

Agreement between Civil Society Organizations and Political Parties

March 1, 2019

Lithuanian Civil Society Organizations and Political Parties,

taking into account the civic passivity of the population and the lack of active involvement in state governance;

seeking active and informed citizens' participation in the political life of the state;

emphasizing the need for an integrated, coherent and long-term attitude and functioning of public authorities;

seeing the lack of attention of politicians to civil society, the lack of continuous and impact-oriented financial instruments, and the lack of important policy decisions;

We, civil society organizations, and the political parties that have signed this agreement, promise to make constant efforts to strengthen the citizenship and participation of Lithuanian residents in public life in Lithuania. By this agreement, we commit ourselves to the following goals:

1. Transparent, equally accessible for everyone and fair organization of elections, execution and implementation of election campaigns in partnership with civil society organizations and representatives; as well as to ensure that the politicians, the authorities and the governing bodies are accountable to Lithuanian citizens after the elections;
2. Introduce participatory budget programs in municipalities to enable citizens to participate in the process of budget formation and implementation;
3. Seek the gradual involvement of non-governmental organizations in the provision of public culture, education, sport, social and other services, optimizing the network of budgetary institutions and involving the population in local decision-making processes;
4. Carry out continuous monitoring of the implementation of public services (culture, education, sport, social services and other services) in the municipality territories, to continuously assess the need for public services and to submit annual reports on the results of this monitoring to the Municipal Councils and Municipality NGO Councils. Include local Municipality NGO Council's members and other NGO representatives in the development of the public service system;
5. Commit that representatives to the supervisory councils and/or boards of all profit-driven organizations controlled by the municipality would be elected and appointed publicly;
6. Ensure the implementation of an open data system in municipalities in order to make the municipal budget publicly available online in accessible digital format. To carry out a review of the municipality-owned real estate and publicly disclose all real estate

Labdaros ir paramos fondas "Nevyriausybių organizacijų informacijos ir paramos centras"

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- managed by the municipalities, the list of persons/entities using it and the value of the property.
7. Ensure that all information provided by the municipality on public services would be provided in formats (video, audio) digitally adapted and easy-to-understand language for people with different disabilities (visual, hearing, perceptual).
 8. Ensure that the adaptation of physical and information environments, infrastructure, public transport, public buildings (priority of health care and education) to the needs of people with disabilities is continuously improved in municipal areas, ensuring the necessary development of social services in the community, enabling families and disabled people to be included and fully participate in society;
 9. Consolidate equal opportunities for women and men and ensure their implementation at municipal level. To create conditions for citizens to combine work and family responsibilities;
 10. Ensure that citizens would receive accurate and relevant information about environment, and that interested community members would be informed and involved in environmental decision-making in the initial stages, while there are still opportunities to consider different options and ensure effective participation.

The implementation of the objectives stated in this agreement includes, but is not limited to, the responsibility of the signatory parties. Non-governmental organizations and political parties that are signatories to the agreement encourage other political parties, state and municipal institutions and public organizations to be involved in the implementation of the agreement.

The implementation of the Agreement is supported by the following civil society organizations:

National NGO Coalition, coordinated by the NGO Information and Support Center, which unites together the following national umbrella NGOs:

Environmental Coalition
Council of Lithuanian Youth Organizations
Lithuanian Association of Art Creators
Lithuanian Women's Lobby Organization
Lithuanian Disability Organizations Forum
Council of Representatives of Lithuanian Patient Organizations
Alliance of Lithuanian Consumer Organizations
Lithuanian Association of Local Communities Organizations
Poverty Reduction Organizations Network
National Education NGO Network
National Platform for Development Cooperation Organizations
Confederation of NGOs for Children
Coalition for Human Rights Organizations

**NACIONALINĖ NVO
KOALICIJA**



The National NGO Coalition unites over 3,000 NGOs across Lithuania.

Partners who contributed and support this agreement – the independent policy monitoring network “I Know What I Vote For” and politically-independent watchdog organization “The White Gloves”.

The agreement is supported by political parties:

Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania – Christian Families Alliance

Lithuanian Liberals Movement

Lithuanian Social Democratic Labour Party

Lithuanian Social Democratic Party

Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union

Lithuanian Christian Democrats

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Nacionalinės NVO koalicijos vardu,

Nevyriausybinių organizacijų informacijos ir paramos centro direktorius Martinus Žaltauskas

Susitarimui pritaria politinės partijos:

Lietuvos lenkų rinkimų akcija – Krikščioniškų šeimų sąjunga

Lietuvos liberalų sąjūdis

Lietuvos socialdemokratų darbo partija

Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija

Lietuvos valstiečių ir žaliųjų sąjunga

Tėvynės Sąjunga – Lietuvos krikščionys demokratai