Report by Lithuania to the General Conference on the Implementation of Recommendations concerning Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace Approved by Resolution No 32C/41 of the UNESCO General Conference of 15 October 2003

1. **What measures were adopted seeking to facilitate the language barrier; information must also be provided about whether attempts to create the local Internet contents were supported;**

In 2002 - 2006 the Ministry of Education and Science (hereinafter referred to as the MiES), in co-operation with the experts of the Council of Europe prepared a description of the Policy of Languages of the country, which provides for main directions in the implementation of multilingualism at schools of general education (See: http://www.smm.lt/ugdymas/bendrasis/index.htm). The description was approved at the College of the MiES on 22 June 2006 No. (1.9-13) M1-3. One of the parts of the description is "The Strategy for Promotion of the Lithuanian Language at Schools Implementing Programmes of General Education". The Programme specifies measures for preserving and further development of the Lithuanian language (native and state language).

Since January 2005 the *eTwinning* project (part of *eLearning* of the European Commission) aimed at creating the possibilities for European schools to directly co-operate in the virtual space, has been carried out. Two schools, which would be related by common interests and ideas, are offered to co-operate. Furthermore, two classes or even two teachers only can communicate. Communication and co-operation are organised on the Internet using all available possibilities of communication. The Programme seeks to help schools create partnership on the Internet and encourages using all European languages for international co-operation. Schoolchildren, when communicating in a foreign language with another school of the country of the European Union do not only increase their foreign language capacities but also improve their skills of using latest technologies and learn to work in a team. According to the data of the year 2006, we have 520 schools participating in the *eTwinning* project. For several years the EU Lingua Programme gave priority to the languages that were not so often used. Due to this Programme new multilingual Internet websites were created on the Internet where one can learn various phrases of the Lithuanian language.

To implement the results of the programme "Education for Information Society" being carried out, in 2002 the website www.emokykla.lt was developed and is constantly being improved in which all information necessary to education of the community relating to

introducing information technologies at educational institutions is presented in the Lithuanian language. 314 582 visitors visited the website in 2005. This is as much as twice more than in 2002 – 2004. This website provides information about the course of the programme "Education for Information Society", the distribution of technical facilities and computer training aids (the so-called CTA) among schools, the projects being organised and carried out, presents new methodical aids for pedagogues, which help them apply information computer technologies (hereinafter referred to as ICT) at their lessons and in their activities, as well as documents relating to the introduction and use of ICT in the educational process, and various other methodical material.

2. What measures intended for formulating the national policy relating to the preservation of the language does your institution implement;

Within its competence the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the MiI) takes part in the process of preparing and harmonising legal acts promoting a universal use of the Internet. Also, in 2005 the MiI organised the preparation and distribution of the publication "Public Administration in Lithuania. Review of the Year 2005" in which the process of the development of electronic government, peculiarities of the introduction of the electronic signature in the system of public administration, possibilities for society to make use of public services applying information technologies are presented in a simple and understandable language. Furthermore, the 2007-2010 draft of the Plan of Measures for Implementing the Strategy of the Development of Public Administration until 2010 provides for the measure "to prepare the publication "Electronic Government in Lithuania" and to organise its publishing".

The principal objective of the state language policy being carrying out by the State Lithuanian Language Commission (hereinafter referred to as the language Commission) is to preserve the linguistic heritage and encourage its development so as to ensure functionality of the Lithuanian language in all spheres of public life. This Language Commission implements this objective by carrying out programmes approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, which provide for the application of modern technologies not only to preserve important objects of the linguistic heritage but also to satisfy the present-day needs of the users of the language.

The Language Commission co-ordinates the implementation of the "2000-2006 Programme of the Lithuanian Language in Information Society" approved by Resolution No. 471 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 26 April 2000 (Official Gazette *Valstybės*

žinios No. 36-1002, 2000). The Programme is aimed at introducing the Lithuanian language in information technologies, creating conditions for it to exist alongside the main languages of Western Europe. The Language Commission uses the funds of this programme to support the works of developing software, Lithuanianising the Internet and electronic mail, automated translation, recognition, synthesis, etc. of the Lithuanian language. The packet of the office programmes "OpenOffice.org" (www.ivpk.lt), the Internet browsers "Mozilla" and "Opera" have been Lithuanianised already (new versions of these browsers are also being adapted). The system of signs of the Lithuanian language writing "Palemonas" (www.vlkk.lt) adapted to Lithuanian philology has been created, the database accessible to the public the "Dictionary of Morphology of the Lithuanian Language" (www.donelaitis.vdu.lt) has been stored on the Internet, the Parallel collection of texts of the Lithuanian language (www.donelaitis.vdu.lt) that is publicly accessible and constantly filled has been compiled on the Internet .

The Language Commission in co-operation with the Office of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, in carrying out the Republic of Lithuania Law on Term Bank (Official gazette *Valstybės žinios* No. 7-129, 2004) according to methodology of the terms bank of the Republic of Lithuania approved by Resolution No. N-1 (90) of the Language Commission of 2 February 2004 (Official gazette *Valstybės žinios* No. 26-842, 2004) creates and manages the term bank of the Republic of Lithuania. This is a system of accumulating, handling and publicising terminology of the Lithuanian language, and relating it to terminology of other languages by means of the latest information technologies, which is of great topical interest today. The term bank is a non-commercial project freely accessible to all users of the Internet (http://terminai.vlkk.lt). It contains articles of the terms used or recommended to be used in legal acts, as well as data from dictionaries of the terms of other spheres and other sources of terminology.

The Language Commission seeks to ensure protection of the important cultural heritage of the Lithuanian nation – the ethnic and linguistic objects that have a lasting value. According to the "2001-2010 Programme of Protection of Dialects and Ethnic Place Names" approved by Resolution No. 1340 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 6 November 2000 (Official gazette *Valstybės žinios* No. 95-2994, 2000), the Language Commission supports the works of digitalisation and archiving of collected dialects and ethnic place names, the creation of electronic databases, etc. On the order of the Language Commission the Collection of Texts of the Dialects, the Archive of Dialect Recordings and databases of the dialects of a various nature, the System of Digitalisation and Search for Dialect Data, the Electronic Collection of Hydronyms of Lithuania are being created, collection and electronic

handling of historical ethnic place names (at the Lithuanian border and beyond it) are being made.

"The Programme of Standardisation, Use, Promotion and Dispersion of the State Language in 2006-2015" approved by Resolution No. 1177 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 15 September 2004 (Official gazette *Valstybės žinios* No. 36-1002, 2000) provides for the implementation of modern technologies to handle the resources of the Lithuanian language. From the funds of this Programme the Language Commission supports at the present time and plans to go on supporting in the future databases of the electronic language being created according to the latest information technologies, the works of digitalisation and archiving of the linguistic and written language heritage, etc.

In carrying out the programme "Education for Information Society" priority is given to the Lithuanian training aids, which are presented in the Lithuanian language on the website www.emokykla.lt and are intended for both teachers and schoolchildren. They are also of interest and accessible to the general public. Examples of the Internet instruction websites:

1. Encyclopaedia Earth, Plants, Animals http://mkp.emokykla.lt/enciklopedija/lt
2. Creative work and traditions. Geometrical patterns of Lithuanian cloth http://www.emokykla.lt/cd/AudiniuRastai/
3. A Glance at the Golden Age http://mkp.emokykla.lt/zvilgsnis/straipsnis/index.htm
4. Native history 7-12 form http://mkp.emokykla.lt/gimtoji/
5. Interesting history of Lithuania http://mkp.emokykla.lt/idomioji/
6. Lithuanian ethnic culture http://mkp.emokykla.lt/etnine/

At the end of this year a tender for the project is going to be announced thereby it is planned to select and support the creation of Lithuanian instructional computer aids.

3. What measures does your institution implement to encourage a universal use of the Internet; what is the financing of the measures mentioned;

Seeking to encourage the universal use of the Internet, to increase the number of the Internet users and to facilitate the population's use of the Internet, 300 public Internet access points were founded (hereinafter referred to as the PIAP) where, apart from the possibility to make use of computers and the Internet, computer literacy, electronic banking and other kinds of training introducing the possibilities of information technologies, are provided. The PIAPs were founded having applied the funds of the PHARE 2003 Social and Economic Cohesion Programme supported by the European Union. 3,15 million euros were spent of buying furniture, computers

and other facilities for all PIAPs, installing the Internet communication and paying for it. Centres have been founded in all regions of Lithuania paying greatest attention to the locations where telecommunication infrastructure was poorly developed. Curators of the PIAPs take part in a long-term training programme of the project. Depending on the level of computer literacy of the curators, they learn the fundamentals of computer literacy according to the E-citizen programme, study the European ECDL Programme of the Computer User Certificate. News from all over Lithuania presenting the activities of the PIAPs are publicised on the Internet portal www.vipt.lt every day, which supports the PIAP network of communication and co-operation, as well as articles of importance to the rural population published by the portal's editorial office are presented. Columns of learning and electronic services helping visitors to simpler find and learn how to use the services, which could help them in their everyday life, are rapidly increasing. Seeking to better satisfy the needs of the rural population research of needs for learning and electronic services are constantly being carried out and on the basis of their results it is planned to supplement the services provided by the portal.

At the present time the Ministry of the Interior is implementing the project "The Development of the Network of Public Points of Access to the Internet" financed from the Structural funds of the European Union and by the funds of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania during which the PIAP network will be extended into the remotest villages of our country, and part of the earlier established PIAPs will be updated in 2006-2008.

To promote the use of the Internet, the project "The Broadband Network RAIN of Information Technologies of Rural Areas" is carried out. The project implements the strategy of the development of the broadband communication infrastructure of Lithuania in 2005-2010. Lietuvos plačiajuosčio ryšio infrastruktūros 2005-2010 metų plėtros strategiją. The project is being implemented by the Public Establishment "Broadband Internet", and the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics is its responsible manager Matematikos ir informatikos institutas, and the Ministry of Education and Science is among the partners of the project. The total value of the RAIN project is 52,7 million litas. It is financed from the structural funds of the European Union and is co-financed by Lithuania. According to the RAIN project, connection nodes to the Internet are planned to be installed in rural smallest administrative districts from which the Internet of up to 100 megabits per second should be provided to the residents, various institutions, which would pay a low price for using it.

Besides, in the course of carrying out the programme "Education for Information Society" various measures, including the Internet ones will be implemented. Up to 1,4 million litas is allocated to this purpose.

4. What measures did your institution take to facilitate and encourage the use of the Internet by the population and enterprises;

The Committee on the Development of Information Society under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, in implementing its annual action plans, carries out a number of measures related to the encouragement of the use of the Internet by the population and enterprises. The Committee has created and administrated the portal of Electronic Gate of the Government http://www.evaldzia.lt in which it provides the residents with the possibilities to make use of public electronic services provided by state institutions. By Resolution No. 1054 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 25 October 2006 "general requirements for the Internet websites of state institutions", which facilitate the possibility for the residents and enterprises to find information on the Internet websites of state institutions were approved.

The Committee on the Development of Information Society under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania has developed a special website http://www.ivpk.lt/filtrai/lt/ intended for the problems of a safe use of the Internet in which it is possible to receive filters and programmes adapted to the Lithuanian environment free of charge, to find instructions about how to move them to your own computer or a work station. Moreover, this website also tries to present other relevant information and references on this theme. The Committee, in preparing tools for filtering the harmful contents of the Internet, first and foremost, orients itself towards educational institutions and public access points, that is, where the computer network can be loaded to the largest extent with information harmful to society, which does not promote moral education of the youth,

In encouraging school communities to use the Internet, the Centre for Educational Information Technologies administers the website "Garden of Worlds" http://www.ipc.lt/wg/, on which schoolchildren can put information about the projects being carried out, also the electronic journal "Ejornal" is administered there where schoolchildren place their electronic newspapers http://ejournal.emokykla.lt/. Pedagogues and schoolchildren have the possibility to communicate in the virtual space– el. forume http://www.emokykla.lt/forumas/

5. What measures were implemented seeking to encourage providers of the Internet services to render the Internet services to public administration institutions by giving privileges;

The state-owned enterprise "Infostruktūra" was founded in 1992. The Lithuanian state strategic programme of co-ordinating the creation and development of information infrastructure "Lithuania 2000" formed the basis for its establishment. On the national scale the state-owned enterprise "Infostruktūra" created technical and organisational data transmission infrastructure necessary for the development of information systems of state-owned institutions – the computer network of state-owned institutions VIKT covers the territory of entire Lithuania. In 2001 the Safe State Data Transmission Network (SSDTN) was initiated by Resolution of the Govenrment of the Republic of Lithuania and in 2003 it was commenced to be designed and implemented. In 2004 the "Regulations of the Safe State Data Transmission Network and Rules for the Provision of Services" were approved. The state-owned enterprise "Infostruktūra" was commissioned to carry out functions of the operator of this network. In 2004 the Safe State Data Transmission Network (SSDTN) was connected to the Trans-European Telematics Networks for Administrations TESTA and the public authorities of Lithuania started exchanging data with the EU institutions. At the present time the enterprise is successfully carrying out the project "Development of the Body Part of the Safe State Data Transmission Network (SSDTN)" (2005-2007 m.), which is financed from the European Union structural funds according to Measure 3.3 "Development of Information Technologies Services and Infrastructure" of the Single Programming Document of Lithuania 2004-2006.

6. **Provide information about legal and administrative measures implemented by your institution, which were adopted to implement the following parts of the Recommendations: assuring the Internet access to public information sources; encouraging computer literacy, encouraging confidence in the use of information technologies;**

In promoting computer literacy of pedagogues and their confidence in the use of information technologies, since 2001 courses in computer literacy have been organised according to the technological and educological part of the Standard of Computer Literacy of Pedagogues. Pedagogues are taught to use information computer technologies at the lessons of various subjects. About 17 000 pedagogues (36 per cent) attended the course in upgrading their computer literacy qualifications, which corresponded to the contents of the technological part of "The Standard of Computer Literacy of Pedagogues". More than 7 500 teachers (16 per cent.) completed long-distance studies corresponding to the contents of the educological part of the Standard of Computer Literacy of Pedagogues".

Since 2004, in co-operation with the Corporation "Microsoft" a tender for preparing

methodological material about application of information technologies in the process of education has been organised every year. The best works of the tender are placed on the website http://metodika.emokykla.lt.

Seeking to promote computer literacy of all residents, in 2004 the standard of universal computer literacy was approved (by Order No. ISAK-2013, of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 14 December 2004) the main goal of which was to reduce shortage of general education in the sphere of information technologies, which has formed with rapidly developing and spreading information technologies, and with the newly-emerged need for life-long education, and its purpose is to establish equal requirements and recommendation for the qualification of computer literacy of the population; to legalise principles for approving computer literacy. Moreover, annual investigations into computer literacy are carried out (http://www.smm.lt/svietimo_bukle/tyrimai.htm), methodological material is being prepared. In implementing the Universal Computer Literacy Programme, the Lithuanian Centre for Adult Education and Information organised a campaign of social advertising about application of information and communications technologies in everyday life and published a series of methodological materials "Library of Public Internet Centre" consisting of four methodological aids – "My Friend, the Internet", "Computer and the Internet for Everyone", "My Bank on the Internet", "To the Aid of the Administrator of the Public Internet Centre".

The development of the Internet communication raises the possibility to provide society with various linguistic information. The Language Commission, in co-operation with the Office of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, has assured the Internet access to the Internet linguistic databases that have been created according to the latest technologies – the Bank of Terms of the Republic of Lithuania and the Bank of Linguistic Consultations.

7. To inform what measures your institution adopted in improving legal acts relating to copyright and their adaptation on the Internet.

The Ministry of Culture prepared the draft of the new wording of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Copyright and Related Rights in effect, which was adopted on 5 March 2003. The provisions on protection of copyright and related rights in effect were harmonised with Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in information society and creates conditions for the protection of copyright when using works of literature, science and art on the Internet.

By Resolution No. 1333 of 13 December 2005, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the draft law on the Amendment and Supplement of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights prepared by the Ministry of Culture and submitted it to the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania for consideration. The provisions proposed in the draft law have been harmonised with Directive 2004/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the enforcement of intellectual property rights. After this law has been adopted the conditions will be created for better protection of copyright and related rights, including the protection of the rights when the works are used in the digital environment.

8. What, in the opinion of your institution, are major problems, main challenges to be encountered in promoting multilingualism?

In promoting multilingualism many problems and challengers will be encountered, which can be resolved, however, additional work will be needed. These problems cover a rare inclusion of promotion of multilingualism in the strategic action plans of state institutions and establishments. Another, especially significant problem is a lack of a dialogue. Interested groups express their interest in promoting multilingualism, hence, this issues is not put on the political agenda.

The possibility to use the Lithuania language and to choose other alternative languages for work with a computer will be ensured at computer working places located in public places of use of information technologies (for example, Internet cafes, libraries). Also, databases of a semantically, morphologically and syntactically described language must be created on the basis of which various electronic and Internet products intended for the user of the language will be developed. The possibility to start producing equipment of speech recognition and synthesis, which will enable the work efficiency to be increased when printing texts, to implement a cheaper provision of services round the clock, to help the disable to integrate into intense activities, to search for information on the Internet or other large repositories of information in a faster and more convenient manner would also contribute greatly to promoting multilingualism.

Seeking to facilitate work and to improve the quality of documents being prepared in computerised working places at state institutions, the Committee has implemented the project intended for translation and editing of official languages of the countries of the European Union. The Collection consists of the following:

—   Translation guide (this is a fast and convenient translation of various texts);

—   Dictionaries of the English, German, French, Russian and Lithuanian languages;

- Comprehensive dictionaries, dictionaries of synonyms and terms of different spheres;
- Aids of checking spelling, grammar and text formatting of the Lithuanian language;
- Collection of patterns of documents corresponding to the standards of office-work of Lithuania.

In the future it is planned to extend translation aids specified in the above-mentioned project by supplementing them with the possibilities to translate into and from the languages of other Member States of the European Union.

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REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PROMOTION AND USE OF MULTILINGUALISM AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CYBERSPACE APPROVED BY RESOLUTION NO 32C/41 OF THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE OF 15 OCTOBER 2003

Information society development committee under the Government of Republic of Lithuania (further on – Committee), on behalf of Chancellor of the Government of Republic of Lithuania has prepared a report on the Implementation of Recommendations concerning Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace Approved by Resolution No 32C/41 of the UNESCO General Conference of 15 October 2003.

ATTACHMENT: Report by Lithuania to the General Conference on the Implementation of Recommendations concerning Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace Approved by Resolution No 32C/41 of the UNESCO General Conference of 15 October 2003, 10 pages.

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