



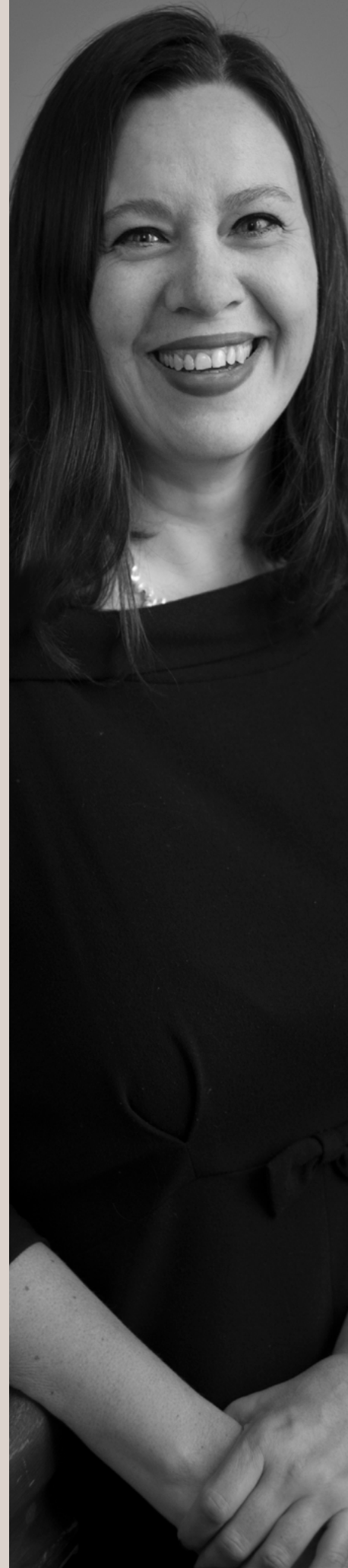
**OPEN LITHUANIA
FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT
FOR 2022**



The end of the pandemic, the onset of military aggression in the region, economic uncertainty, unprecedented levels of inflation, and rising energy prices – in just a year, Lithuanian society has experienced not only shock and increasing financial anxiety, but also an unparalleled sense of unity. However, the huge gap between different societal groups, which became apparent during the pandemic, still remains, exacerbated by a wave of radicalism brought by the war.

Given the increasing polarisation of opinions and beliefs as well as societal division, the role of the Open Lithuania Foundation has become more important than ever – only democratic principles, respect for fundamental human rights, giving voice and power to marginalised and discriminated groups of society, and a polylogue culture can bring back to society a means to communicate and listen. These critical years have brought us together and made us stronger: we created new programmes, projects, and civic initiatives, while the organisation's financial stability, ensured by the efforts of our entire team, has allowed us to continue on our mission of creating an open and democratic civil society.

Sandra Adomavičiūtė
CEO of the Open Lithuania Foundation



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ABOUT THE OPEN LITHUANIA FOUNDATION

Funding attracted throughout 2022

€ 2,7 MLN.

FOR WINNING THE GRANT UNDER THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S EU VALUES PROGRAMME

The 2023-2025 programme will be dedicated to strengthening the capacities of small non-governmental regional organisations and financing their small-scale projects.

€ 41 000

FOR THE YOUTH PROGRAMME FROM ERASMUS+

We assembled a team of young activists who will seek to involve young people from their hometowns in civic processes through various activities.

€ 61 600

FOR OTHER PROJECTS

€ 163 000

FOR "COVIDEMOCRACY IN THE BALTIC STATES" FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The project aims to stimulate public debate about the impact of COVID-19 on the quality of democracy and human rights in the Baltic states and to find practical solutions for strengthening the resilience of civil society.

€ 75 000

FOR UKREATE HUB FROM THE OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE (OSIFE)

UKREATE Hub is a civic space for active Ukrainians, their projects and initiatives.

€ 3,04 MLN.

In total, we have attracted EUR 3,04 million for various projects aimed at strengthening civil society

TURNOVER		TEAM	
2021 m.	2022 m.	2021 m.	2022 m.
Revenue € 337 600	Revenue € 1 571 392	4 employees	10 employees at the end of 2022
Expenses € 369 200	Expenses € 271 820		

ACTIVE CITIZENS FUND

Iceland 
Liechtenstein
Norway **Active
citizens fund**

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

CONSOLIDATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

ADVOCACY

In 2022, the Active Citizens Fund – a three-year programme for non-governmental organisations working with vulnerable groups and promoting active citizenship – reached its halfway point. With their intensive work throughout the year, non-governmental organisations that received funding under the programme undoubtedly made their mark in the public space. At the end of 2022, their impact was visible not only on legislation and public opinion, but also the well-being of vulnerable groups.

The Active Citizens Fund is a programme financed by the EEA and Norway Grants, allocating EUR 9,6 million to non-governmental organisations in Lithuania.

Together with our partners the OSFL Projects and Geri Norai LT, we administer the fund by selecting and evaluating various projects as well as overseeing their implementation.

We shared the results and achievements of these projects in a dedicated newsletter, which we sent to our local and foreign partners and project managers.



The position of Sandra Adomavičiūtė, CEO of the Open Lithuania Foundation, on the importance of active communities, which was published in Lithuania's largest weekly newspaper *Savaitė*



WHAT'S THE OUTCOME?

196

financed NGOs

30 387

people involved in NGO activities of which

20 484

were women

26 674

people who participated in civic activities through digital means

393

people who participated in consultations with public institutions

25

awareness-raising campaigns organised by NGOs

1441

people educated about civic rights and participation

824

volunteers of which

746

were women

84

partnerships between NGOs and educational organisations on civic education topics

6 921

residents informed about human rights and civic engagement issues

18

national policies and laws influenced by NGOs

29

NGO initiatives aimed at monitoring transparency and accountability of public authorities

3320

people informed about human rights and equal treatment

26

NGOs working on gender equality or gender-based violence

44

new or improved services for vulnerable groups

132

people involved in bilateral cooperation initiatives

PROJECT EXAMPLES

One of the goals and success indicators of a programme is the number of people who actively use digital tools that organisations create to promote civic participation.

In 2022, nearly 27,000 residents used digital tools to participate in civic activities.



One such example is the “Citizens’ Platform” created by Socialinis veiksmas to strengthen civic engagement through volunteering. The online platform www.savaplatforma.lt connects organisations and people who want to volunteer.



The platform also offers a system for registering and planning volunteer flows, exchanging information, etc. Organisations can post volunteer listings on the platform, while people can use it to find organisations that best match their interests and register to volunteer there.



The project attracted nearly 900 new volunteers, who spent over 1,200 hours volunteering in regional parks, orphanages, food banks, and other NGOs, and helping people with disabilities.



The ideas of volunteering and proper management of volunteering processes were also highlighted in special podcasts and articles.

HAVEN'T VOLUNTEERED YET?

[Try the volunteering platform](http://www.savaplatforma.lt)

www.savaplatforma.lt





NGO CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

NGO ACADEMY

NGO HOUR

The NGO Academy is the only long-term capacity-building programme in Lithuania designed for NGO teams to develop competencies necessary for sustainable activities. The NGO Academy offers long-term learning opportunities aimed at enabling participants to become agents of change in their organisations and communities, and organisations to carry out their missions and become important partners in local public policy decision-making processes.

The academy aims to strengthen all key areas of an organisation through knowledge sharing, capacity building and reforming attitudes.

This includes strategic planning, financial literacy and stability, communication, staff retention, and community mobilisation.

The sessions are focused on finding solutions to specific challenges that exist within the organisation, creating a safe space for testing them and consulting.

“The changes that the first graduates of the NGO Academy achieved after finishing the programme are substantial: they increased their range of services, budget, and the number of members/volunteers. Most importantly, in addition to knowledge and skills, representatives of non-governmental organisations gained more self-confidence and assurance in the importance of their work for the community. They are now able to clearly articulate the impact and value of their work to society. All active participants in this learning process are bound to see both qualitative and quantitative change.”



Živilė Kubilienė
Capacity Building
Programme Manager
at the Open Lithuania
Foundation

NGO ACADEMY ACTIVITIES IN 2022

9

The “NGO Academy. Social Leaders Programme” was completed by 9 organisations (21 participants)

8

The “NGO Academy. Social Entrepreneurship Programme” was completed by 8 organisations (20 participants)

6

The NGO Academy consists of 6 training modules, totalling 84 hours of training.

84



On the national radio programme “[Vardan Tos](#)”, the NGO Academy Director Živilė Kubilienė spoke about why it is important to strengthen the NGO sector, how NGOs contribute to strengthening civic engagement, and how the role of NGOs is changing in Lithuania.



3 HOURS ON RELEVANT TOPICS

ADVOCACY IN PRACTICE

The conversation covered the tips and tricks for successful advocacy, as well as the most effective advocacy practices that could be applied by NGOs.



WHY DOESN'T THE PUBLIC LISTEN TO NGO LEADERS?

An informational hour on the importance, goals, and benefits of public speaking. Neringa Bliūdžiūtė is a public speaking expert and founder of the communication and strategy consulting agency W.O.W., who has been helping others to communicate to leaders, organisations and states both abroad and in Lithuania for more than 17 years.



HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PREPARE FOR THE 1.2% INCOME TAX ALLOCATION CAMPAIGN?

How to quickly and resourcefully prepare for the 1.2% personal income tax campaign? What "homework" needs to be done and what should you focus on in order to attract these donations?





PUBLIC EDUCATION

CIVIC ACTIVISM

PROMOTION OF OPEN SOCIETY VALUES

VALUE-BASED PROJECTS

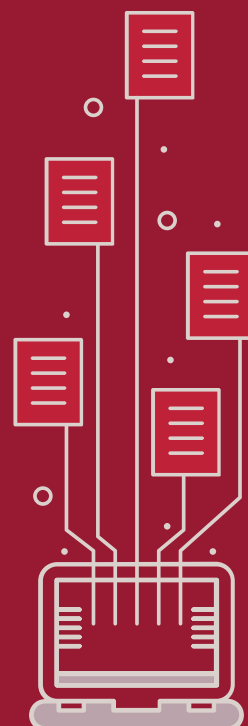
Project “Manage the COVID crisis with Care, reasOn, Values, unIty, soliDarity” (CARE On)

“COVID IN EDUCATION”

we collected five inspiring stories that happened during the pandemic in the field of education and presented them in the electronic publication **„Stories of Goodness”**



[Read the article about the project results here](#)



YOUTH PROGRAMME “RETURNS”

We gathered a group of active young people and launched a youth civic participation and engagement programme “Returns”.

By bringing together young activists and giving them the freedom to act, we hope to encourage youth participation and involvement in civic activities.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR “HEARING THE OTHER”

The international seminar was held in Krasnogruda, Poland, in 2021. The participating organisations established close collaboration and already in 2022 carried out joint projects.

The Lithuanian Jewish community and the Polish organisation Fundacja w Stronę Dialogu held workshops with Lithuanian Jewish and Krakow Roma experts on today’s challenges of historical memory and discrimination as well as presented the rich history and culture of Polish/Lithuanian Jews and Roma.



TRANSITION DIALOGUE

We invited teachers to a seminar specifically designed for them called “Enabling visual objects in lessons on the transitional period”.

Teachers were able to try practical educational methods based on constructivism and conceptual learning, as well as create educational classroom activities aimed at understanding specific phenomena and contextualising the transitional period (the last decade of the 20th century).

VOICES FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Together with partners, we have been facilitating the constructive input of civil society from Central and Eastern Europe in discussions about the long-term vision for Europe. Our goal is to involve communities in preparing constructive proposals and creating scenarios for the future of Europe from a civil society perspective. We do this by organising discussions, seminars, and consultations.



HELPING UKRAINE AND UKRAINIANS

When the Russian aggression against Ukraine began, the Open Lithuania Foundation offered assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to Lithuania, who work in the fields of education, culture, and public information. A group of active Ukrainian women, together with the team of the Open Lithuania Foundation, laid the foundations for the Ukrainian civic space UKREATE Hub.

Since March, the Open Lithuania Foundation has provided premises for active Ukrainians, participated in advocacy activities to improve access to education, and helped to prepare applications for the EEA bilateral cooperation fund, which in 2022 facilitated the development of Ukrainian initiatives from the ground up. This gave birth to projects such as TULA, Democratic Teacher Education, and Rethink Ukraine.

Svitlana Zaluzhna
*activist and mother of three
from Ukraine, collaborator
of the Open Lithuania
Foundation*



TULA = UA+LT

Uniting Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania with Lithuanians, the project focuses on integration and cultural enrichment. Educational events, cultural projects, and other activities allowed Ukrainian families immerse themselves in cultural exchange and shared experiences.



UKREATE HUB

From idea to reality. Having analysed the situation and identified what Ukrainians that relocated to Lithuania were lacking, we decided to establish UKREATE Hub. It is a civic space for Ukrainians where they can develop their projects, apply for and receive funding. The hub's main goal is to strengthen Ukrainian civil society and empower Ukrainians to become catalysts for change in this area.



DEMOCRATIC TEACHER EDUCATION

It is a joint project between Lithuania, Poland, Israel, and Ukraine, aimed at ensuring a smooth integration of refugee children into schools and the learning process. Teachers shared their experiences on how to include children in the classroom, overcome the language barrier, and ensure emotional safety.





FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

INCOME

RECIEVED FUNDS AND THEIR SOURCES DURING 2022

AMOUNT, €

1	Other sources	34 052
2	OSIFE	80 064
3	Agency of Youth Affairs	16 400
4	European Commission	1 104 129
5	EEA-Norwegian Financial Mechanism Office	298 800
6	ACF Bilateral Cooperation and Regional Civil Society Initiatives Fund	37 947
Viso:		1 571 392

EXPENSES

Programs and activities

SUMA, €

1	APF administration	159 649
2	NGO Academy	35 470
3	Regional and bilateral cooperation initiatives	29 388
4	Other projects	47 313
Viso:		271 820

Funds distributed and administered (in partnership with “OSFL projects”) for the implementation of ACF projects:

EUR 2 214 738