrating research and teaching together with the Department of History in the Klaipeda University. The economic and social impact of the Unit can be seen especially in the way its archaeological expertise is being used in the context of commissioned applied research, carried out in cooperation with a variety of public and private economic bodies, such as different museums and business companies. This could obviously be developed even further.

**The physical infrastructure of the UoA**

The unit seems to have good facilities for its staff and students. The library has a big collection of books and periodicals on the specialized themes of the unit. Although electronic resources such as ebooks or article databases are not separately mentioned, it is self-evident that the library collections include those. The unit belongs to the forerunners of digitization in Lithuania; it started its digital archives already in the early 1990s. These seem to be quite important for research on regional and even transregional history. Digital databases have also been developed. For archeological research, all relevant equipment and resources seem to be in order and up to date. The unit is the only one in Lithuania that has the latest equipment for underwater archeological research. The positive development of the infrastructure is threatened by the annually decreasing Klaipeda University budgetary allocations.

**Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA**

There seems to be a systematic and well thought-out procedure for developing new research themes in the Unit. There are long-term guidelines for research which are defined by the Governing Body of the Institute and the Senate of Klaipeda University. When a new overall research plan is developed, the experience of the implementation of the former plan and the current priorities of European and Lithuanian scientific research are taken into consideration. In practice, the research activity is organised by sub-programmes. In these, young researchers starting their careers have the opportunity to work together with more experienced and acknowledged researchers. All in all, the unit seems to pursue a laudable strategy in helping early-career researchers on their way and offering chances to integrate research with other studies in an early stage. There is very lively cooperation with the History Department which is currently under the wings of the Faculty of Humanities and the panel was informed that the department is about to become a part of the Institute. This would seem to be a sensible solution. Serious attention should be paid to the language of communication in international connections. For the researchers it is nowadays necessary to be able to present and discuss one’s research in English.

**The development potential of UoA**

The development potential of the Unit is good. Long-term research objectives have been defined for the period of 2014–2020. The unit has so far been able to attract funding that is awarded competitively on a
satisfactory level but it is uncertain whether that level can be held. Much depends on whether the Unit can recruit more international staff which could widen its international network and contacts and simultaneously attract international doctoral and postdoctoral students. The decrease in international level leading scientists is the first weakness listed in the unit’s SWOT analysis. Perhaps an English language doctoral programme would help in this regard. The economic factors are also important. It is mentioned that the annual Klaipeda University budgetary allocations have been decreasing and hindering the Unit’s development. High taxation has caused problems in the field of commissioned archaeological research. The general Lithuanian economic situation is something the unit can’t influence. The only way to overcome economic hardship would seem to be success in the competition for European international research funding. So far the unit has had enough critical mass to survive but it must work hard to retain it.

Conclusions and recommendations

The unit is a significant player in south and eastern Baltic Region research, especially in the field of underwater archaeology. It has set up active cooperation with many foreign research partners and it also routinely carries out collaboration projects with museums and businesses. The development potential of the unit is good but it must work hard to bring it to fruition and so retain the critical mass needed to survive. It is important that the unit pays more attention to recruiting international staff and also doctoral and post-doctoral students. For this, it is necessary to gradually adopt English as the language of international communication. English is also needed when competing for international research funding which is vital for the unit’s survival. The incorporation of the History Department to the Institute is to be recommended.
Overall Score

The UoA 's name is 'Centre of Military History'. The panel expected therefore research on military history, but to its surprise the UoA presented in its report other elements as main fields of research. They were indicated as "the analysis of civic society and national security, the analysis and creation of civic identity of the Lithuanian youth, traditional and nontraditional language teaching methods and methodology, 'psycho-educological' language teaching and 'learning fundamentals'..." As presented those aspects are elements of a general education in the academy and it is difficult to accept them as fields of research.

Quality of Research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline

The overall quality of the texts attached to the self-assessment report was rather poor. There were some articles dealing with military history. They were based on original sources, but were missing a broader historical context and dealing with Lithuania only (which is in itself valuable for the Lithuanian public).
There was also shown one book in English recently published by the history research unit, *Wars of Lithuania*, which is based on serious research, and can interest a broader Lithuanian public, but is perhaps also missing some more global context for readers outside the country. Although the UoA has some good international contacts especially in the framework of NATO, its international research performance and general impact on the military history is still negligible and limited almost only to Lithuania, without much dissemination abroad.

The non-historical publications attached to the self-assessment report were dealing either with 'civic education' or with 'methodology of foreign language teaching'. As for 'civic education', this can hardly be seen as a 'field of scientific -research discipline'. Indeed, the articles are a mixture of philosophical (ethical) and sociological concepts, perhaps useful as discussion papers in class, but without any research quality. As for the texts dealing with language methodology, it could be useful to develop such a methodology for the teaching of foreign languages in the military academy itself, but it is a delusion that these publications would contribute to any scientific knowledge on an international level. Research on language teaching belongs at universities or in specialized research institutes, dealing with language development, not in a military academy, which is in the first place a school, not a research centre on the use of language.

In the eyes of the panel the only specific scientific contributions in the field of Humanities the UoA can provide as its core business, lays in military history, as it is the case in most military academies in the world. Indeed 'civil' historians dealing with military history are rare exceptions, and that field is rather neglected in other institutions of historical research. Therefore as far as research is concerned, it is this core business that should be developed more.

**The economic and social impact of the Research in Lithuania**

The UoA published books, brochures and articles for the broader Lithuanian public, dealing with military history. It tries to set up joint initiatives in that field with non-university partners, but that interaction remains very limited. In fact the major social impact of the Institute as a whole is the military education under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence. Releasing foreign language teaching manuals and distributing them in secondary schools, is also of social importance, but is not a 'research contribution'.

**The infrastructure of the UoA**

As far as research is concerned the infrastructure is rather poor. The Self Assesment Report states: "Very little support for researchers, especially limited funding of any equipment in the Unit". The impression the panel got from the library confirms that statement. It is hardly a research library. Perhaps except for some military archives (if they that are kept there). The panel supposes that researchers make use of the libraries of Vilnius University.

There seem to be military archives though, which are of course needed for any military historical research. But the panel didn't get a clear view on what these could comprise, as they were not shown. The 'guided tour' through the library was limited to pinpoint some publications on military heroes from the Lithuanian army. There was no focus on facilities (if available) for researchers.

**Research Management including career development and human resource management of the UoA**

The Unit is only at the beginning of the process of creating an internationally comparable research environment. There is still a long way to go. There are nice intentions in the report, but "intensive and effective language learning as acquisition of the Academy's cadets", although hopefully realistic, is not really 'research' that belongs to the core business of the Military Academy. Career development does not seem to be a relevant issue here, as there is no scientific career to make in this institute.
The development potential of UoA

The resources and funding of the Academy are still very poor. The research carried out by the Unit has not reached the stage of being important.

Given the low scores of this UoA, the question might rise: "Should this UoA perhaps be part of another unit doing research in history? Why spend resources building something here if the basics are available in other units?" This question should be answered in a negative way. There are two reasons for that. Firstly because military history requires army sources, and normally the army remains responsible for military archives, not the General Archives of a state, although in some countries there exists an Army Museum, but even that remains normally under army control (f.e. the Imperial War Museum, UK; the Musée Royal de l'Armée, Belgium). Secondly because people with a military background are better prepared than others to study the past of an institution as the army. Therefore, the feeling is that the centre must stay where it is, and develop its potential for an important social and practical impact on the society. The panel believes and hopes that the staff will drastically "rethink" the function as a 'research centre'. Inspiration could be found abroad, in other military academies, where there are well developed centres of research in military history. By doing so it would perhaps be possible for the UoA to develop into a noticeable national player in 5 - 10 years time.

Conclusion and recommendations

The panel got the impression that the Unit of Assessment was not a unit at all, but was assembled for the occasion of this exercise, comprising several 'units' or 'sections'. It would have been better to present only the unit dealing with military history.

Language lecturers/teachers should only deal with teaching foreign languages, and not be required to perform also 'applied research'. In the Lithuanian system of higher education the authorities should create a separate staff, dealing with foreign languages, partly teaching students and partly supporting researchers in disseminating the results of their research. As the panel has noticed in other institutions, the requirement of doing 'research' imposed on language teachers leads only to frustration or to the improper invention of 'new fields of scientific research', merely in order to fulfil the requirements imposed by the statute of university lecturer/teacher. In most western universities there exist 'centres of language studies' with personnel that is not required to do research, but to teach well.

It should be worthwhile for the UoA to go on a study visit in other military academies, to find out what exactly there the research in the humanities is dealing with. The membership of NATO and the contacts with the military in that alliance facilitates such an endeavour. Especially it could be useful to visit smaller military academies, like the one in Brussels (Belgium) or Breda (the Netherlands) and benefit from the good practices that are existing there. A serious 'rethinking' (and also reorienting and reorganising) the research in the academy, is necessary. Simply returning now to 'business as usual' is no option.
**Lithuanian Culture Research Institute**

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**Composition of the Unit of Assessment (UoA)**


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### Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

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**OVERALL SCORE**

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**Overall Score**

The UoA ranks first in Lithuania as far as the present assessment is concerned. However, reviewers encourage this UoA to consider that the assessment was conceived as an international one, meant to provide indications on how Lithuanian humanities research institutions compare with similar centres and institutions in the world. For this reason, however excellent LKTI’s work objectively is, this UoA is given a score of 4, and not 5, since its assessment shows that there is still room for improvement before reaching full international standards (score “5” would imply, for instance, proven capacity of attracting foreign scholars on a regular basis). In particular, management of transition between older and younger generations of scholars appears to be an issue at LKTI, and should be addressed through more energetic participation in European research funding schemes. The “4” should be therefore considered as an encouragement to maintain the research leadership in Lithuania, and attain leadership also at the regional, European, and international level.
Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

The UoA carries on research that meets the highest national standards of quality and significance and provides a strong reference for the international panorama. Among the several Departments that compose the UoA, some in particular qualify as “pockets of excellence”: Fine Art History, Sacral Art Heritage, Music and Theatre History, Comparative Culture Studies, and Contemporary Philosophy. Submitted publications are overall excellent in terms of selection of topics, knowledge of the state of the art, originality of approach and methodology, consistency in both argumentation and style, clarity of exposition, choice of dissemination forum, and scientific and cultural impact. At least nineteen members of the UoA are active at the international level. The UoA can boast numerous publications in SCOPUS journals (23 in 2013, although many by the same researcher) and several extremely original doctoral and post-doctoral dissertations, for instance Renata Šukaitytė’s post-doctoral research on “Minor Cinema in the Global Context”, Milda Žvirblytė’s post-doctoral research on “The Distinctive Features of Lithuanian Modernism in the Context of Central European Art”, which both adopt the praiseworthy perspective of studying local topics in international contexts. Successful participation in the COST program provides further evidence of integration in international networks of research, which is usually a consequence of academic excellence. Reviewers have appreciated, moreover, the elegant firmness by which the self-assessment report defends the specificity of the UoA in relation to applied research institutes, as well as its attitude toward potential national “competitors”, which are rather seen as potential partners. The UoA should persist in its efforts of internationalization and high-quality research, by concentrating resources in the most productive domains and niches of research. Also, while encouraging scientific excellence and outstanding individual productivity, the UoA should make sure that its entire research staff is equally committed to the UoA goals, securing an efficacious relay between established and early-career researchers.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

The UoA occupies an extremely important role in the cultural panorama of Lithuania. It collaborates with important public organisations in Lithuania and other European countries. Several of its members are active as consultants outside of the academia (section 7.4 of the self-assessment lists 12 instances, from Aleksandra Aleksavičiūtė’s acting as Member of State Culture and Arts Awards Commission of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania to Giedrė Jankevičiūtė being member of the State Commission on Cultural Heritage). A comparatively new research institution in the international panorama, the UoA is a recognized major research centre on Lithuanian culture, whose high quality output has political and social importance. Staff members are active in committees and advisory boards of governmental bodies. They also engage in frequent significant visits abroad. Research outreach and public dissemination inside the country are active and diverse (committee of science and studies, councils of culture and arts, committees of professional competition and awards). Collaboration with schools and museums in popularization of Lithuanian culture, participation in expert commissions etc. is outstanding (for instance, contribution to shaping the permanent exhibition of the National Art Gallery of Lithuania in 2009 or the project on the virtual history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania).

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

Judging from both the description of the physical infrastructure contained in the self-assessment report and experts’ visits, the UoA positively responds to international criteria and is potentially able to host both local and international researchers. Continuous efforts should be made to allocate physical research infrastructure and office space in relation to research productivity (more funding and research outputs ergo more space). Initiatives should be taken in order to create a work environment able to attract international scholars, for instance by creating positions of junior research leadership to be filled by foreign scholars (German example).
Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

Research management appears as adequate for an institution that is of primary importance in the intellectual panorama of Lithuania and aims at intensifying its activity internationally. The UoA has a robust system of research management with permanent structures such as Research Council, Supervisory Council, the Assessment Commission, the Research Works Assessment Commission, and the Departments. Overall, the quality of research output indicates that these structures and procedures are working quite well. However, the issue of improving the relay among generations of scholars should be critically faced, as well as the problem of finding more effective ways to finance the internationalization of research at the UoA. Greater efforts should be made in participating in large European research projects.

The development potential of UoA

The Institute has potential to compete at an international level, but there is room for improvement (especially when it comes to international research grants). It undoubtedly has the capability of maintaining a high level research environment, support all areas of research, achieve all research goals and objectives, and have an impact on the Lithuanian society and the international research community. Established research directions are clearly viable, but the major question is what the new directions will be, after all these multivolume megaprojects are complete. The UoA has a long-term strategic plan but the report gives only a very vague picture of future vision and plans. The major problem that awaits the UoA in the future is, in the words of the self-assessment report, “aging of personnel”. Progression of active research staff is difficult, because “the smooth succession of generations of scholars in the Institute is somewhat problematic and results in a rather slow personnel circulation.” The reason, according to the s-a. report, is “rather low basic financing of the Institute”, but certainly the Institute’s career management plays a role in the organisation of such transition, and should probably find alternative ways to improve it, for instance by encouraging unproductive researchers at the end of their career to retire. State funding needs to be there at this critical juncture but there is a potential for fundraising; the UoA needs to think creatively, and internationally, on how to change this financial situation. As a consequence, the Institute’s development potential deserves a 4, also by virtue of an excellent critical mass and strategy of determination of research niches, but should maintain and improve the actualization of this potential in order to even more proficiently compete at the international level.

Conclusions and recommendations

Given appropriate funding, the UoA could establish and develop its role as major international player for research and publication on Lithuanian and Baltic culture. The issue of accelerating the relay among generations of scholars should be seriously confronted in order to ensure that the current quality of research and publication is maintained and adapted to the future challenges of European and international investigation. The research niches of the UoA should be given priorities in future assets of funding and office space distribution, as well as in attracting foreign researchers. Outstanding established scholars should be encouraged to co-publish with early career researchers.
Kaunas Faculty of Humanities, Vilnius University

### Name of the UoA
Kaunas Faculty of Humanities

### Name of institution being assessed
Vilnius University

### Total no. FTE researchers
12.98

### Composition of the Unit of Assessment (UoA)
Department of Foreign Languages; Head of the Department of Germanic Philology; Department of Lithuanian Philology; Centre for Socio-cultural Research

#### Quality of the research performance and impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA
3

#### The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania
3

#### The physical infrastructure of the UoA
4

#### Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA
2

#### The development potential of UoA
2

### OVERALL SCORE
3

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### Overall Score
Kaunas Faculty of Humanities is an offshoot of Vilnius University which was created in Kaunas after the University of Kaunas was closed in Soviet times. Since Lithuania became independent, the University of Kaunas (Vytautas Magnus University) was reopened and Kaunas Polytechnic became a Technological University, actively developing its own Arts and Humanities. With 300 000 population in the city three centres of humanitarian education is really too much. All three are struggling to define their purpose and specificity, competing against each other in the rapidly shrinking market. It doesn’t make any of them stronger, because of overall underfunding apart from structural EU funding which goes to the development of infrastructure. These striking infrastructural developments do not address much deeper and substantial issues, such as long-term vision and strategic planning. Basically, the question is whether Kaunas needs so many centres for humanitarian education given the current demographic dynamics. To be sure, members of staff are well aware of the problem and the attempt to ignore it does not help to boost the morale of the Unit. That’s why comparatively the overall high mark should be seen in the light of quite a low mark for the development potential. The future of the Unit is murky and to be in denial is not a response to the problem.
Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

This is a comparatively small unit with primary specialization in languages (Roman, German and Slavonic and Lithuanian) and linguistics which publishes mostly in nationally-known publications. The number of peer reviewed publications in Scopus journals is fairly small. Among the positive aspects of research environment are diverse international research links and in some cases strong international research cooperation and collaboration, extensive research visits abroad, active participation in international conferences and in editorial boards (although most of them are national journals), active membership in committees, and advisory boards of governmental bodies. On the other hand, there are no international research students, low support of postdoc research, and fairly low number of foreign visitors. Given the size of the Unit, a high number of doctoral degrees is awarded. Although it is a good thing that doctoral theses are published, the majority are written in Lithuanian, even when the topics are of broader research interest. Participation of doctoral students and young researchers in international conferences is not complimented with a systematic plan to publish research results in peer reviewed A-level journals. The Unit has a structure which favours interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research but they are not developed enough to a deeper, foundational level.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

Research of the Unit is important and the Unit’s interactions with non-academics are at a level that is expected of recognised academic institutions but could be higher. The Unit still has limited research outreach and public dissemination inside the country. It should do more to promote linguistic knowledge and its importance in the policymaking bodies and mass media; links need to be developed not only between the Unit and educational institutions for popularization of historical knowledge (with schools) and collaborative research projects (with universities) but also with businesses, policy-makers, and the public for popularization of linguistic knowledge. An active membership in committees and advisory boards of governmental bodies can be viewed as indicators of dynamic social impact but as an institution of HE the Unit’s major social impact is research-led teaching and the Unit needs to do more to integrate its research with the teaching process.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The visit of the premises confirms what has been said in the Report: “the facilities of the Unit were reconstructed and modernized (the structure of the building, a new library building, technical equipment in the classes, laboratories, communication systems, furniture, rooms for the academic staff, etc.)”. Also, the Unit has full access for a whole range of research databases. The development of the infrastructure does not address more fundamental issues about the future of the Unit and the resources at the time when the niche for the Unit has practically disappeared: there are at least two more centres of humanitarian education in Kaunas and there is a need to find some incentives for students to choose this Unit for their study.

Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

There is no indication about any specific long-term strategy or planning (including a human resource development strategy) in the Unit. The employment of new researchers is done mainly in the form of new doctoral students. There are no postdoc researchers employed and there is no sign of a postdoc programme. There is an issue of career pathways and career development for early-career scholars. Funding resources for mobility are accessible either through exchange programmes or, individually via internal procedure. There is a need for more competitive funding and there is a potential for cooperation with non-academic partners as a source for attracting funding but the concrete strategies to achieve this goal are not clear. The focus of the research of the Unit (cognitive linguistics, literature and hermeneutics, computational linguistics) does not
quite match the most relevant research projects in which the Unit has been involved neither the topics of the major conferences arranged. Although working conditions are greatly improved thanks to the EU funding, it seems that the teaching – not research – is at the core of the Unit’s operation. Priorities are given to teaching (curriculum development) and cultivation of a learning rather than research environment. Even according to the self-assessment report, “research is conducted in a fragmentary way since the main focus is put on the teaching rather than on research”. Since conditions for research and academic work are improved the Unit could do more to attract foreign visitors, to support postdoc research, and so forth.

The development potential of UoA

The Unit proved its ability to be involved in promising international collaboration projects and networks. Despite its small size it is potentially capable of supporting the existing research environment and achieving its research objectives. But the Unit’s future is not particularly clear and planning can be done only in very general terms, so it is hard to judge how realistic it is. It is a good thing that the research objectives are directed more towards hard-core foundational studies, although research goals remain a bit too vague as do also the means to achieve them. Also the role of basic and applied research in the Unit’s research strategy is not fully developed. There is a need to enhance the quality of the research through participation in international conferences, but the funding attracted for support activities needs to be considerably improved. Although it is a small Unit, it works successfully to bring domestic PGR students. However, there is no evidence that the Unit can attract high-level doctoral students and scholars from abroad (there were no long(ish) term external research visitors, international students or postdoc research during last 5 years). Since the future funding strategy is not clear, it is hard to predict whether over the next 5-10 years the Unit will be able to strengthen (or maintain) its position in the international research community. The hope is, it will be able to become an international player.

Conclusions and recommendations

The Unit’s current research is closely related to its pedagogic priorities, but there is good potential for development, given the energy and commitment of the Unit and its network of international relations. We would also advocate closer research collaboration with colleagues in Kaunas with similar research profile.
Overall Score

The overall score is based on the fact that its past performance is rather modest, especially as regards international publications and participation in interdisciplinary networks. Another important factor was the gap between the managerial expertise and strategic vision on the central level of the university and the degree, in which the individual members of the UoA has picked this vision up and implemented it. If the UoA succeeds in strengthening its strategy of focusing its research on interdisciplinary themes, in collaboration with other faculties of MRU, it has the potential to become a strong national player with some international recognition.

Quality of the research performance and Impact on the scientific research discipline of the UoA

The Unit of Assessment is a Satisfactory National Player. The panel deems the significance of the research by the UoA to be acceptable, but not good. The publications submitted to the panel and the key publications (see section 4.3 of the self-assessment report) are of good quality, but did not appear in leading international
journals. In terms of impact, the UoA occupies a stable position in the national scientific community. The position of the UoA within the international scientific community is still evolving, which is to be expected given the fact that it was founded only in 2010; hence, it still has to vie for its status as a recognised member of the discipline, especially on an international level. In fact, there seems to be a gap between the ambitions that emerge from the self-assessment report and the international quality of the research accomplished so far. The self-assessment report gives the panel the impression that the UoA is an extremely dynamic intellectual and academic community, convincingly projected toward the global audience of knowledge and ideas and undertaking great efforts, most of which extremely successful, in order to become a strong national player with international relevance. The scholarly output is acceptable (3.0 publications per researcher and an H-index of 2). Yet, on the minus side, the UoA seems to have embarked in a number of interdisciplinary and international projects without paying sufficient attention to defining its specificity in the Lithuanian and international intellectual landscape. The UoA is much stronger in interdisciplinary projects than in disciplinary ones, implying that the UoA’s own focus or niche is not so well developed yet. The percentage of international publications is still modest (5 international publications on a total number of 112 publications) and does not correspond with what is written in the self-assessment report. Some research niches are clearly visible, especially in the domain of applied philosophy and education sciences. Knowledge products submitted for the present evaluation appear as based on solid scholarship, but were mostly published by national or even local publishers. All dissertations are written in Lithuanian and the fields of research covered by them is too disperse, which is detrimental for the international focus and impact of the UoA.

The economic and social impact of the research in Lithuania

Research of the UoA is important for society. The Unit’s interactions with non-academics are at a level that is expected of recognised academic institutions. The UoA impact on society rests mostly on traditional academic endeavours, such as the organization of conferences and symposia and collaboration with public organisations in Lithuania and abroad, and also include various businesses abroad. Results in this domain appear as outstanding for number, quality, and level of internationalization (see section 7.1 of the self-assessment report). The UoA shows rare ability in intercepting international opportunities for dissemination. Because of its interdisciplinary character, the UoA has succeeded in becoming an important player on a national and European level, focusing on European identity and national language. The UoA is also encouragingly active in the field of adult education. Increased effort in bridging the gap between the UoA and non-academic stakeholders in the field of education and philosophical counselling would probably bring about even more outstanding results in terms of social and economic impact. However, the number of researchers who are active outside the academia is rather limited, and the UoA as a whole seems to be rather a participant than a leader in this field.

The physical infrastructure of the UoA

The UoA is a Strong International Player, because it is able to provide an internationally comparable excellent research environment to high-level international researchers in the given discipline. The quality of the physical infrastructure also regards the access to databases and the work environment for PhD students. The site-visit made clear that the plans of expansion and re-organization have been realized to a great extent. They vouch for the dynamic nature of this UoA, and the university’s ambition to be a major player in Lithuania and a strong reference in the European and especially in the Baltic region. The UoA should carefully preside over this expansion/reorganization phase, so as to plant the best seeds for its further development. The organization of work space should indeed reflect and encourage the interdisciplinary nature of research conducted at the UoA.
Research management (including career development and human resource management) of the UoA

The Unit is able to provide a research environment that is comparable with internationally recognised academic institutions in its discipline. Since its founding in 2010, the research management of the UoA has succeeded in stimulating to achieve a considerable improvement of the quantity and quality of the research output. Interdisciplinary research is stimulated and currently reaches 50% of the UoA. The management is well informed about the research developments on the level of the university, the Lithuanian state and the EU, and reacts appropriately. Its research strategy rests on a fair SWOT analysis. The self-assessment report gives plenty of evidence that the UoA is fully launched toward the international arena of knowledge production and dissemination. Praiseworthy attention is given to the most advanced standards in the organization of research, including a pioneer consideration for present and future open-access good practices. Overall, the UoA qualifies as a strong national player with potential to become more internationally relevant. However, there seems to be a gap between the obvious expertise and high ambitions of the central management of the university and the reality of the researchers who work in the UoA. This observation is substantiated by the fact that the self-assessment report is sometimes at odds with what has been accomplished so far, especially as regards the quality of international publications. The observed gap also refers to the fact that the praiseworthy ability to take advantage from several research opportunities, many of which at the international level, does not outline yet a clear research agenda. Unlike most other UoAs, the staff had no complaints about their teaching load in comparison to their time for research. The impression of the panel is that this is mainly thanks to the quality of the management of the MRU and/or the UoA.

Finally, the fact that all doctoral programs of the UoA are joint programs is an important asset for its internationalization. But, again this ambition and the strategy based on it, do not completely correspond with the fact that all dissertations have been written in Lithuanian. The fields covered by the doctoral researchers is quite disperse. It is advisable to concentrate ph.d.-projects more strictly on the main fields of expertise of the UoA. Recruitment seems to meet the international standards, supervision organized through inter-university cooperation.

The development potential of UoA

The Unit of Assessment is capable of being a visible local player in its area of research, which from time to time can be expected to contribute to the activities of the international scientific community. Whether it has the potential to become a real international player in five to ten years (score 3) depends on whether it will be able to realize the ambitions expressed in the self-assessment report, because they seem to be still rather far away from the accomplishments of the UoA. International research exchange is still rather modest, but the UoA lists a great number of international research collaborations, including with non-academic partners. Given the specific character of the Mykolas Romeris University, the best research potential of this UoA lies in embarking as much as possible in interdisciplinary projects, since its critical mass is too small to become an international player in specific disciplines (languages, philosophy). It is only through this approach that the UoA will be able to reach a higher level of internationalization, benefiting from strong ties with European and non-European institutions (including major institutions in USA, Japan, and Korea), and to attract international competitive funding. Keen attention is to be devoted to sharpening the brand identity of the UoA, increasing not only the quantity but also the international visibility of research through increased and more focused activities in specific research niches. This strategy should go hand in hand with the policy to publish the research results with international publishing houses, and attracting international ph.d.-students who will work on the interdisciplinary themes of research. Although the SWOT analysis of the UoA is fair, the above mentioned points need to be taken into account more explicitly in devising a realistic research strategy for the next period. The effectiveness of this strategy will also determine to what extent the UoA will be able to attract high-level doctoral students from abroad.
Conclusions and recommendations

The UoA’s past performance is rather modest, especially as regards international publications and participation in interdisciplinary networks. If the UoA succeeds in implementing the strategic vision on the central level of the university, it can become at least a strong national player (whether or not it will become a strong international player is hard to predict at this moment because of the UoA’s short history). If the UoA succeeds in strengthening its strategy of focusing its research on interdisciplinary themes, in collaboration with other faculties of MRU, it has the potential to become a strong national player with some international recognition.

In the future, the UoA should better define its research niches and concentrate on research, internationalization, and publication in these fields. The overall level of publication should be increased, giving priority to quality over quantity and seeking to circulate research outputs through prestigious international journals and book series.

Future efforts should go in the direction of attracting an increased number of foreign researchers toward the UoA, through offering appropriate remuneration and an advantageous research environment, especially in the research niches of the UoA.

It is advisable that the current number of fields of research, which is rather disparate, decreases.
Summary of the Institutional Assessments

1. The overall quality of research in the humanities

As becomes apparent from the scores of all units and the written comments of the Panel, the quality of research in the humanities in Lithuania is good. Only two institutions got an overall score of 1, five a score of 2, ten a score of 3, and seven a score of 4, resulting in an average overall score of 2.9. This means that, although some units are poor or satisfactory national players, most of them are strong national players with some international recognition, and some can even be considered as strong international players, especially in the Baltic region, but, in a few cases, also on a European level. However, none of them can be considered a global leader in their respective fields of research. The relatively limited international scope of most units is partly due to the fact that the research output of quite a lot of units is hardly perceived by the international scientific community, and this in spite of its quality. Hence, a further internationalization of the humanities in Lithuania is essential for the future. This recommendation especially regards the fields of Lithuanian language, history and culture, because most of the research output in these fields does not reach beyond Lithuania. The reasons for this are that much of this output is published in Lithuanian, and (in case it is written in an international academic language) appears in journals or book series, which are published in Lithuania, and, hence, do not reach the international scientific community.

Special mention deserves the decision of some smaller units to opt for multi-disciplinary collaboration (through so-called intra-university clusters on important and often topical research themes, which can only be addressed in an inter- or multi-disciplinary way). Especially in cases where the units do not have the critical mass to be a strong national or international player in their own discipline, the Panel deems this a very sensible strategy, and encourages the units and their respective universities to pursue their efforts in this direction. However, because this strategy, which was introduced by the central authorities of the universities to which these units belong, started only recently, the number of researchers participating in these multi-disciplinary projects is still limited, and the concrete results of such collaborations are still scarce.

In spite of these positive remarks of the overall quality of research in the humanities in Lithuania, the Panel is of the opinion that its future nevertheless looks rather problematic, especially from an international perspective. There are some major problems which need to be addressed urgently. The most important of them are the extreme fragmentation and considerable overlap between the various (sub-)disciplines in the humanities, leading up to the fact that most units are confronted with an overload of teaching and administrative duties, which inevitably goes at the cost of their time for research. In the next sections, these and other problems will be indicated and some suggestions to deal with them will be made.

2. Critical mass, fragmentation, overlap, and underfunding

On the basis of the self-assessment reports of the units, the Panel notes that 25% (6 out of 24) units are so small (total number of researchers less than 10.0 fte) that one can ask whether they still have enough ’critical mass’ to play a significant role on their respective fields of research, especially in an international playing field. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that many units consist of various subunits, which have very little in common. Some of them have been put together in one UoA for the sake of this research assessment, but their research activities are not related, let alone do they cooperate with each other. A third exacerbating factor is the structural underfunding of the humanities. Due to a dramatic drop in the number of students during the last decade, the appointments of the researchers in many units have been reduced to very small part-time positions; in some cases 1 fte is split up in six part-time appointments. Consequently, in order to earn a decent salary, many staff members have to combine several teaching positions at various universities. Obviously, this situation goes at the cost of their time for research. Hence, it is no wonder that the
researchers of almost all units complained that their teaching load and administrative duties (see below) are so high that their time for research is actually far less than the 33% of their total working time, which is typically allotted to all of them by the Lithuanian government for research purposes. Of course, many researchers have applied successfully for additional, competition based research funding from the Research Council of Lithuania, but this only offers a partial solution to the underfunding of the humanities, and does not solve the problem of fragmentation at all.

The overall result is an extreme fragmentation of the humanities in Lithuania, a situation which is far worse than in other European countries. To quote just a few numerical data: In a relatively small country like Lithuania with a population of 3 million, there are as many as 24 units for research in the humanities, each of them doing research in a number of subdisciplines (in many cases more than four); a quarter of these units are very small (less than 10 FTE), and many of them employ a great number of part-time researchers.

Paradoxically however, there is also a considerable overlap in the research in some of the subfields, covered by these units. This remark concerns especially the large number of units or subunits, whose prime mission is to study Lithuanian language, literature, folklore, history, etc. But this is also the case for other subfields, especially philosophy: not less than nine units employ researchers in this discipline. Unfortunately, this overlap has only in some cases led to a close collaboration between the units, and even less to a reasoned division of niches of research among the units. In this respect, the situation in Kaunas, with three centres of humanitarian/philological education in one city, is a case in point and requires serious reconsideration. It would be advisable to reconsider inherited structures that have led to the creation of this duplication (if not triplication) of disciplines, institutions and efforts on the one hand, and at the same time to fragmentation of research and funding among and within these institutions. The duplication (or rather triplication) of efforts on the same research areas in different centres, particularly those in geographical proximity, e.g. within Kaunas, seems undesirable. Consolidation of efforts and resources would allow closer collaboration and coherent overall strategy planning for each discipline. As a result, the current structure would be rationalised and the research be conducted in a more unified manner.

On the basis of these observations, the Panel deems this situation of extreme fragmentation of the humanities in Lithuania in the short run very detrimental for the research in this discipline, and, in the long run, even not sustainable. Regarding the disciplines in which overlap is most striking, namely Lithuanian language, history, and culture, the Panel appreciates that it is obviously crucial for Lithuanian society to have enough researchers who study its language and culture in the broad sense, but it wants to raise the question whether there are not too many of them. In other fields of the humanities the situation is similar: there are too many units in the same disciplines with a critical mass which is too small to make a substantial impact on the research community, especially on an international level. Against this background, it is no wonder that the personnel structure of many units is deteriorating: besides the high number of part-timers, the problems to hire young, qualified personnel to replace retiring researchers have to be mentioned in this respect.

On the basis of this, the Panel strongly recommends that the competent authorities devise a plan for the future of the humanities in a similar way as has been done for other disciplines. In our view, this plan will have to include strategies aimed at concentration, closer cooperation and specialization of the current 24 units in the humanities, leading to less fragmentation and overlap.

### 3. Universities and research institutes

The Panel noted that there are no major differences between the research quality and quantity of the research institutes and the universities (average overall scores 3.0 versus 2.9), thereby of course taking into account the respective differences in research input. Moreover, the research niches in which these two kinds of units are active, are quite similar. Hence, a first step in reducing the above mentioned fragmentation and overlap is that the missions of these kinds of units should be differentiated. The Panel discussed the question of whether it is a good idea to keep these Institutes in place as separate institutions or to incorporate them into
the universities. The experiences and opinions of the panel members vary in this respect. Some members see the benefits of research-only positions for internationally reputed researchers, while others think that the combination of research and teaching is fruitful for both activities, because it avoids overspecialization and guarantees that students are informed about the state of the art in the research of a discipline. Anyway, all Panel members deem that the current situation of the humanities, consisting of a very high teaching load, leaving little time for research, needs to be changed, especially for the best researchers. A suggestion in this respect may be to differentiate time for research among the staff members by allotting, on a temporary basis, more research time to those researchers who have attracted external funding or under whose supervision a dissertation was completed successfully.

4. Infrastructure

The research infrastructure of most units is of a good level (an average score of 3.16 was actually the best score of all the elements that have been assessed), meaning that they are strong national players in this respect. Units have well-equipped libraries, including internet facilities and access to electronic databases, online journals etc., spacious reading rooms, and various additional facilities for specific disciplines. The researchers of some units (especially the PhD students) complained that they don’t have enough individual working space. It has to be noted that this is a general complaint among researchers in many European countries, given the fact that more and more universities opt for flexible workplaces and open-plan offices.

The Panel notes that this good infrastructure has been realized thanks to structural funding by the EU. Although these external financial means surely deserve to be welcomed, this situation also creates a problem, especially in the medium and long term. Since additional EU funding is temporal, the crucial question with which all units will be confronted is how to keep this infrastructure up to date, let alone improve it in order to become a strong international player. In the opinion of the Panel, the universities and research institutes will only be able to avoid their infrastructure becoming outdated by concentrating the necessary investments in a way which corresponds with what has been recommended above as regards the need for concentration of the units themselves.

5. A ranking system for journals and series

The Panel deems that most units rely far too much on quantitative indicators in order to prove the quality of their research performance. This conclusion is substantiated by the observations of the Panel, included in the individual reports, that the members of almost all units publish the results of their research in a great number of journals or series which are published by the units themselves (or the universities, to which they belong). Most of these journals and series have a very limited international dissemination and impact. The result of this policy is that the quantity of the research output is boosted, but that its quality remains relatively low. In order to solve this problem, the Panel advises the units to take a critical look at the number of these publications and their quality.

Moreover, the Panel strongly recommends the units to develop a ranking list of all the scientific journals, which is accepted by all units in the humanities in Lithuania. In most West-European countries, faculties of humanities have drafted lists of so-called A, B, and C-Journals on the basis of specific, internationally recognized criteria. Making use of such an instrument will enable individual researchers to improve their own ‘publication strategy’, and will make it possible for the research management to stimulate researchers to publish in top journals. A similar list, although not as widely accepted, exists for international publishing houses and series.

Of course, such lists of international journals and publishing houses are of little use for those researchers who write in Lithuanian. In some cases, e.g. research in Lithuanian language, history, and culture, there are good reasons for such a publication strategy, although in most cases there is no excuse for not publishing in one of the international academic languages, as will be argued in more detail below. Of course, some
publications in Lithuanian (or in English, but published in a Lithuanian journal or by a Lithuanian publishing house) may be of outstanding quality and worth to be read by the international academic community, and the Panel noticed that this was the case for some publications. But even then, it simply cannot be true that all these Lithuanian journals and series are of the same, internationally outstanding quality. Therefore, for the future of research in Lithuanian language, history, and culture, it is essential that the researchers of all units, active in these disciplines, develop a common ranking list of Lithuanian A, B, and C journals and publishing houses, in a similar way as the international ranking list. Such a Lithuanian list can legitimately serve as an objective indicator of quality for publications in Lithuanian. Again, this will be beneficial to the individual researchers and the research management of the units.

What has to be avoided at all costs is that no consensus about these two (international and Lithuanian) ranking lists could be reached, because this will inevitably lead to a negative judgment of the research quality in the humanities in Lithuania altogether. In sum, it is in the self-interest of the community of researchers in the humanities itself to develop generally accepted indicators of quality.

6. Internationalization and international research funding

Another general trend in the humanities is the internationalization of research. In most disciplines of the humanities, the academic debate became predominantly international a few decades ago. Against this background, it is not considered legitimate anymore to limit one’s discussion partners to Lithuania by publishing only or even mainly in Lithuanian. As becomes apparent from the recommendations to the individual units, most of them have to become far more active in various aspects of internationalization. Obviously, a prerequisite in this respect is a good proficiency in one of the international scientific languages, and this regards speaking as well as writing it; proficiency in English is of particular importance, because it has become the lingua franca of the scientific community. During the site visits, the Panel met too many researchers who were unable to communicate in either of these languages. Another aspect is outgoing as well as incoming mobility of researchers, because this will give them fresh ideas and will make it easier for them to participate in international research projects.

In this respect, research in Lithuanian language and culture is a special case. There are good reasons that at least part of the research results in this subdiscipline will continue to be published in Lithuanian. However, the Panel noted that although most of the researchers in this field are really passionate about their research, they are very pessimistic that researchers from abroad would be interested in Lithuanian language and culture. Another argument for focusing exclusively on the Lithuanian situation was that this is a fast changing country, which has only recently emerged from ‘colonization’ and thus is still in a relatively introspective phase. Although understandable, the Panel does not think these arguments to be legitimate in the present situation, let alone in the future. Against this background, the Panel advises to use research in Lithuanian language and culture not so much as a defensive strategy to stave off the need to publish internationally, but to be true ambassadors of Lithuanian language and culture in other countries. By presenting a specific aspect of Lithuanian language or culture as a case in point in the international debate, a new light can be shed on old problems, so that, eventually, researchers from abroad will become interested in Lithuanian studies.

Of course, changing the current situation and mentality will take time, but as a start, units in Lithuania could cooperate with units in the other Baltic States and/or countries in Central and Eastern Europe, which are active in the same niche, and create research consortia. By establishing these, units can not only learn from each other’s best practices, but also create a common scientific community, which will be helpful to improve the quality and international character of their research. In particular, these consortia will enable these units to improve the training and international scope of their PhD students, set up joint, high-ranking journals, and help them in becoming more aware of their own ‘niche’. As will be remarked more in detail below, complying with these suggestions requires a far more active role of the research management.
Many researchers told the Panel that they need high level administrative assistance in order to apply for European research grants (Horizon 2020 etc.). Many faculties of humanities in Western Europe have so-called external funding officers, who are specialized in advising researchers to improve the quality of their (international) research proposals, and are well informed about the details of most (international) research grants, so that they can advise the researchers which kind of grant is particularly suited for a given proposal.

Because of the very specialized expertise that is required, the Panel advises the units to pool their needs and to share the costs of hiring this expertise. Further advice in this respect is that the Research Council of Lithuania reserves money (500,000 to 800,000 € per project) for funding very competitive and hence high quality research projects in Lithuania, involving a principal investigator, a post-doc and a number of PhD students. In the opinion of the Panel, such a measure will enable the best Lithuanian researchers to improve their research, and prepare them for the very fierce competition on a European level. In most West-European countries, national research councils have implemented such a policy successfully, and it has contributed to the improvement of the research quality of most units.

7. Ph.d. Students

A major point of concern are the group of PhD students, because out of these young researchers future senior researchers will be recruited. The Panel noted that, in the period under review, almost all dissertations were written in Lithuanian. Also the topics were mostly about Lithuanian issues, except for the faculty of theology of Kaunas University which performs in this regard better than the others. In the meetings with the PhD students it became evident that many of them see it almost as their patriotic duty to study Lithuanian themes and write in Lithuanian. They also think that nobody outside Lithuania would be interested in their topics and this is further reason why they don't write in English.

Although the Panel understands that Lithuania has a long tradition of writing dissertations in Lithuanian, it is imperative that the current situation changes in the short run, especially because it is detrimental to the attractiveness of Lithuanian research institutes to (high-profile) international PhD students. In order to change this situation, the supervisors have an important responsibility: they should encourage their students to write in English and to choose topics that deal with non-Lithuanian matters or at least relate a Lithuanian topic to the ongoing international academic discussion. The current situation is not only detrimental for the PhD students and the other young researchers (post-docs) themselves, since it cuts them off from the international academic discussion and seriously diminishes their international job prospects, but it is also disadvantageous for the units themselves, since dissertations are one of the best ways to explicate the profile and niche of research of a unit internationally.

Moreover, given the relatively small size of Lithuania and the number of subfields in the humanities, it is advisable to organize more cooperation in the training of PhD-students between the units in various Central and Eastern European countries. The internationalization of PhD-training and research in the humanities will also make it easier for the units to attract post-docs and other senior researchers from abroad.

8. Research Management

On the basis of the self-assessment reports of the units and the site visits the Panel notes that research management in the humanities in Lithuania is still underdeveloped. In many cases it is limited to executing the orders of the central management of the university. However, throughout Europe, research units are stimulated to define the focus and niches of their research, and the management of these units, in its turn, encourages the individual researchers to (re-)direct their research in accordance with the unit’s research strategy, and to invest their expertise in joint research projects. This trend, which has been in vogue for quite some time in the physical, medical, and social sciences, is spreading to the humanities as well. Although quite a lot of researchers in the humanities have their doubts about the benefits of this policy, it is, from the perspective of the unit as a whole, the only way to create a research profile and a sufficient critical mass, to
differentiate from its (international) competitors, to increase its impact, and, last not but least, to attract external funding. In order to realize this, the research management of the units should become far more active; in particular, the management should devise and implement, on the basis of a yearly SWOT-analysis, plans and strategies to maintain and improve the quality, profile, critical mass, etc. of its unit, and adjust its hiring policy in accordance with it. But this presupposes that universities enable and facilitate the research management of the units to play such a role, and that they train them in order to fulfil this task. Because of the specific historical situation of the humanities in this respect, it is worth considering the option to organize and coordinate such a training on a national level.

9. Languages as auxiliary disciplines

A number of units are specialized in teaching foreign languages to students, majoring in another discipline (e.g. law, economics, medicine etc.). Most Western European universities have similar so-called ‘language centers’. The work of the staff of these centers is vital for the internationalization of the students, not only in order to do research in an international context, but also for their study (especially Erasmus-exchange) and their professional opportunities in general. But, unlike in Lithuania, none of the staff-members of these language centers in Western Europe is supposed to do research. Moreover, it turned out that the research of these units was rather poor in comparison to the regular language departments in universities, and was, in many cases, limited to improving the teaching of their students. Hence, the Panel recommends that the competent authorities reconsider the obligation for these specific units to do research.

10. Administrative burdens

The staff members, and especially the management of all units complained of the enormous administrative burden of too many evaluations and assessments of their study-programs and their research (including the evaluation of how external funding is being used). Some units had to fill out forms and write self-assessment reports for no less than six assessments/evaluations in 2014. The Panel deems that this is really too much, because, in this way, the evaluation of research is becoming more important than the research itself. Hence, the Panel recommends that the evaluation (or re-accreditation) of study-programs is limited to once every five years and that the evaluation for research takes place only twice, i.e. half-way and at the end of the project.

11. The assessment of the individual disciplines

Due to the extreme fragmentation of Lithuanian research in the humanities and the great internal heterogeneity of the units themselves, as well as the fact that, in the case of research in Lithuanian language, culture, and history, international benchmarking is almost impossible, the Panel is unable to highlight the range of performance of specific fields of research and identify specific areas of high and low performance per subdiscipline. By and large, the conclusion of the Panel is that those units, which work in a well-defined niche, which are able to focus the energy of a major part of their researchers on the questions, closely linked to these niches, and which, last but not least, are embedded in international research networks, also involving the training of their PhD students, perform better than the other ones. By implementing such a strategy, they even can compensate to some extent for the lack of critical mass. The Panel is confident that the scores and the comments of the individual units will enable the competent authorities to identify specific units who perform better than other ones and which areas of research are most competitive internationally.