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Specific SSH Research and General Research Policy Instruments in Lithuania

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- A large-scale funding of competitive research 2008 by the Research Council of Lithuania
 - the Committee of Natural and Technical Sciences,
 - the Committee of the Social Science and Humanities
- Committees act within the remits of their respective research areas in general policy instruments and blue-sky research
- National research programs are meant
 - „to solve problems, crucial for the state and its society, with the help of research“
 - „the problem ... should be such that it could be solved by Lithuanian researchers within a period of 3-7 years“
- Specific instrument for the SSH research to meet the state priority of the Lithuanian studies



**The Scale of Research Instruments
from free to limited choice of topics**

Blue-sky research	Policy driven research programs	Policy driven research programs	Policy driven research
Projects of Collaborative Research on Researchers' Initiative	State programs on Lithuanian studies	National Research Programs	Need Driven Research



**Success rates of the policy-oriented
programs and blue-sky research**

Type	Main area	Duration	Name	Success rate
National RP	Humanities	2010-2013	State and Nation: Heritage and Identity	40,13 %
National RP	Social Sciences	2010-2013	Social Challenges for the National Security	39,28 %
National RP	Humanities	2017-2022	Modernity in Lithuania	33,87%
National RP	Social Sciences	2015-2020	Welfare Society	12,83%
State Program	Humanities	2009-2015	National Program of the Lithuanian Studies	46,28%
State Program	Humanities	2016-2024	The State Research and Dissemination Program of the Lithuanian Studies	30,68%
Blue-sky Research	SSH	N/A	Projects of Collaborative Research on Researchers' Initiative	26,62%



- impact on decision makers at the state institutions and broader society
- state demand for prompt solutions
- requests for specific applied research from the government or other state institutions
- duration of a project up to 1-2 years
- the list of topics suggested by ministries and approved by the committees
- a challenge for the governmental institutions to formulate topics and problems for research
- SSH related topics prevail (71%)
- two-step procedure: pre-proposal success rate (17,28%), for full proposals up to 33,85%



**Impact-oriented national research
policy: pros and cons**

Promotes the idea of mission-oriented and transformative research	General policy driven research instruments are not always suitable for the SSH research
Supports culture of societal research impact	Policy driven research instruments deprive SSH community of its blue-sky research
Raises awareness among researchers	State institutions lack capacity to define policy driven SSH research



- **Traditional impact (both academic and societal) assessment methods do not reveal multilateral impact of the SSH research that remains to be re-defined taking into account possible side effects and unintended consequences**
- **Bottom up approaches, such as blue-sky research, could be a better alternative for society-oriented research**
- **Impact of the SSH research has not only to be carefully planned before made during the process of research but also identified, reflected and evaluated from a long-term perspective**



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**„The future of the
stipulated impact (...) is by
no means given“
(Nowotny, The Cunning of
Uncertainty, 2016)**