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State Commission on Migration Issues

ENIGMMA High-Profile Diaspora Engagement Programme
Study visit to Vilnius, Lithuania
29 February – 3 March 2016

Introduction

The ENIGMMA study visit to Vilnius, Lithuania, on diaspora engagement took place in February/March 2016. The Georgian delegates from the SCMI Secretariat, State Minister's Office for Diaspora Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and Ministry of Education and Science had the opportunity to meet with Lithuanian officials from various ministries, NGOs and research institutions working on diaspora engagement projects i. a. within the Global Lithuania Programme. The main topics discussed during the study visit dealt with diaspora engagement, investment, providing employment and mentorship opportunities to young diaspora graduates and creating evidence-based diaspora policies.



Meetings



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania introduced its Global Lithuania Programme, adopted in 2011 by the Lithuanian Government, striving to maintain close ties with Lithuania, foster identity and contribute to the progress of Lithuania. The goals of the Programme are to preserve the national identity, to encourage the diaspora to participate in political, economic and social activities in Lithuania, to strengthen state-diaspora ties for the benefit of brain circulation, to create an information platform to connect Lithuanians around

the world by their interests, to encourage the diaspora to promote and present Lithuania abroad. The main target groups are Lithuanian organisations and communities abroad, professionals and youth. A lot of initiatives are organised within the project, such as: the Global Lithuanian Awards where awards for special achievements are handed out to diaspora members, international workshops for artists, music and film festivals, mentorship programmes for students and young professionals with Lithuanian diaspora



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advisers functioning as mentors, internship and employment schemes for young graduates, to name a few.

The delegation also met with the Invest Lithuanian Agency which introduced its one-year work placement programme for young professionals, directed at Lithuanian youth who have finished their studies at universities outside of Lithuania. Each year, a group of young graduates is selected to work on strategic governmental projects and to participate in high-level decision-making processes. Several rotations in the public sector are tailor-made on the young professionals' experience and preferences. At the end of each rotation, the young professionals present their projects to the Lithuanian Government as well as to the public. More information can be found here: www.kurkli.lt.

Further, the delegation participated at a training organised by the NGO "Global Lithuanian Leaders" (GLL), a social enterprise and online platform for attracting high-level professionals to Lithuania. One of its programmes, the GLL Business Advisors Programme, focuses on bringing together Lithuania's most successful and qualified international professionals to inspire, educate and enhance opportunities of Lithuania's growing businesses. The Global Lithuanian Awards aim at rewarding extraordinary talent, exceptional vision, and responsible ambition of Lithuanians and people connected to Lithuania who have been contributing to the prosperity and global positive image of Lithuania. GLL provided insights into the detailed planning and implementation of the awards ceremony together with useful suggestions for planning the Georgian Diaspora Awards. Another programme deals with an internship and mentoring placement of young professionals. More information can be found here: www.lithuanianleaders.org.

The study visit was completed with a workshop on the ENIGMMA High-Profile Diaspora Engagement Programme which was introduced to all participants. The Georgian Diaspora Awards event was discussed in detail including brainstorming on award categories and criteria for selection, the most effective advertisement and outreach tools, timeline, location and details about the ceremony itself.

The study visit was received positively by all participants. The ENIGMMA project would like to thank all Lithuanian institutions for the fruitful meetings.

