

JCDecaux

"A policy of freedom for the individual is the only truly progressive policy"

Friedrich August von Hayek

Rimas uždirba 2 500 Lt „į rankas“.



MOKESČIAI
NUO ATLYGINIMO -

1815

Lt

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The Lithuanian Free Market Institute 2014 Year in Review

President's address

Last year was a very important period for the institute. We started a new initiative *I Pay Taxes (Moku mokesčius)* and developed and introduced a new tax calculator www.mokumokescius.lt. For the first time, Lithuanian taxpayers are provided with detailed tax-related information and over 50,000 people have already calculated how much they pay in taxes and what their money is used for. In fact, even more citizens learnt about their taxes from the media.

This means that thousands of people realised what the actual tax burden is. They have started to critically evaluate political rhetoric that Lithuania is a country with low taxes that must be increased. We distributed over a thousand informational posters among Lithuanian enterprises, as well as two hundred on bus stops in the biggest Lithuanian cities. This allowed us to reach our ultimate goal of informing 200,000 taxpayers.

Also, the *Lithuanian Municipal Index* became one of the most accurate assessments of local governments and received the prestigious *Templeton Freedom Award*, awarded by the *Atlas Network* (USA). Can an Institute of a small country win against Americans at their own game? What we mean are the never-ending basketball games between Lithuania and the USA.

The scope of our plans for 2015 is even greater. *I Pay Taxes* and the *Lithuanian Municipal Index* are being shared and implemented in other countries. The analysis *Shadow Economy in Lithuania* is expanding to cover Sweden, Poland, Latvia, Estonia and Belarus. Another new initiative for citizens and communities, *Let's Agree*, is bound to be launched in order to teach us how to engage in sound and meaningful discussions and reach peaceful and constructive agreements with other community members. Also, after a year of testing in 28 schools, our textbook *Ekonomika per 31 valandą* will spread to schools and bookstores across Lithuania.



However, it does not mean that everything is fine. Lithuania is threatened by the show of military force in the East and Europe is being blackmailed by populist parties that became political powers by expressing anger and making promises. Sadly, the opponents of free thought in Lithuania found new ways of promoting their ideas.

"Keep Calm and Carry On" is a rediscovered motivational British poster from 1939. Do what you know, what is efficient and what is necessary. Our team will continue to follow these principles in 2015.

Žilvinas Šilėnas,
LFMI President

Lithuanian Free Market Institute

The Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI) is a private non-profit and non-partisan organization established in 1990 to promote the ideas of individual freedom and responsibility, free market, and limited government intervention.

We are grateful to the Board of LFMI for their support and advices

Since 2002, the Board of LFMI serves as an advisory body which upholds our mission and contributes to its success by evaluating ongoing initiatives and contributing ideas for new projects.

Members of the LFMI Board:

Elena Leontjeva, founder of LFMI

LLRI tarybos nariai –

Gintautas Bartkus, *Baltic Legal Solutions Lithuania*

Vytautas Bučas, *Invalda Private Capital*

Giedrius Dusevičius, *Swedbank*

Arturas Feiferas, *Kapital Bank*

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Dainius Pupkevičius, *KPMG Baltics*

Prof Dr Paulius Vaidotas Subačius, *Vilnius University, Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Science*

Egidija Vaicekauskienė, *Nematekas*

International recognition

No1 We are happy that our work was recognized globally when LMFI was awarded the *Templeton Freedom Award* and received a monetary prize of \$100,000 for its *Lithuanian Municipal Performance Index*. This annual award recognizes the most exceptional contribution to the promotion of prosperity, creation of welfare, and protection of people's freedom.



New Posts Most Popular Links Video 2 Free Issues of Forbes

History provides many examples where small countries, like Switzerland or Holland, or even cities and city states like Athens and Venice in the past, and Hong Kong and Singapore today, offer valuable lessons to the world. Indirect means to help the poor, such as protecting property rights, free trade, improved educational opportunities, can help raise people out of poverty. Can Lithuania become one of these examples for the world? If it has a chance it will be thanks to the work of an outstanding think tank, the [Lithuanian Free Market Institute \(LFMI\)](#).



A surprised Zilbina Šimona (Lithuanian Free Market Institute) receiving the 2014 Templeton Freedom Award from Jennifer Templeton Stepan, the Museum (Lithuanian Institute) past vice on the occasion. Photo credit: Atlas Network

A few words about Lithuania. During the late 14th century, the kingdom of Lithuania stretched from the Baltic to the Black Sea, just bordering Crimea. Today, it is slightly larger than West Virginia and slightly smaller than the Republic of Georgia. The income per capita is higher than that of Russia or neighboring Poland, and higher than that of any Latin American countries. But with a GDP that is less than 3 percent of that of Russia its power is more due to the example of its civil society than as a geopolitical force.

My first encounter with Lithuanians was at the time when they were struggling to become the first "Soviet Republic" to achieve its independence. They declared independence on March 11, 1991, but the Soviets did not immediately recognize it. In April 1990, Saul Anuzis, a leader of Lithuanian descent in the Republican Party of Michigan, arranged for a visit of Lithuanian freedom champions. Russian troops and



No 10 According to the *Global Go to Think Tank Index* of 2015 published by the University of Pennsylvania (USA), LFMI is ranked among Top 10 think tanks in Central and Eastern Europe. The index rates a total of 6,826 think tanks and we are 121st in the global ranking.

The Education Centre

Since 2012 our Education Centre is responsible for numerous educational initiatives for pupils and students. The centre publishes textbooks about the economy, provides courses for teachers, as well as invites pupils to online courses and organizes learning sessions for students.



"I am confident that the most ambitious educational project of the last years, the textbook *Ekonomika per 31 valandą*, will be a huge success! Over a thousand pupils and 28 teachers from all around Lithuania helped us develop it."



Marija Vyšniauskaitė,
Head of Education Centre

Ieva Navickaitė,
Coordinator

"Our teaching course *Realistinė ekonomikos analizė* has received unprecedented attention and we could not accept everyone who wanted to enroll! We promise to find a bigger classroom in order to continue this exclusive course in 2015."



A new generation textbook, *Ekonomika per 31 valandą* for effective lessons of economics

The most ambitious educational project of LFMI, a textbook about the economy for Lithuanian schools is finally finished. It received positive reviews from such well-known educator as Dr Austėja Landsbergienė and other reviewers. Therefore, the book has been officially included into the list of recommended literature for schools. An improved version of the book and a teacher's book will be available for the majority of schools in Lithuania by autumn of 2015. We will present *Ekonomika per 31 valandą* in the biggest annual educational event in Lithuania – the exhibition *MOKYKLA (SCHOOL)*.



“Why on earth did we not have these textbooks when I was still in school?!” says educational specialist Austėja Landsbergienė about our textbook *Ekonomika per 31 valandą*.

We share our ideas of how to make economics lessons interesting

In 2014 LFMI President Žilvinas Šilėnas and the Head of Education Centre Marija Vyšniauskaitė organized a creative workshop for teachers of economics from Alytus, Panevėžys and Telšiai regions. Representatives of LFMI and fifty teachers had a discussion about economy, the motivation to study economics, as well as created valuable lessons and made an attempt to solve real problems.



LFMI experts – lecturers and teachers of economics

In 2014 a senior policy analyst of LFMI, Vytautas Žukauskas started teaching a course on Normative Economics at ISM University of Management and Economics. Another senior policy analyst Kataena Leontjeva has already been teaching a Catholic Social Teaching course at Kolping University of Applied Sciences in Kaunas for three years.

***Ekonomika aktyviai* – courses for those who would like to find out why printing more money does not bring a better life**

We have been trying to teach pupils critical thinking, as well as persuading them to take a keen interest in the economy for six years. In our course, pupils learn the basics of economics by reading current texts online, researching contemporary issues of the country and the world, doing interactive tasks, and even writing on *Facebook* or taking *selfies*. A huge number of 500 pupils have registered for the course in 2014.

The final event of the course, a quiz competition, gathered over 40 pupils from all around Lithuania. The best junior economists were invited to LFMI's camp to play sports games, sing around the camp fire and discuss economy-related issues together with guest lecturers. The head of *Alna Group*, Tomas Milaknis shared his ideas about building a successful and responsible business, LFMI President Žilvinas Šilėnas discussed the *South Park* series from an economic perspective, and film director Marija Razgutė invited pupils to watch a movie and discuss the peculiarities of bureaucratic procedures. The course can be accessed at www.ekonomika-aktyviai.lt

***Realistic Economic Analysis* attracted a record-breaking number of participants**

For the seventh time, *Realistic Economic Analysis* attracted 116 students, lecturers and other professionals. Five exceptional lecturers: Dr Steven Horwitz (USA), historian Prof Dr Egidijus Aleksandravičius, Dr Ramūnas Vilpišauskas, MP Remigijus Šimašius and economist Vytautas Žukauskas, were eager to broaden the general understanding of economy and reveal unexpected relationships between social sciences.

*“The economy theory, the history of your country, the global situation and business conditions make a perfect combination. The relevance of the issues discussed is what makes *Realistic Economic Analysis* important. I would like to thank you for this amazing event”* says a participant of the course.



INITIATIVES

Our long term initiatives aim to educate society and encourage positive changes in the country's governance. The success of our mission is brought by exhaustive research and active communication with both, the media and the society.

"By introducing an easy-to-use tax calculator, *mokumokescius.lt*, we provided a tool for Lithuanian workers to learn how much taxes they pay and what their money is used for. We are delighted by the success of this initiative and are very happy that society finds it useful.

"Many social and economic decisions depend on the answer to the question, "What is the role of the entrepreneur in the society?" Even a country's productivity and the prosperity of its people depend on it.

"We rate municipalities, because the more they are concerned about their efficiency, and the stronger the competition between them is, the better it is for people and business."



Kaetana Leontjeva
on the initiative *I Pay Taxes*



Žilvinas Šilėnas
on the initiative *Entrepreneur's Role in Society*

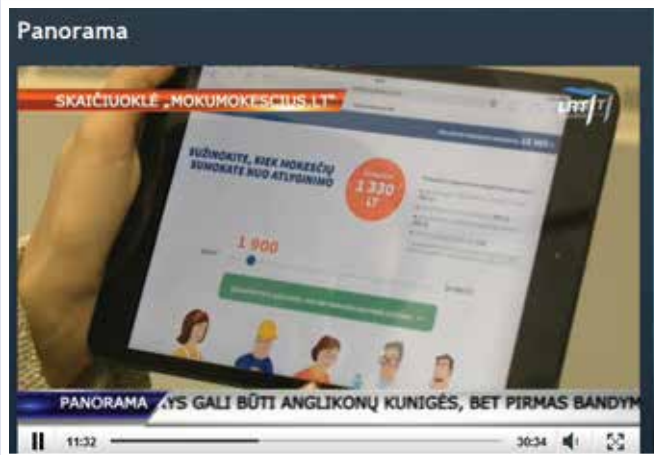


Vytautas Žukauskas
on *Lithuanian Municipal Performance Index*

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I Pay Taxes

Everyone pays taxes while earning wages, buying food or filling a fuel tank. However, do we really know what we are paying for? Can we honestly say how much taxes we pay monthly or annually? In 2014 LFMI introduced a new educational initiative *I Pay Taxes* in order to create an easy and attractive tax calculator, to show people what taxes and how much money they pay and, to acquaint them with expenses of the country.



40,000 taxpayers used *mokumokescius.lt* calculator in the first two weeks

Just after the launch, our unique tax calculator, which calculates how much tax a person pays from his wages and, through consumption of goods and services that are (not) subject to excise duties, attracted much attention of the society. The calculator provides a personal tax receipt for each taxpayer, as well as indicating where the money goes.

Articles and interactive advertising in the best news portal

In cooperation with the biggest news portal *delfi.lt*, we have introduced our tax calculator to its readers who were able to count their taxes while reading the portal. Also, an interactive advertisement helped to attract the readers to learn about the taxes they pay. We are sincerely grateful to *delfi.lt* for this huge surge of visitors!



100 publications in the media

Both, national and regional media were interested in the calculator. By the end of this year, our project has appeared in articles, interviews, commentaries and other publications about 100 times. In order to raise people's awareness regarding the money they give away as taxes, we participated in various radio and TV shows about taxes, budget and its usage: LRT TV broadcasts *Labas rytas, Lietuva* and *Laba diena, Lietuva*, LNK TV show *Valanda su Rūta*, INIT TV show *Nuomonės* and radio broadcasts of *Laisvoji banga* and *Žinių radijas*.

Bus stop posters in seven Lithuanian cities

The poster heroes Vida and Rimas invited residents of seven Lithuanian cities (Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Alytus, Panevėžys, Šiauliai and Marijampolė) to calculate their own tax burden.

Posters for 500 enterprises

Almost 500 enterprises received informative posters regarding the taxes paid from earning wages.

Not only in Lithuanian

After launching the calculator we received numerous requests to add more languages thus it is also available in Russian. To add, our partners from the news portal *ru.delfi.lt* provided their readers with the ability to calculate their own tax burden while reading the portal.

LFMI invites citizens to find out what happens to their income

LFMI President Žilvinas Šilėnas and senior policy analyst Kataena Leontjeva invited the residents of Birštonas and Pakruojis to test the calculator, to find out what taxes are imposed in Lithuania and to calculate their personal tax burden.

A booklet on taxes and expenses for citizens and MPs

In a very simple and clear manner, our booklet on taxes reveals the real situation of Lithuania's public finances: the amount of taxes and expenses and the burden of debt and interest for the current and future generations. The booklet was distributed among citizens and libraries, as well as given to each member of the Parliament so that they would realize what the present tax burden is and have less temptation to raise taxes. All facts were also presented for *delfi.lt* readers.



Municipal Performance Index

The *Municipal Performance Index* attracted the attention of citizens, municipalities, and media for the fourth time. The index measures how well municipalities ensure the economic freedom of people. Our mission is to help municipalities self evaluate, as well as learn from each other. We promote change and development to make life better, easier, and more efficient for every Lithuanian municipality.



Klaipėda city and Kaunas region – the leaders of 2014

In the end of 2014 the results of the *Municipal Performance Index* were published for the fourth time. The city of Klaipėda scored the highest among seven city municipalities whereas the Kaunas region municipality finished in the first place from 53 country municipalities. The index is available at www.lfri.lt/lietuvos-savivaldybiu-indeksas-2014

Recognized globally

Our *Municipal Performance Index* was awarded a prestigious *Templeton Freedom Award* (USA) and a monetary prize of \$100,000. This award honours the most outstanding contribution to the promotion of the freedom of individual activity. Among this year's eight finalists were think tanks from Denmark, Lithuania, Mexico, and the USA.

Brad Lips (CEO of the Atlas Network) said that the *Lithuanian Municipal Performance Index* epitomizes the main idea of this award, because it is a credible research with practical implications which ensure individual's freedom to act.

The most famous research

Just as every year, the *Lithuanian Municipal Performance Index* became the focus of the national and regional media and appeared in it over 400 times. Since the index also promotes discussions, politicians, journalists and citizens debate about governing municipalities and whether the economic freedom properly reflects the results of municipalities. Since the first publication, the index emphasizes individual's freedom to act as the main prerequisite of prosperity, and we hope that these discussions will turn into making a better life.



"LFMI's methods may be questioned, but it does not mean that their *Municipal Performance Index* does not reflect the reality. No one prevents from creating other indexes that would emphasize life quality rather than economic freedom. The more mirrors to observe yourself, the clearer the view" says editor and journalist Arūnas Brazauskas.

Lithuanian municipalities sinking further into debt

The index revealed a dangerous tendency of Lithuanian municipalities to sink further into debt. According to the index, 42 Lithuanian municipalities were in debt in 2013. Despite that, some positive tendencies emerged. For example, municipalities started to refuse abandoned buildings and unnecessary businesses such as municipal funeral homes. In 2013 the number of municipal funeral homes and bookstores decreased from eight to four and from sixteen to thirteen, respectively.

The most important event of the year for both, mayors and cities

The *Lithuanian Municipal Index* became the biggest event for Lithuanian municipalities. The index results are reflected in annual mayor's reports, as well as in media reviews. Ten mayors of Lithuania shared their accomplishments recognized by the index in 2013. The first reports for 2014 also indicate that the results of the index are considered to be of serious value.

Active discussions on investment in municipalities

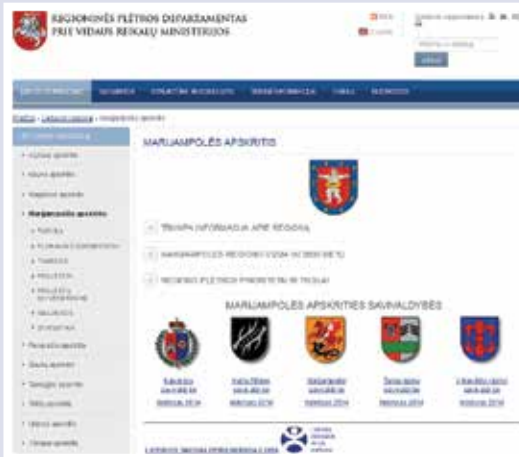
Last year LFMI experts delivered presentations and discussed about business conditions in the regions of Pakruojis, Akmenė, Raseiniai, Šilutė, Radviliškis, Elektrėnai and Birštonas. LFMI President Žilvinas Šilėnas presented reports on the investment attraction and cooperation with the private sector and Laurynas Rekašius introduced the results and the assessment criteria of the index. While visiting seven Lithuanian municipalities, LFMI analysts had discussions with over 200 municipal employees.

The index is also used by the Government

When introducing Marijampolė region, the *Regional Development Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs* refers to the LFMI's evaluation of municipalities. The index is also positively evaluated by the *Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania*.



Iš skolos brenda ne tik valstybė: kaip sekasi savivaldybėms? »
2014-12-11 / 11:42 — LRT.lt



“I am very happy that this index exists, that this kind of research is conducted for a several years now and that the Lithuanian Free Market Institute, I would say, is engaged in a constructive and successful cooperation with municipalities. This is a huge help and support.” says Rasa Žakaitienė, director of the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania.



The Role of Entrepreneurs in Society

In 2014 LFMI finished its initiative *The Role of Entrepreneurs in Society* which lasted for over three years. The faith in building a better future from a better understanding of businessmen role in economy and their contribution to the public welfare is what encouraged us to take active steps in launching this initiative.



A businessman is like an antidote for the cocktail of Marxist ideas

What do businessmen do? Do they contribute to the public welfare or seek for a personal benefit only? Published in 2014, *Verslininko vaidmuo* presents articles by philosopher Ayn Rand and famous economists such as Ludwig von Mises and Israel Kirzner who discuss the entrepreneurs' role in the society. The book was presented in *Vilnius Book Fair* and in *Verslo žinios* and *BzN Start* publications.

Our lectures and seminars

Our interesting and exhaustive research and our different approach towards business and entrepreneurs ensure that we are always welcomed to present our findings and teach. For example, a youth organization *JCI Lithuania* invited LFMI President Žilvinas Šilėnas to teach a course *Užaugęs būsi verslus*. Participants were debating whether it is bad to make profit, do entrepreneurs predict the future, etc.

“This is an evident and optimistic result, because Lithuanians already understand what a business is and that a country does not create the economical growth itself. Entrepreneurs are the economic engine that drives the economy forward” says Vaidas Šalaševičius about the results of the LFMI research on the attitude towards entrepreneurs.

The initiative briefly

1 detailed study of citizens' attitude towards entrepreneurs.

100 participants of the International conference *Verslininko įvaizdis: koks ir kodėl*.

7 talk shows on LRT television in the broadcast *Labas rytas, Lietuva*.

24 videos received for the video contest *leškome inovatyvumo versle*.

12 advertisements of the social cycle in 12 Lithuanian cities.

100 articles, commentaries and reports in the media about the role of entrepreneurs.

GOVERNMENT WATCH

Every week LFMI thoroughly examines draft legislations and sends its observations and proposals to government institutions. It is much easier to stop the Government from making wrong legislative decisions than to change laws later. LFMI also encourages the Government to make reforms in the areas of social security, health care, taxes and others.



Vytautas Žukauskas,
senior policy analyst

"From now on, as members of the Euro-zone we have to ensure that reliability and long-term stability of the euro would not be sacrificed to help countries in-debt or rebuild their economies."



Žilvinas Šilėnas,
LFMI President

"The Government is too busy participating in the business of power engineering to think about consumers."

"A person himself has to choose the medical institution he wants to be treated in."



Kaetana Leontjeva,
vyresnioji ekspertė



Associate experts (from the left):
Remigijus Senavaitis, Eglė Užmiškytė,
Dovilė Sujetaitė, Dominykas Šumskis

Reducing the tax burden

In our vision, Lithuania must be the lowest taxed European country and LFMI constantly provides arguments in favour of decreasing the tax burden in Lithuania, as well as presents the possibilities to reach a balanced budget and economical ways of using it.



Towards the immovable property tax

We actively oppose the reduction of tax-free real estate value from one million to 750,000 Lit. Just after introducing the tax, LFMI stated that the Government will certainly try to expand the circle of taxpayers. It is a shame that the Government decided to move further and our prediction became the reality in 2014.

Government shall not monitor citizens' bank accounts

In 2014 the Government made an attempt to validate unrestricted monitoring of citizens' bank accounts and to introduce solidarity of the VAT burden. Politicians claimed that the surveillance of bank accounts would decrease the shadow economy. However, LFMI noted that such a law would falsely criminalize every citizen and the solidarity of responsibility for paying VAT would negatively affect honest taxpayers. Fortunately, due to our strong argumentative position, the Government decided to abandon the plan of introducing citizens' surveillance and the solidarity of paying VAT.

We say NO to taxes on cars and potato crisps

In February the Government suggested to impose additional taxes on cars and fast food, as well as to increase the excise duties in order to compensate pension cuts of the crisis. LFMI strongly opposed the idea and encouraged the Government to reduce the expenditure of the public sector instead of increasing the tax burden. Once again, our arguments proved sound and relevant, leading the Government to reject the proposal.

May 8th – Lithuania's tax liberation day

This day marks the significance of taxpayers' contribution to the public sector. A proper respect for taxpayers constitutes an attempt to use the existing resources more efficiently by stopping the expansion of the public sector and enhancing the Government's responsibility for the budget, but not a discussion about imposing additional taxes.

Reducing the regulation burden

To achieve the freedom to act and create we argue against new restrictions on the freedom of individual activity and call for repealing the current limitations.

Faktai ir analizė

KAIP MMA DIDINIMAS PAVEIKIA ĮMONES?

Įmonių apklausa

SANTRAUKA

2012–2014 metais minimali mėnesinė alga (MMA) buvo didinama tris kartus – nuo 800 litų 2012 metais iki 1 015 litų 2014 metais. Vie paigirista kalbų apie šio dydžio kėlimą ir 2015 metais. Didinant MMA teigiama, kad privatus ir viešas sektorius pritaikys prie šio padidavimo, tačiau nėra įvertinama nei būsimų nei jau buvusių didinimų pasekmės. Svarstanti šį klausimą trūksta tyrimų, kaip Lietuvoje veiktumėta įmonės, ypač smulkios ir vidutinės, paveiktų MMA didinimas, tokių priemonių jos imasi, kad prisitaikytų prie padidėjusių sąnaudų. Lietuvos laisvosios rinkos instituto tyrimų apklausos rezultatai apie 2012–2013 metų ir galimų būsimų MMA didinimų pasekmes šalies įmonėms.

Kaip įmonės paveiktų MMA didinimas 2012 ir 2013 metais?

2012 ir 2013 metų MMA didinimai neigiamai paveikė kas trečios apklaustas įmonės veiklą (33%). Dėl šių MMA kėlimų mažėjęs trečdalis apklaustųjų įmonių atsisakė plėtoti, mažino darbo užmokesčio ir kitas veiklos sąnaudas.

Nors didžiausia neigiama įtaka dėl MMA didinimo yra įmonėms, kuriose yra daugiau MMA gaunančių darbuotojų skaičiaus.

Plietros planų atsisakymas, darbo užmokesčio ir kitų įmonių sąnaudų mažinimas – pagrindinės priemonės, kurias imėsi įmonės, siekdamos išvengti MMA didinimo neigiamų pasekmių. Šių veiksmų imėsi įmonės, esančios ir gerose, ir blogose finansinėje situacijoje, bei nepriklausomai nuo MMA gaunančių darbuotojų skaičiaus.

Kaip įmonės paveiktų MMA didinimas ateityje?

MMA didinimas ateityje didesnei daliai įmonių gali sukelti neigiamų pasekmių nei 2012 ir 2013 metais. Be to įmonės tur kas nepatvirtintas vertimo smarkų MMA kėlimą (200 lit) nei nuostalių (50 lit).

Jei nuo 2015 metų MMA būtų didinama 200 litų, tai neigiamai paveiktų 60% įmonių. Tokius atvejus beveik pusė įmonių atsisakytų plėtoti planų (48%), mažinti darbo užmokesčio (42%) ir kitas įmonės sąnaudas (44%).

Jei MMA ateityje būtų didinama 500 litų, norėdamos sutalpinuoti darbo užmokesčio sąnaudas įmonės būtų priverstos priimti darbuotojams nepatiktus sprendimus: 29% apklaustųjų įmonių atsisakytų darbuotojų, 30% – mažinti etatus, 19% – mažinti atlyginimus darbuotojams, kurie sulėtintų daugiau nei kas.

DELFI | Vikių žodynas | Hovetlapai | TV programos | Orų prognozė

70°C Lietuva

Ž. Šilėnas. MMA – matoma ir nematoma (12)

Zilvinas Šilėnas, Lietuvos laisvosios rinkos instituto prezidentas, Lietuvos laisvosios rinkos instituto
2014 m. lapkričio 13 d. 11:30

Minimalios mėnesinės algos (MMA) kėlimo vienuose, įsitaikę po 2012 metų, šį Lietuvos restruktūris – šią savaitę veikiausiai sutaria, kad kitais metais MMA pakils 205 eurais (1122 Lt). Pošūkis kvailiesi! matavimai, karti neve rodo, kad įmonės pinigų turi, tik neriasi da šiuos.

Dėl šio nerūšio, kad šalies vidurkis

Tenų rodyklė | E. knygos | Sėkmės TV Programos | Receptai | Horoskopai | Receptai | Diskusijos | Skelbimai

Irytas.lt | GYVAI Irytas.tv | Vilniuje 0° | Orų prognozė

LITVINOS DIENA | VERSAS | SPORTAS | PASAULIS | GYVITIMO BŪDAS | PRAMOGOS

Rinkos pajamos | Uždarbis ir mokesčiai | Energetika | Mano pinigai | Rūšalinę pajūris | Sėkmės istorijos | Vė

Įdarbas ir mokesčiai

Grynųjų pinigų ribojimu šešėlio nepažabosime

Vytautas Žukauskas 2014-04-17 13:30, atnaujinta 2014-04-17 13:50

Šią savaitę Seimas nepritarė atšaukiamų grynųjų pinigais, didesnių nei 10 tūkstančių litų, ribojimui. Ir teisingai padarė. Finansų ministerijos teigimu, toks apribojimas padėtų kovoti su šešėline ekonomika Lietuvoje. Vis tik Seimo nariai, balsavę prieš šį projektą, teisingai pastebėjo, kad toks ribojimas ne tik nemažintų šešėlio, bet sukurtų dar ir papildomų problemų.

Nuomonės

Problemos – rimtesnės

Magis Vilniuje, susitikimas su šiuo žurnalo redaktoriumi, Alina Šturm, kuri, kaip ir daugelis kitų, yra kritiška dėl valdžios veiksmų. Ji teigia, kad valdžia turėtų daugiau dėmesio skirti šioms problemoms, o ne tik šioms ir šioms.

Pagrindinė šešėlio priežastis yra ankšti mokesčiai ir didelis reguliavimai, ne grynųjų pinigai. Todėl grynųjų pinigų ribojimas nebūtų veiksminga priemonė.

VŽ nuomonė: Susisigribo „inventorizuoti“ valdininkus

Biurokratijos saulėlydžio nematyti

Biurokratijos saulėlydis Lietuvoje yra matomas, tačiau valdžia nematyti. Valdžia turėtų daugiau dėmesio skirti šioms problemoms, o ne tik šioms ir šioms. Valdžia turėtų daugiau dėmesio skirti šioms problemoms, o ne tik šioms ir šioms.

Minimum wage increases force companies to abandon development and cut jobs

Last year we actively addressed the issue of increasing the minimum wage and made a conclusion that it forces companies to abandon development plans and cut jobs. Our survey of Lithuanian enterprises revealed that the increases in 2012 and 2013 negatively affected every third surveyed company's development plans, as well as resulted in job cuts, increased workload and other negative consequences. Since our arguments have gone unheeded, we will continue our research on the harm of increasing the minimum wage in 2015. Read more about the research at www.llri.lt/faktai-ir-analize

A fair game for both, enterprises and the Government

Although the Government demands that enterprises would not use the euro as a disguise to raise prices, they do not obey the same rules. The minimum wage has already been raised and there are plans for a future increase thus we wrote an open letter and encouraged the Government to play their own game fairly.

Restrictions on cash payments reduce people's choice

Despite the strong determination of some politicians and continuous discussions on restricting cash payments, we are trying to convince them and the society that such restrictions are not effective in the fight against shadow economy and this would only bring less choices of making payments and higher expenses on payments for both, people and business.

Consumer credit market regulation shall increase instead of relieving responsibility

LFMI conducted thorough research on the proposed regulation on the consumer credit market and concluded that it would negatively affect both the creditor and the debtor since the restrictions proposed limit the availability of consumer credits. In our view, consumer market regulation would not diminish personal responsibility and should not be imposed unless the existing regulation is no longer valid. Despite there were no changes in the current regulation in 2014, we will continue to work until this situation is solved.

Lithuanian Shadow Economy III: A quarter of economy is still in the shadow

Our third analysis of the Lithuanian shadow economy revealed that 25% of Lithuania's GDP is still in the shadow compared to the pre-crisis level of 18%. Once again we proved that everyone must fight against shadow economy, not only customs or other institutions. The right question to ask is how do we alleviate the problem by promoting legal activity rather than how do we find the people responsible and prosecute them. First of all, the Government should introduce laws, taxes and regulations that make legal activities easier and more attractive and our analysis provided several ways of doing that. Due to its relevance and argumentation, the analysis was very well received by the media and appeared in over 200 publications.

NO to the intrusion of privacy, YES to responsibility

In 2014 the Government proposed a law that stipulated restrictions on using mobile phones when crossing a street and smoking in cars and balconies. We drew attention of both, the legislature and people that everyone should be responsible for protecting himself, as well as others and it is not the Government's responsibility to do that. Therefore, if we do not oppose such regulations, they will soon control the amount of sugar in your coffee (if the coffee itself will not be banned.)

SANTRAUKA

Vartojimo kreditų (ypač mažųjų) rinka dar neišsivystė, todėl Lietuvoje visada nemažai kritikos, kad ši rinka yra per mažai reguliuojama, jeigu veiksmingos įmonės neturėtų vertinti finansų galimybes patikrinti pasiskolintojo situaciją ir per dvidešimt metų ir per 2013 metų spalio 14 dieną Lietuvos bankas finansų ministerijai pateikė naują vartojimo kreditų įstatymo pakeitimo projektą, kai kurie iš pasiūlymų yra labai griežti ir jų įgyvendinimas turėtų didinti nelegalią (šaka vartojimo kreditų rinkai, jie nelegaliai apskaitę ne tik kreditų davėjams, tačiau ir jų gavėjams, būdami samabūvi galimybes naudotis vartojimo kreditais.

Prieš įvedant naujas reguliavimus vartojimo kreditų rinkai, būtina iš anksto įvertinti jų poreikį. Turimi būti atlikti identifikacijos problemos (jų neišvairijant) ir jos sprendžiamos taip, kad iš esmės neišvairijėtų rinkos paslauga (reguliuojamas negali būti faktinis paslaugos draudimas). Reguliuojamas taip pat turi būti grąžtas tinkamas vartojimo kreditų rinkos problematikos įvertinimas. Šiandien naudojami būdai ir rodikliai, vertinantys problemą, susijusią vartojimo kreditų rinkoje nėra tinkami, jie išraišką tikrąją situaciją. Reguliuojamas, siekiantis geresnio padėties vertinimo, turėtų tobulinti šios rinkos vertinimo metodus ir rinkamą statistiką.





Lietuvos konkurencijos tarybos institucija

Faktai ir analizė

DAUGIABUČIŲ ADMINISTRAVIMO RINKOS TYRIMAS

SANTRAUKA

Daugiabučių gyvenamųjų namų administravimo rinkoje veikia sąlytybei priklausantis ir privatus ūkio subjektai. Šių rinkų reguliavimui įstatymų pakankamai svarbiems sutaria teisę patirti pasireišti daugybėje gyvenamųjų namų administravimų. Rinkos administravimą šie subjektai į rinką naujais paslaugų tiekėjais taip pat nėra. Pagrindiniai administraciniai apribojimai šioje rinkoje yra tai, kad privatiems bendrojo naudojimo objektams draudžiama būti savijalais su tam tikro pobūdžio.

Privatų daugibūčių gyvenamųjų namų administravimo paslaugas teikiančių įmonių skaičius didėja, tačiau savivaldybėms priklausantis įmonės veikia didesniame skaičiuje savivaldybė.

Šilutės, Vilkav, Kauno, Klaipėdos ir Palangos miestų savivaldybėse veikiančių administravimo paslaugas teikiančių įmonių kaimas, pastebėta, jog latvišiais sureguliuojant Klaipėdos m. savivaldybėje vartotojai paslaugas gauna žemiausiomis kainomis, o Kauno m. savivaldybėje, kurioje istoriškai sudiklostė pastatų sukeitimas į senjoras ir galioja patankamai griežtas kainų reguliavimas, vartotojai už administravimo paslaugas moka daug brangiau.

Šilutės Palangos ir Kauno miestų savivaldybėse susiklosčiusi situacija šioje rinkoje, nustatyti konkurencijos apribojimai, tokie kaip viešojo administravimo subjektų klaimas į rinką. Taipgi savivaldybėse, kuriose veikia ir privatus, ir

savivaldybei priklausantis įmonės, gali būti interesų konfliktas.

Savivaldos institucijos savo teises atstai gali sukurdamos reikšias konkurencines sąlygas skirtingiems ūkio subjektams. Pastebima, kad nėra veiksmingų teisinių instrumentų, kurie leistų savivaldybių institucijoms pašalinti konkurencijos principų. Be to, savivaldybėms pašalinti konkurenciją už tai nėra teikiama atsakomybė. Nėra ir jokių mechanizmų, kuriais būtų galima struoti konkurencijos situacijai.

Tyrime įvertinama situacija, kokia konkurencinėje rinkoje šiuo metu susiklosčiusi daugybėje gyvenamųjų namų administravimo rinkoje. Taipgi tyrime objektyviai paaiškinta todėl, kad pastaraisiais metais, keičiant instrumentus savivaldybė reguliuoja šią rinką ir koki įmonė, su kuri konkurencijos apribojimai turi kaimas.

Nustatyta, jog savivaldybėse, kuriose griežtes reguliavimas kaimas, vartotojai už paslaugas moka daugiau, o tai, kur reguliavimas yra laisvas, vartotojai paslaugas teikiama žemiausiomis kainomis.



Competition brings cheaper administration for multi-dwelling buildings

In Lithuania multi-family buildings are administered by municipalities and private companies. However, we have noticed that a strict price regulation and the attempts to maintain municipal service providers may negatively affect consumer interests and competition. The administrative market analysis revealed that both, public and private service providers provide services for similar prices. To add, the more intense the competition between companies, the better it is for a consumer. Lithuanian municipalities, the Parliament and the Government were also introduced to the results of the analysis.

Two conferences on evaluation and development of competition policy in Lithuania

In February we discussed last year's tendencies and problems of competition policy together with almost 200 institutions, business representatives and law specialists. Also, in October, together with the *Competition Council and Ministry of Agriculture*, we organized a discussion on the application issues and violations of Article 4 of the Law on Competition that stipulates the freedom of fair competition. The discussions contributed to the establishment of our position regarding the possible development of the Article.

The obligation to inform about the merger will continue to waste resources and time

LFMI noted that the limit prior informing about the merger is unjustifiably low (15 million euro) and does not meet the growth perspectives of Lithuanian enterprises and proposed to increase the limit to Latvia's level of 35.5 million. Despite the legislature denied the proposal, we have reacted to suggestions to increase the merger control in the EU and together with our partners submitted comments to the European Commission.

No tax will be collected after increasing oil and gas taxes

Just after the proposal to increase the tax on oil and gas resources, we argued that an increase might negatively affect other taxes while a decrease will certainly bring more profit, income, collection of the personal income tax and social insurance contributions.

A reform of the heat sector: the importance of knowing what and how to build

The national reform of the heat sector has only one priority: *Lietuvos energija* wants to build power stations that will produce heat and electricity in the biggest Lithuanian cities. It should be noted that some amendments unreasonably restrict competition, freedom of economic activity and may result in higher prices. One investor (might be public) wants to build something and it is a great idea, but are there others? Fair rules apply to everyone and this is what politicians should care about rather than dictate what boiler to install and create laws that force to buy expensive electricity.

Land purchase is restricted to Lithuanians rather than foreigners

Before the land sale referendum we drew the attention to the fact that those who choose to vote “for” will also agree with other provisions regarding the expropriation of private forests and the obligatory referendum on any minor issue. LFMI analyzed the so-called Law on Land “Safeguards” and made a conclusion that the law limits the possibility of agricultural activities for both, Lithuanians and foreigners. Unfortunately, the law was enforced despite our attempts to reason the society, but we will continue our mission and defend the ownership rights in 2015.

Land “Safeguards” Law is against the Constitution

The law provides severe restrictions that limit people’s right to freely operate in the agricultural market. Our analysis revealed that the requirements for those who want to purchase land infringes on the constitutional right of private property and are incompatible with the EU law. Our junior policy analyst Dominykas Šumskis delivered a presentation on the major issues in the field in a conference in the Parliament and participated in a discussion on the most acute problems with citizens, farmers and politicians.

Irytas.lt | GYVAI irytas.tv | Vėliuže 0°

Skalūnų revoliucija ir Lietuva: labiau JAV ar Zambija?
Žilvinas Šitėnas | 2014-11-03 17:21

Prieš šiek tiek mažiau nei dešimt metų pasaulyje ir Lietuvoje daug žmonių šnekėjo apie tai, kad nafta jau baigiasi. Apie „naftos vešlinę“ (angl. – peak oil) šnekėjo ir daug politikų bei ekspertų. Rint as veidas ir rimtose konferencijose je tikimo, kad visiškai aišku, kad naftos gavyba pasaulyje pasiekė ribą ir nuo šiol tik mažės. Vaus (tiesa, tokių būdavo labai nedaug) prieštaraujančius nurašydavo kaip nesuvokiančius ar fundamentalistus.

DELFI verslas | Valiūtų kursai | Horoskopai | TV programa | Orų | Vilnius -2°C

Z. Šitėnas. Kas bendro tarp referendumo ir žemės „saugiklių“ įstatymo? (51)
Žilvinas Šitėnas, LLRI prezidentas, Lietuvos laisvosios rinkos institutas | 2014 m. kovo 27 d. 12:30

Kuo susijusi iniciatyva surengti referendumą dėl žemės pardavimo užsieniečiams ir „saugiklių“ įstatymo projektas? Neapleidžia mintis, kad abiem atvejais kažkas bando pasinaudoti situacija ir nepastebimai prastumti savo asmenines idėjas, neturinčias nieko bendro su žemės (ne)pardavimu kitų šalių piliečiams. Tai pastebima ir referendumo iniciatyvoje, ir

Valstietis.lt | Orų TV programa | Vėliuže | Lietuva | Vėliuže 2,4°

LLRI: žemės įsigijimo ribojimai labiausiai pakenks patiems lietuviams
2014-03-04 10:12 | 12 komentarai

Lietuvų galimybės eksploatuoti žemės ūkio gali būti smarkiai apribotos. Šiukios išvados Lietuvos laisvosios rinkos institutas (LLRI) gavo išanalavęs šio vadovėlio žemės įsigijimo „saugiklių“ įstatymą. Projekto autorius sako nesistojantis žemės ūkio paskirties žemės įsigijimo sąlygas mo šis, melis, pagražinti, kai kalbės žemės ūkio atstovai ir kitų šalių piliečiai, tačiau nevertinti patirties Lietuvoje.

LIETUVOS LAISVOSIOS RINKOS INSTITUTAS | Faktai ir analizė

ŽEMĖS „SAUGIKLIŲ“ ĮSTATYMO ATITIKTIS KONSTITUCIJAI IR TARPATAUTINIAMS LIETUVOS ĮSIPAREIGOJIMAMS

SANTRAUKA

2014 m. gegužės 1 d. įsigaliojo nauja LR žemės ūkio paskirties žemės įsigijimo įstatymo¹ (toliau – ŽŪPĮ) redakcija, taip vadinamas žemės „saugiklių“ įstatymas. Įstatymo nuostatose įtvirtinti žemės ūkio paskirties (toliau – ŽŪP) žemės įsigijimo suvaržymai itin apribojo asmenų teisę laisvai veikti žemės ūkio rinkoje, sudarėdantį perkimo-pardavimo sandorius.

ŽŪPĮ nustatyti kvalifikaciniai ir kiti reikalavimai asmenims, siekiantiems įgyti ŽŪP žemės ar tokios žemės turinį juridinį asmenį, finansiam asmeniui talybinas profesinių įgūdžių ir kvalifikacijos kriterijus. Juridiniams asmenims – reikalavimas ne mažiau nei 3 metus būti vykdžiusiam žemės ūkio veiklą, deklaruojamam žemės ūkio naudojimui ir pasėlius, įrodžius atitinkamo dydžio žemės ūkio veiklos pajamingumą bei ekonominį gyvybingumą. ŽŪPĮ taip pat įtvirtinta privalo gauti atskirą leidimą minėtam veiksmui atlikti, ribojamas įsigyvos ŽŪP žemės dydis bei įskaitai nurodyta, kokia privalo būti jos tikslinė paskirtis.

Reikalavimai žemės ūkio paskirties žemės įsigijėjams:

- galimai prieštarauja Konstitucijoje įtvirtintai teisei į privatai nuosavybę, asmenų lygiateisiškumo principui, ūkinės veiklos laisvei ir teisei į vėrdę;
- gali būti nesuderinami su ES teise, konkrečiai – laisvo kapitalo judėjimo principu;
- galimai pažeidžia kel kartus Lietuvos tarptautinius įsipareigojimus – užsienio investicijų apsaugos sutartis.

¹ 2014-05-01 žemės ūkio paskirties žemės įsigijimo įstatymas Nr. 89-854 /J/ Tiesos aktų registras. 2014-04-29, Nr. 2014-04663.

Initiated economy reforms

Our aim is to return the spirit and tradition of reforms in the most important areas of life: education, health care, social care and others.



Currency Board has secured a strong Litas and a stable economy for two decades

We emphasized the fact that no matter if we had Litas or introduced the Euro, the reliability of the currency and the stability it brings is of the major importance. We would like to remind that over the last two decades, the *Currency Board* ensured the stability of both, our economy and currency. We could trust our currency and we were sure of its value. Established in 1994, the *Currency Board of Lithuania* ensured fixed exchange rates between Litas and the US dollar and, since 2002, between Litas and the Euro.

The Euro is not an opportunity to relax, but a challenge to public finances

Since a new currency means new challenges and dangers, we should prepare for a new stage of monetary policy and be ready to face any problem.

For example, the Euro brings lower interest rates on credits and improves the Government's access to financial markets and the possibilities to borrow money. It should be noted that other EU countries respect Lithuania particularly for its sustainable and transparent policy of public finances during the crisis. However, practice shows that discussions on the budget tend to bring public finances to the background thus easier credit conditions may result in higher expenditure of the State. Lithuania's participation in the *European Stability Mechanism* (ESM) may be evaluated similarly. Between 2015 and 2019 Lithuania will have to contribute around 1 billion Litas and commit to an additional 8.5 million in case it is necessary. This mechanism will only reduce incentives to make the necessary decisions in order to save the budget and decrease expenditure. Why bother saving money instead of seizing the opportunity to borrow from ESM if we have already paid a billion for it?

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

We are gradually turning into an international organization. Together with our partners we actively respond to political decisions of the EU and are one of the strongest founders and managing authorities of think tanks in Europe. At our invitation, famous economists, philosophers and lecturers come to Lithuania every year.

"International recognition and a wide range of partners here in Europe, as well as across the Atlantic is a result of our persistent work for 25 years."



Aneta Vainė,
Development and Program Director

"Thousands of readers and a wide recognition of our work are the best evidence of the importance and the necessity of our mission."



Vidmantė Čižienė,
Communication Officer

COMMUNICATION

Communication with the media, citizens and politicians constitute one of the most important parts of our work. To influence positive economic and social changes, our ideas must be communicated.

(See page26)

International activities



Expectations after EP election: an international conference

In the end of April, towards the European Parliament election, LFMI has joined the public discussion on EU issues that are important to Lithuania and organized an international conference *European Elections Ahead: What is Next for the EU Economy?* Together with *Austrian Economics Center* and *Friedrich Naumann Foundation*, LFMI addressed the issues of centralized management and the problem areas of shaping European tax policy.

Establishment of a new free market center EPICENTER

Together with five leading European think tanks from Spain, France, United Kingdom, Italy and Sweden, LFMI launched a new independent initiative EPICENTER in Brussels, in October. With this initiative we are going to address the key issues of shaping public European policies and actively participate by contributing our ideas. Read more about the project at www.epicenternetwork.eu

Partnership with the 4LIBERTY network

LFMI is an active member of the 4LIBERTY network. The ideas regarding topical economic issues by Central and Eastern European policy analysts are available to all European countries, as well as shared globally. Our ideas in the English language are also available at www.4liberty.eu

The Think Tank School: Germany for the beginners, France for the advanced

LFMI became the educational centre of think tanks in Europe. For five years now, we have successfully organized international seminars and courses for other think tanks. The beginners of these courses were invited to Germany, whereas the advanced students travelled to Marseille, France. Our team of Žilvinas Šilėnas, Edita Maslauskaitė and Vidmantė Čičienė had over fifty students and conducted seminars on management, strategic planning, fundraising and communication. International institutions and experts from the best non-governmental organizations also shared their experience. Lectures were delivered by *Europe Economics* (UK), *Allgemeine Zeitung* (Germany), *Cobden Centre* (UK), *Instituto Bruno Leoni* (Italy), *Atlas Network* (USA), *Students for Liberty*, *The TaxPayers' Alliance* (UK) and *Cato Institute* (USA).

The participants of the conference: a famous Polish economist Prof Leszek Balcerowicz (Civil Development Forum Foundation), professor of economics Enrico Colombatto (University of Turin), economist Daniel Mitchell (Cato Institute, USA), members of the Parliament Andrius Kubilius and Remigijus Šimašius, economists Nerijus Mačiulis (Swedbank) and Šarūnas Nedzinskas (DNB Bank) and others.



A broad public communication

Among the most visible in the media

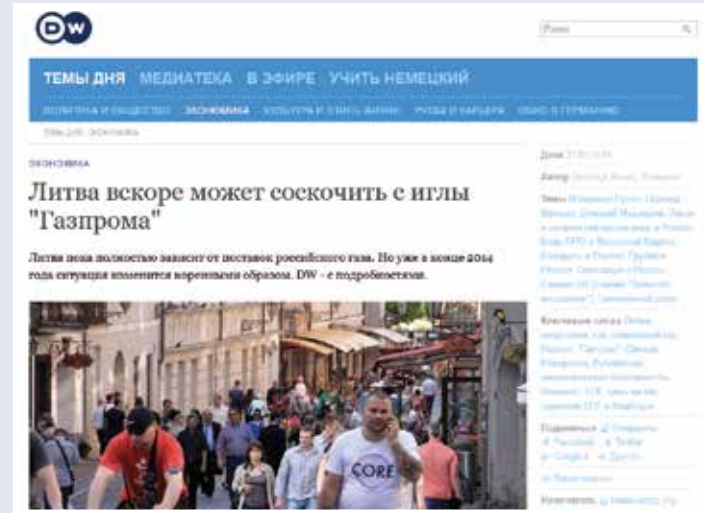
Our experts: Žilvinas Šilėnas, Kaetana Leontjeva and Vytautas Žukauskas are among the most popular and frequently quoted independent experts (TNS, 2014). Together we are one of the most prominent independent institutions in the media.

Media's trust

In 2014, the ideas of our experts appeared over 1,900 times in Lithuanian television, radio, portals and the press. Over a half of those references are chosen by the journalists. This proves that our position on the country's economy is recognized. Also, a survey about LFMI revealed that over 50% Lithuanians are aware of our ideas and agree with our arguments and opinions that are regularly published in *Verslo Žinios*, *IQ*, *Lietuvos žinios*, *Veidas*, *delfi.lt*, *15min.lt* and *Lrytas.lt*.

LMFI in Forbes, Bloomberg and other international media

The news about the *Templeton Freedom Award* has spread over various foreign media channels, from American *Forbes* to the *Baltic Course*. Our assessment of Lithuania's shadow economy was recognized by *Bloomberg*. We also commented for various international agencies, the *New York Times* and *Deutsche Welle*, as well as for Dutch newspapers *de Volkskrant* and the *Trouw* and Slovak *Hospodárske noviny*.



3,500 Facebook followers reading about our work and events.

20,000 website visitors each month. Our web page provides news and analyses, as well as relevant information for students, politicians and other active members of the society who are interested in a better future and solving Lithuania's issues.

1,000+ newsletter subscribers receive our updates and invitations to events each week.

55 new videos uploaded to *Youtube* in 2014. On LFMI's *Youtube* channel you can watch the comments of our policy analysts, as well as find out about LFMI's courses and seminars.

Contribute to LFMI's work

We are grateful to our sponsors, friends and partners for their trust and faith in a free and responsible individual rather than "all-knowing" government. Our unity is what makes us strong and every page of this publication is an excellent example of it.



Edita Maslauskaitė,
LFMI Vice President

Our thanks to those who support LFMI

Today we are independent to create, work and earn and, most importantly, we are independent from the government's support and orders. However, freedom brings responsibility. We emphasized it by establishing the Lithuanian Free Market Institute 25 years ago and it is still in our values today. Thus, we will continue to follow the principles of freedom and responsibility in the future.

Of course, words are easy to utter, but daily work for the promotion of freedom and responsibility in both making laws and living is much harder. Financial independence is an essential part in our mission which would hardly be possible without it.

Currently, we are supported by over a hundred Lithuanian enterprises, a number of international funds from Germany, Belgium and the USA, as well as by citizens. Therefore, it is evident that the government's interference and budget expenses are not necessary to move heaven and earth. This principle is applicable to the pursuit of our mission and our diverse support team is a guarantor of our status as an independent public policy centre.

A wholehearted support of the ideas you believe in is nothing else than a profound tradition both in Europe and across the Atlantic. Also, recent positive changes in Lithuania may be perfectly illustrated by an increasing number of social events and greater attention to those in poverty and suffering from illness. After all, a lack of initiative and responsibility may be as pernicious as poverty and a lack of health. Just after the transition towards a market economy, we have successfully convinced our partners that the ideas of freedom and responsibility require voluntary support. Therefore, we can actually call ourselves pioneers and be happy about our input to the development of support traditions in Lithuania.

Edita Maslauskaitė,
LFMI Vice President

Have any questions?

- For more information on donating to us visit <http://en.lfri.lt/support>
- Contact Edita Maslauskaitė, Vice President of LFMI by email edita@lfri.lt or by phone (+370 5) 250 0287
- Address any questions to Vilma Juškaitė by email vilma@lfri.lt or by phone (+370 5) 250 0287
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