

The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

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History

The development of scientific thought in Lithuania saw periods of excellence and decline. In 1773, a group of Vilnius University researchers led by the prominent astronomer Martynas Počobutas (Marcin Poczubutt) took the initiative in setting up the Vilnius Academy of Sciences, an institution for research and spreading science. However, these plans were thwarted by the continuous wars devastating the country. Under the impact of national revival an attempt was made to establish the Academy of Sciences as the highest autonomous institution of science and culture in Lithuania, which besides its direct science development and promotion functions would also stand as a symbol of the State prestige. Another idea to establish the Academy of Sciences was first conceived at the beginning of the 20th century by the Lithuanian Learned Society members (J.Basanavičius, K.Būga, J.Šliūpas, and others). The most distinguished intellectuals of Lithuania strove to implement it. However, it was only at the end of 1938 that the Institute of Lithuanian Studies was established; for its founders, it was supposed to grow into an academy conducting research in various fields of science. The Institute started its activities the following year.

Fate had decreed that the Academy of Sciences, desired and conceived in some form or another by many generations of Lithuanian scientists, was established at the time when Lithuania had already lost its independence – that is, it had been incorporated into the USSR. The Government's decision on the establishment of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences was adopted on January 16, 1941. Its activities were directed towards the solution of large-scale problems: investigation and rational utilization of Lithuania's natural resources and study of the history and cultural heritage of the Lithuanian nation. Prof. Vincas Krėvė-Mickevičius was elected the first President of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

During the first stage of its establishment which coincided with the years of the World War II the Humanities prevailed in the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. The Division of the Humanities incorporated the Institute of Lithuanian Studies. On the basis of the former departments of the Institute, the research Institutes of Lithuanian Language, Ethnology and History were founded, and the Institute of Lithuanian Literature newly established.

The Academy of Sciences and, in particular, the Division of the Humanities had to take care of a number of cultural institutions that had been transferred from the Institute of Lithuanian Studies – a dozen of museums and libraries belonging to national minorities and private persons. The Academy of Sciences also took over the institution for the protection of cultural monuments.

In the post-war years the re-established Academy of Sciences functioned under harsh conditions when the activities of scientists were strictly regulated but within the Academy of Sciences the progressive scientific thought was always alive. It was especially stimulated by a great authority in electrochemistry Prof. Juozas Matulis, the long-standing President of the Lithuanian AS (1946-1984).

In the post-war activities of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences one can distinguish three periods: the establishment of an efficient system of scientific activities and the development of applied sciences and their subsequent separation from the Academy (1945-63); the systematic expansion of fundamental sciences and gradual return to applied research, the strengthening of the Academy's institutional functions and the formation of its structure (1963-91); the evolution of the Academy under the conditions of its new Charter (since 1991).

The first two periods happened to cover the time of occupation, however, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences has always remained an authoritative national centre of science and culture despite a number of attempts to divert it from its course.

The Academy contributed to the training of national research staff recruited from the local intellectuals, to the expansion of Lithuanian studies and to the preservation of national identity. The Academy

displayed its tolerance by employing research and cultural workers persecuted or dismissed from their jobs because of their beliefs or past activities as well as former exiles and political prisoners.

Despite the growing trend towards the integration of science and industry, a number of prominent scientists studied fundamental scientific problems and achieved excellent results. First of all, one should note the original scientific schools that won wide recognition both in the home country and abroad: the probabilistic number theory (J. Kubilius), probability theory limit theorems and mathematical statistics (V. Statulevičius), theoretical spectroscopy of atoms and molecules (A. Jucys), semiconductor physics (P. Brazdžiūnas, J. Požela), thermal physics (A. Žukauskas), theoretical and applied electroplating (J. Matulis), native fauna research (T. Ivanauskas), experimental biology and parasitology (P. Šivickis, V. Kontrimavičius). International recognition was gained not only by the aforementioned heads of the original schools but also by many of their associates and students. The work done by Lithuanian mathematicians, physicists, electrochemists, astronomers, biologists, biochemists, physicians, ecologists, power engineers and other specialists was on a par with the world level.

Due to the forced ideological treatment of research results, the activities of the representatives of social sciences were proceeding under more complicated conditions. For this reason, some works on philosophy, political economy, literary criticism and other scholarly subjects of that period have lost their significance. The historical periods or problems studied will have to be re-examined according to the new scale of values. However, the majority of specialists in the humanities and social sciences found ways of conducting research necessary for their country and its culture and paying a token tribute to ideology without compromising on the quality of research.

The Academy has always paid a lot of attention to publishing as an important means of the dissemination of research results. The structure for publishing activities was functioning from the inception of the Academy. Besides, it was closely linked to the subject matter investigated by the Academy's institutes and their publication plans.

The three series of the Proceedings of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences were published regularly. At the beginning of 1990, they were transformed into specialized journals.

The ideas of liberation and restoration of national sovereignty that had taken hold of Lithuanian society encouraged political disobedience to Moscow. One of the first such actions was organized by the Lithuanian Academy. As far back as 8 December 1989, the General Assembly of the Academy, while discussing the restructuring of Lithuanian science under the conditions of the then future independence, decided to call the Academy the 'Lithuanian Academy of Sciences' and declared it an independent scientific establishment not accountable to the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Urged by the ideas of national rebirth and independence, hundreds and thousands of the Academy's staff took an active part in the events directed against the discredited occupational regime. The project of the new Constitution that had been drafted even before the National Reform Movement *Persitvarkymo Sąjūdis* was set up surprised many by its emphasis on national sovereignty and its priority over the all-Union legislative acts and was considered a daring attempt to undermine the foundations of the Soviet system. The conception of Lithuania's economic independence as well as the right to restore political parties were also based on the idea of national sovereignty.

On June 3, 1988, the founding group of the National Reform Movement *Persitvarkymo Sąjūdis* was set up at the conference hall of the Academy; the Academy members and staff made up one-fourth of this group. At almost the same time the Green movement was started at the Academy. A few Academy members were elected to the highest governing bodies and were signatories to the Declaration of Restoration of Lithuania's Independence.

On January 25, 1991, the General Assembly of the Academy, in protest against the aggression in Vilnius, decided to stop research commissioned by Russia's military-industrial establishment and announced that it refused all the USSR awards.

Following the restoration of Lithuania's independence, the General Assembly of the Academy adopted a resolution concerning the status of the Academy of Sciences (23 March 1990). At the same time, to explain the motives of this fateful decision, a declaration was announced that read: "The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is declaring to Lithuanian society at large and scientists all over the world that it

renounces its departmental status to become an autonomous establishment independent of any political and governmental institutions.”

Status and structure

The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is a budgetary institution which brings together the most distinguished Lithuanian scientists as well as foreign scholars whose activities are related to Lithuania. The scope and forms of the Academy’s activities are defined in its Charter that is adopted and changed by its General Assembly and approved by the Seimas (Parliament) of Lithuania.

Structure: The highest institution of the Academy of Sciences is the General Assembly of its members. The General Assembly is convened at least twice a year. All issues at the Assembly are solved by a majority vote of the members with the right of the deciding vote. The President and the Presidium direct the activities of the Academy between the sessions of the General Assembly.

The Academy of Sciences has the following Scientific Divisions: the Humanities and Social Sciences; Mathematical, Physical and Chemical Sciences; Biological, Medical and Geosciences; Agriculture and Forestry; Technical Sciences. The Scientific Divisions unite scientists working in neighbouring branches of science, deal with the problems of their further development, integration and quality, investigate scientific potential, organise complex research and expert evaluations, formulate recommendations to apply scientific research results to economy and culture, organise scientific forums, symposia, conferences and lectures.

Members and membership: In 2003, the Seimas (Parliament) approved the new Charter of the Academy that had been harmonized with the Law on Research and Higher Education. In accordance with it, the Academy may have 40 full members, 60 corresponding members, 50 expert members, and an unlimited number of foreign members (at present there are 40 of them). Full members, corresponding and foreign members are elected for life.

Lithuanian scientists who have enriched science and culture by their original and sound scientific research are elected to be full members (academicians) and corresponding members of the Academy of Sciences. In certain cases, prominent writers and artists can be elected members too. Expert members of the Academy of Sciences are elected for a five-year period and not longer than for two terms of office. Renowned foreign scientists, whose academic activities relate to Lithuania, are elected foreign members of the Academy.

Depending on their scientific interests, the members of the Academy belong to the relevant Divisions of Sciences.

Academy Activities

The role of the Academy of Sciences in the country’s research system is determined by its objectives defined in its Charter: to unite scientists and scholars for solving major scientific, cultural, linguistic, economic, and social advancement problems in Lithuania; to stimulate and maintain the high standards of scientific research and academic studies; to foster the personalities of scientists and their individuality, to be the intellectual centre of Lithuanian scientists; to encourage and conduct joint or interdisciplinary fundamental research; to favour and assist the cooperation between Lithuanian and world scientific centres; to be an independent expert and consultant on science, (studies), technology, culture, economy, human development, nature protection, health care, etc. (Web site: <http://neris.mii.lt/LMA>).

The prestige and influence of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is felt in nearly every field of the country’s scientific life. This has been achieved by close scientific cooperation. Besides, the scientists trained by the Academy work in a large number of Lithuania’s research and educational institutions. Of all the state research institutes functioning today, over four-fifths were established by the Academy.

The expert activities of the Academy are being further expanded. They are favoured by the circumstance that the Academy members represent all the branches of science and the main scientific and educational institutions. Expert evaluations are commissioned or carried out independently. Expert opinions are presented in specially prepared documents, in the press, and at various scientific events.

Thanks to the vigorous actions of the Academy, the adoption of a long-term strategy for the expansion of scientific research met with the approval of the governmental institutions. The principles of its adoption are laid down in The White Book of Lithuanian Science and Technology initiated by the Lithuanian AS. The Academy is also concerned with the development of high technologies in Lithuania and, in view of this, it arranges various scientific events and interdisciplinary programs.

The Academy each year holds over 100 scientific conferences and seminars.

Awards and Prizes

The Academy of Sciences has initiated the restoration of State Science Prizes. Among the winners there are dozens of Academy members. It has also established a number of prizes named after famous Lithuanian scientists:

- Kazimieras Baršauskas (electronics, electromechanics)
- Povilas Brazdžiūnas (experimental physics)
- Kazimieras Būga (linguistics)
- Juozas Dalinkevičius (geosciences)
- Simonas Daukantas (history)
- Tadas Ivanauskas (nature protection)
- Adolfas Jucys (theoretical physics)
- Vincas Krėvė-Mickevičius (literature)
- Jonas Kriščiūnas (agricultural sciences)
- Vladas Lašas (medicine)
- Juozas Matulis (chemistry)
- Albinas Rimka (economics)
- Kazimieras Simonavičius (mechanics)
- Pranciškus Šivickis (biology)
- Algirdas Žukauskas (heat engineering)

The prizes are awarded every 4 years. In conjunction with the Grotthuss Foundation, the Academy established Theodor Grotthuss Prize and medal as well as a scholarship. The scientists of the Baltic and other foreign countries who have achieved significant scientific results and contributed greatly to the cooperation between the scientists of this region are awarded the medal that has been established jointly by the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Academies. Besides, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences has also established 10 annual prizes for research of young scientists and 15 prizes for research projects done by university students.

Academy Institutions

The Academy is the founder of the following institutions: the Library of the Academy of Sciences, the Archives, the Publishing House, the Department of Foreign Languages, the Institute of Economics, the Lithuanian Branch of the International Centre for Scientific Culture – World Laboratory, and the Palace of Scientists.

Lithuanian Branch of the International Centre for Scientific Culture – World Laboratory

The World Federation of Scientists (WFS) is a free association of scientists, who share the same aims and ideals and who uphold the principles of promoting international collaboration in science and technology between scientists and researchers from all parts of the world, who strive towards an ideal of free exchange of information without secrecy and borders so that everyone may experience the benefits of the progress of science.

In order to better implement the ideas of the WFS the International Centre for Scientific Culture – World Laboratory (ICSC–WL) was founded in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1986. The ICSC–WL identifies and implements interdisciplinary projects in various scientific fields and encourages the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge.

The Lithuanian Branch of the ICSC–WL was established on December 11, 1990. On Lithuania's side, its founder is the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

The Lithuanian Branch of the ICSC–WL is paying much attention to implementing a number of complex interdisciplinary scientific and technological projects of vital importance, with a view to fighting against the fifteen Planetary Emergencies. A number of Lithuanian scientists have been participating in the activities of the relevant Permanent Monitoring Panels of the WFS.

The Branch was very active in the initiation and organization of the implementation of the State scientific program 'Ecological Sustainability of Regional Development in a Historical Perspective: Lithuanian Case Studies'. Its main results and recommendations were disseminated in various ways, ICSC–WL Annual Meetings included, in Lithuania and in many foreign countries.

Another direction of the Branch activity is to look for the young scientists who would be interested in research linked to one of the fifteen Planetary Emergencies. In other words, to look for good candidates for the National Scholarship Programme established by the WFS. So far more than twenty young scientists have been awarded such a scholarship.

The Department of Foreign Languages

For many years, the major objective of the Department of Foreign Languages of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences was training the Academy's postgraduate students and research associates for the Ph.D. degree examinations in the English, German and French languages (each year the number of examinees totalled 150-170). Later attention was focused on raising the foreign language proficiency of researchers taking part at international congresses, conferences and symposia. Fairly large number of prominent Lithuanian scientists and scholars studied foreign languages at the Department or improved their linguistic skills.

The Institute of Economics

The Institute was founded in 1941 and reorganized in 1992. During the Soviet period, research at the Institute was mostly concerned with the practical problems of the country's economic development.

After the restoration of Lithuania's independence, many of the Institute's researchers were offered jobs at the governmental institutions and private businesses. The transition from command to market economy has changed the very subject of study. The Institute has prepared the first program for the implementation of market relations in Lithuania. The changed situation necessitated to reduce the involvement in routine projects and concentrate on high academic quality research. At present the main trends of research are: economic theory and mathematical modeling; economic and social development of Lithuania; integration in the EU; and economic thought in Lithuania in 17-20th centuries.

Even if the number of the Institute's research personnel does not exceed ten, some important results have been achieved. An applied general equilibrium model has been designed for Lithuania's economy and, in conjunction with other institutions, the social accounting matrix formed as a database for the model. The use of the model for energy sector analysis has proved its practical applicability to policy analysis in other key areas of the economy. The Institute's researchers were leaders in writing the Lithuanian White Paper on Science and Technology, the Strategy for the Long-Term (up to 2015) Development of Lithuania's Economy, and the Program for High Tech Development. The strategic aspects of economic development, especially those related to the country's integration into the EU and creation of knowledge-based economy, remains the Institute's first priority.

The Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

The Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is a universal library of state significance, established in Vilnius in 1941. Its founder is the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. The library's core consisted of the stocks of the Synod Library of the Lithuanian Evangelical and Reformed Church (founded in 1557), the Wróblewski Public Library, the library of the Society of Science Lovers, libraries of theological seminaries of Lithuania, and others. One of the major objectives of the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is to collect and store its information stocks and render library services

to the readers in compliance with the needs of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and other research and educational institutions. The library's stocks run into 3,723,136 volumes of printed books and other documents.

The Manuscript Department has accumulated 249,400 items of unique manuscripts (358 collections). A large part of the manuscripts in the Manuscript Department reflect the history and culture of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the neighbouring countries. The Library accumulates files and keeps the manuscript legacy, personal archives, collections, individual unique manuscripts and documents of the academicians, corresponding members of the Academy as well as of other figures of Lithuanian science and culture. The Manuscript Department has a rich collection of parchments – 1,416 copies, and the earliest – the 11th-century – manuscript in Lithuania, The Turov Gospel.

There are about 200,000 items in the Department of Rare Publications, 63 incunabula, 600 palaeotypes, 772 edicts, 7,500 cartographic publications, and a unique collection of cuneiforms among them.

Small-scale printing is distinguished by the collection of photography (over 7,000 items). These are the works by famous photographers of the 19th-early 20th century, and photographs of the activities of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences.

The collection of ex-libris (bookplates of various 16th-20th-century European libraries and private collections) comes up to over 5,000 units, and the collection of cuts to 5,000 items.

The Library has accumulated rich stocks of foreign research literature. An important collecting source is international book exchange. The Library has 497 exchange partners in 50 countries around the world.

The Library has established its departments in eight research institutes of Lithuania: Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Ecology, Physics, Culture, Philosophy and Art, Mathematics and Informatics, Theoretical Physics and Astronomy. Over half a million volumes of science literature answering the needs of research of corresponding institutes have been collected in these departments.

Every year the Library welcomes numerous readers from many foreign countries. Foreign scientists are especially interested in the stocks of the departments of Manuscripts, Rare Publications, and Old Periodicals. The Library provides services of interlibrary and international interlibrary loan.

Intensive bibliographical activities are carried on in the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. It publishes bibliographical indices, prepares about 30 thematic exhibitions every year; the displays of newly acquired books and journals are changed every week.

The Library participates in compiling Lithuanian national bibliography, carries on research into book science, library studies, bibliography and information science, organizes academic conferences, prepares for publication and publishes major written scientific and cultural works.

The Library prepared and published *The Monuments of the Prussian Language*, edited & compiled by V. Mažiulis (1966), the first dictionary of the Lithuanian language by K. Sirvydas – *Dictionarium trium linguarum* (prepared by K. Pakalka, 1979), *Lithuanian Bookplates*, by V. Kisarauskas (1984), *Lexicon Lithuanicum* (1987), *Witch Trials in Lithuania* by K. Jablonskis and R. Jاسas (1987), *Publications in Lithuanian Periodicals 1898-1900* (2000), as well as a number of books which won awards in Lithuania and abroad. Among these mention should be made of E. Laucevičius' two books, *Paper in Lithuania in the 15th-17th centuries* (1967) and *15th-18th-century Book-Binding in Lithuanian Libraries* (1976).

Every year the Book Preservation and Restoration Department revives about 20,000 conditional pages of the worst damaged valuable manuscripts and rare books to new life.

The Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences implements new library information technologies. The processes of the arrangement, cataloguing, reference service, library management, reader service and information supply are computer aided.

The Palace of Scientists

The Palace of Scientists is a national cultural institution founded on the initiative of the Academy of Sciences in 1976. It is housed in the historically famous Verkiai architectural ensemble restored by the effort of the Academy of Sciences.

In 1978, the Palace of Scientists, in conjunction with the State Museum of Fine Arts, arranged an interior display in the Verkiai palace, the first and at the time the only one of its kind in Lithuania. The

magnificent architectural monument of 18th-19th cc. was opened to the public. The palace and its exposition are visited by around 1,000 groups totalling 25,000 visitors each year.

During the 28 years of its activities, the Palace of Scientists has performed successfully its main functions: spreading scientific knowledge and information about the latest scientific achievements, promoting national culture and stirring the scientists to greater social activity.

In the late 80s, the Palace of Scientists contributed much to national revival and foundation of the National Reform Movement '*Persitvarkymo Sajūdis*'. Each year it organizes about 120 events pertaining to science, enlightenment, culture and relaxation as well as many seminars, discussions, forums on Lithuanian economy, power engineering, culture, history, religion and other issues. It also marks important events in Lithuania's history and the anniversaries of prominent personalities. On the initiative of the Palace of Scientists, recently two international scientific conferences were held: 'Sustainable Development: a Systemic Approach' (1997) and 'Sustainable Development in Information Society' (2000).

A fairly large number of Academy members, university professors and researchers, some MPs, politicians, prominent specialists, and social figures are taking part in the activities of the Palace. Worthy of note for their great activity and creativity are the artistic companies – the Academy's mixed choir and the '*Dijūta*' folklore ensemble. They give concerts not only in Lithuania but also abroad taking part in the traditional song festivals of Northern Baltic countries and international folklore festivals.

Associated Institutes

The research institutes that opt for closer cooperation with the Academy have concluded association contracts with it. At present the Vilnius University Institutes of Ecology and Immunology, the Lithuanian Forest Research Institute, and The Institute of Architecture and Construction of Kaunas University of Technology are associate members of the Academy.

The Vilnius University Institute of Ecology

At present the staff of the Institute totals 138, including 102 scientific workers and other researchers (9 DScs and 50 PhDs). The Institute expands fundamental research in:

1. The regularities and mechanisms of the susceptibility, vulnerability, adaptation and microevolution of ecosystems and their constituent part under the conditions of global change and anthropogenic impact.
2. The regularities and mechanisms of the functioning, adaptation and evolution of aquatic ecosystems under the conditions of global change and anthropogenic impact.
3. The physiological and ethological mechanisms of animal population management, and the functions of parasitic organisms in ecosystems.

The Vilnius University Institute of Immunology

Now 35 research workers take part in the Institute's research activities, of them, 4 DScs and 26 PhDs. Research work is carried out along the two lines confirmed by the Lithuanian Government:

1. Research into the molecular and cellular regularities of immunity functioning.
2. Research into the functional activity of the immune state and its determining factors.

The Lithuanian Forest Research Institute

At present time the Institute staff totals 78, including 22 researchers (of them, 2 DScs and 20 PhDs). The Lithuanian Forest Research Institute, founded in 1950, is the main forestry research center in Lithuania, well known in the country and abroad. It is an active member of the IUFRO. The Institute is participating in an international exchange of researchers and lecturers. The Institute staff are involved in the preparation of materials for the governmental agencies concerning laws, regulations, rules and programs on forest, nature protection, conservation of forest resources, forest restoration and reclamation, hunting, sanitary protection, etc.

The Institute of Architecture and Construction of Kaunas University of Technology

At present the Institute staff totals 107, including 48 researchers (of them, 6 DScs and 28 PhDs). Research is conducted along the three major trends:

1. Research into the history and heritage of Lithuanian architecture and city planning.
2. Landscape architecture and town and country planning.

3. Research into the methods and ways of energy saving, the properties of building structures and materials, and remarking technogenic raw materials into building materials.

The Publishing House of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

From 1955, three serial collections of the Academy's Proceedings were being published, while late in 1989, at the outset of the national rebirth movement, the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences established the Chief Editorial Board which in 1990 was transformed into a Publishing House. It publishes monographs and other academic books as well as 12 scientific journals: *Acta Medica Lituanica*, *Biologija (Biology)*, *Chemija (Chemistry)*, *Ekologija (Ecology)*, *Geologija (Geology)*, *Energetika (Power Engineering)*, *Filosofija. Sociologija (Philosophy. Sociology)*, *Geografija (Geography)*, *Lituanistica*, *Menotyra (Studies of Art)*, *Žemės ūkio mokslai (Agricultural Sciences)*, *Lithuanian Journal of Physics* (together with the Lithuanian Physical Society). In these journals, original scientific papers on the urgent problems of respective fields appear. The scientific standard of all papers is maintained by the editorial boards which comprise scientists of the highest qualification – professors, habilitated doctors, academicians. The first five journals are published in English and the rest in Lithuanian with summaries in English, 4 issues per year (only *Geografija* twice a year).

The Publishing House often receives requests from foreign firms for permission to use the materials published in the journals *Chemistry* and *Biology* (e.g. Procter and Gamble, Kessler-Hancock and others). We are getting notifications of the use of materials published in our journals from Advanced Information Consultants (U.S.A.) and other firms. Cambridge (Great Britain) and Stockholm (Sweden) Universities subscribe to the journal *Lituanistica*.

Scientific Journals

At present the Academy alone or jointly with other scientific and educational institutions edits and publishes the following scientific journals: *Acta Medica Lituanica*, *Biology*, *Chemistry*, *Lithuanian Journal of Physics*, *Ecology*, *Power Engineering*, *Philosophy and Sociology*, *Geography*, *Geology*, *Lituanistica*, *Art History*, *Agricultural Sciences*. The editorial boards of the journals are staffed with highly qualified scientists who are assisted by foreign scientists and scholars. The journals are published as a rule quarterly.

The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences publishes *The Bulletin of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences* and a yearly *Report of the Activities of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences*. Also the popular monthly journal *Science and Technology* established by the Academy is appearing regularly.

Besides the above mentioned 12 journals published by the Academy, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is included into the list of publishers responsible for 11 other journals issued by other Lithuanian institutions of science and higher studies.

Dissemination of scientific knowledge

An important sphere of the Academy's activities is popularization of scientific knowledge in society. The biweekly Academic Readings on the latest developments in world science and the achievements of individual Lithuanian scientists are gaining in popularity. The Days of Science are held regularly in Lithuania's towns, districts, and higher schools. The Academy is one of the chief organizers of special regular radio and TV programs on science. An important role in spreading science and bringing culture and enlightenment to society at large is played by the Academy's Palace of Scientists.

International cooperation

At present the Lithuanian Academy has signed 22 bilateral agreements with the scientific centres (mainly Academies) in various countries, it represents Lithuania in several international scientific organizations, such as the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), All European Academies (ALLEA), the InterAcademy Panel (IAP), etc. The members of the Academy take part in the research conducted according to international programs, work at the commissions and deliver lectures at the

universities in various countries. The expansion of international scientific links is also supported by the Academy's special Foundation for International Cooperation.