Bridging the Gap – Science for Policy (S4P) Approach in the Context of Lithuania and the EU

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Network of Science and Innovation Advisors, Research Council of Lithuania

Content

- ✓ Lithuanian presentation
- ✓ S4P concept and the role in EU policy
- ✓ Creation of Lithuanian S4P ecosystem
- ✓ The gap between scientists and practitioners (governmental bodies)
- ✓ Collaboration examples from Lithuania
- ✓ The Future of S4P
- ✓ Discussion
- ✓ RENET network

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Lithuania. Co-create Experiences

Tallinn / Reval

Velikiy Novgorod

Baltic Sea

Lands of Velikiy Novgorod

Livonia

Pskov

Tver

Riga

Moscow

Šiauliai

Polatsk

Grand Duchy of Moscow

Medvėgalis

Vitebsk

Smolensk

Kernavė

Königsberg

Kaunas

Vilnius

Trakai

Medininkai

Teutonic Order

Lida

Kreva

Minsk

Bryansk

Hrodna

Navahradak

Brest

Chernigov

Lublin

Kingdom of Poland

Lutsk

Kiev / Kyiv

Cracow

Poltava

Bratslav

Košice

Kingdom of Hungary

Suceava

Moldavia

Crimean Khanate (from the 15th century)

Black Sea

Expansion of Lithunia in the 13-15th centuries

Lithuanian and Samogitian lands in the 13th century

Border of Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 15th century

Lands annexed by Mindaugas (until 1263)

Borders of other states in the 15th century

Lands, which temporary belonged to Lithuania, during Mindaugas` reign.

Lands annexed by Vytenis (1295-1316) and Gediminas (1316-1341)

Capital cities

Lands annexed by Algirdas (1345-1377)

Other cities

Lands annexed by Vytautas the Great (1392-1430)

Disputed border regions with the Kingdom of Poland

Etymology:

The oldest language still spoken in the world – Lithuanian

- from Proto-Slavic *gàdъ „snake, reptile"
- from Proto-Germanic *snakô "snake " > Proto-Germanic *snakaną "to crawl, to creep"
- from Proto-Germanic *slangô "snake"
- from Proto-Celtic *natīr "snake"
- from ard („high") + nieu („poison")
- from Proto-Slavic *zmьja „snake"
- related to the verb čukstēt "to whisper, to hiss", imitating a snake's hissing
- from Ancient Greek ὄφις, óphis > Proto-Indo-European *h₁ógʷʰis "snake, dragon"
- from Middle-Persian mār "snake"
- from Proto-Kartvelian *gwel- "snake"
- from Proto-Balto-Slavic *kirmis "worm"
- from Proto-Finnic *mato "worm"
- from Proto-Uralic *kije "snake"
- from Proto-Germanic *wurmiz "worm"
- from Proto-Turkic *jïłan "snake"
- from Proto-Indo-European *serp "to crawl":
  - from Latin serpēns "snake"
  - from the verb serpō "to crawl"
- from Proto-Albanian *serpena "snake"
  - from Proto-Indo-European *h₂éngʷʰis "snake":
  - from Proto-Slavic *ǫžь "snake" > Proto-Balto-Slavic *angi(a)s "snake"

Vilnius PINK SOUP* FEST
May 31st 2025

*šaltibarščiai
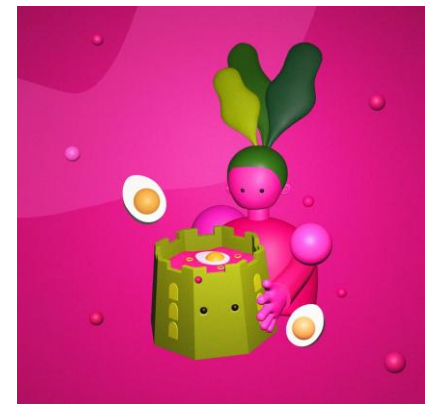
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Science for Policy (S4P) concept

- **The development of policy advice based on research.**

- Linking policy and research is not an easy task. Researchers and policymakers operate in different worlds, often speak different languages and have very different timetables.

- Their relationship requires more contact, cooperation and co-creation: science and policy separation prevents us from solving complex problems.

- Terminology: „Science for Policy", „Evidence-based Policy Making", „Evidence-informed Policy Making"

Science for Policy Handbook

Edited by
Vladimír Šucha and Marta Sienkiewicz

ELSEVIER
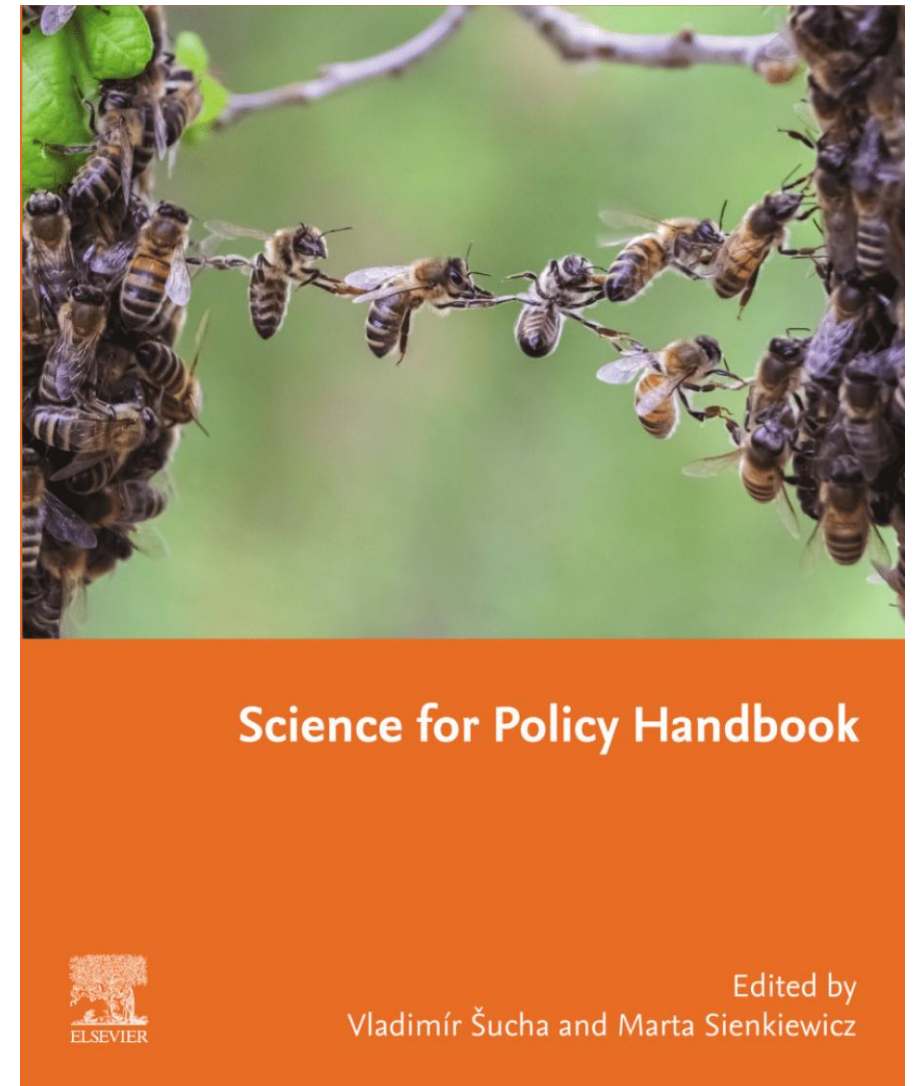
The role of S4P in Europe

Science for Policy in Europe plays a crucial role in shaping effective governance and addressing societal challenges.

Here are some key points highlighting its significance:

- ✓ Informed Decision-Making;
- ✓ Addressing Grand Challenges;
- ✓ Public Trust and Engagement;
- ✓ Sustainable Development;
- ✓ Crisis Management;
- ✓ Cross-Border Collaboration;
- ✓ Innovation and Economic Growth.

S4P is vital for creating effective, sustainable, and inclusive solutions in Europe, directly impacting various sectors, from health and environment to economy and education.

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RCL
Research Council of Lithuania
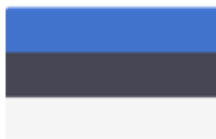
Jungtinė Karalystė

1 Vyriausiasis mokslo patarėjas vyriausybėje
Mokslo patarėjai: 15 departamentuose; 8 kitose valstybės institucijose; 1 vyriausiasis pasiuntinys mokslo tarptautiškumo klausimais

Airija

1 Vyriausiasis mokslo patarėjas vyriausybėje
(+ Airijos mokslo fondo generalinis direktorius)

Estija

14 mokslo patarėjų ministerijose ir 1 Vyriausybės kanceliarijoje

Nyderlandai

5–11 asmenų Vyriausybės politikos mokslo taryba (+ 28 asm. biuras)

Izraelis

14 (kiekvienoje ministerijoje po biurą ar atstovą) (+forumas)

Australija

1 Vyriausiasis mokslininkas vyriausybėje (+ biuras)

Naujoji Zelandija

1 Vyriausiasis ministro pirmininko mokslo patarėjas (+ jo biuras) + vyriausiųjų mokslo patarėjų forumas (19 narių)

Indija

1 Vyriausiasis mokslo patarėjas vyriausybėje (+ biuras)

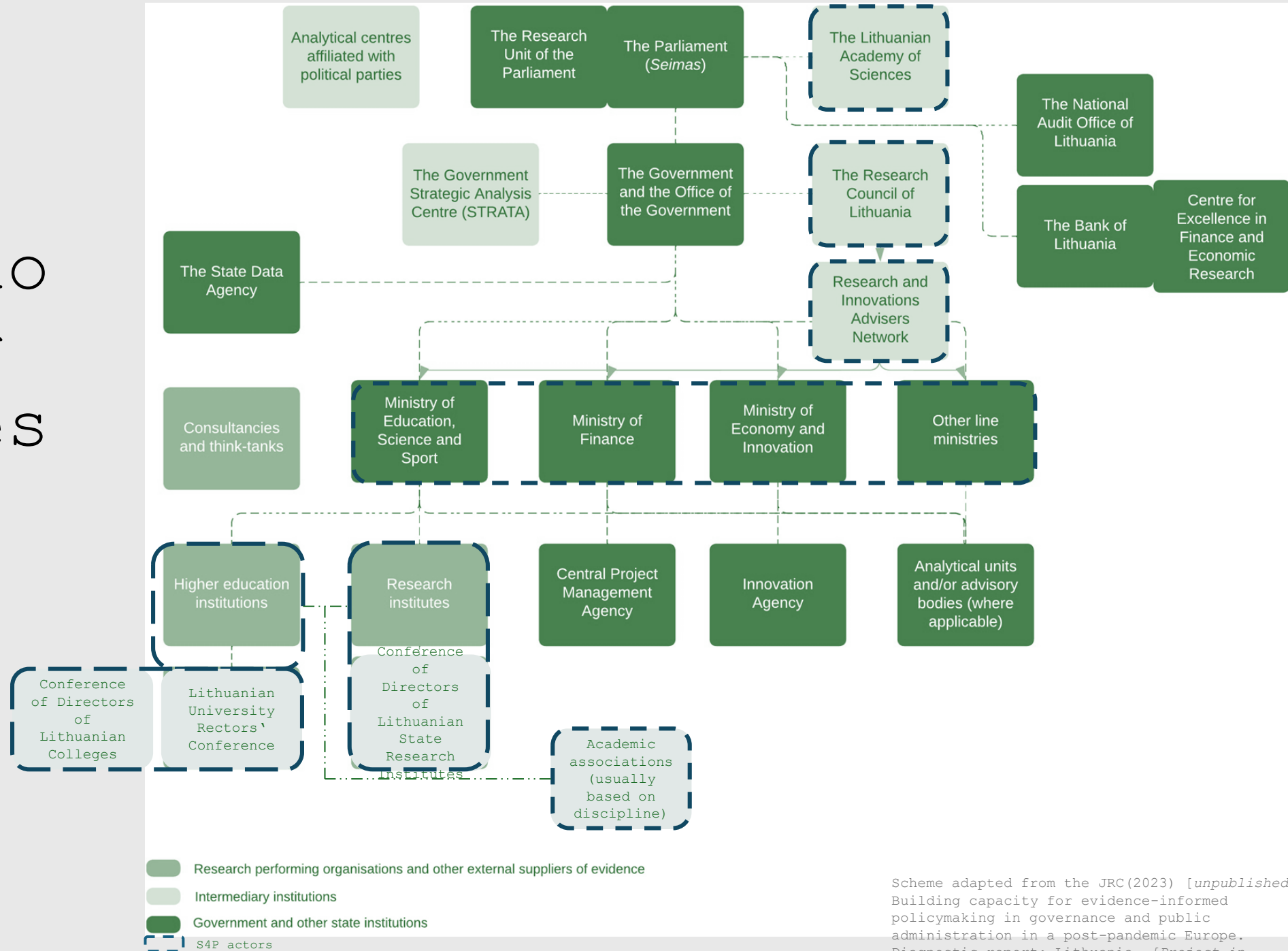**Kanada**

1 Vyriausiasis mokslo patarėjas vyriausybėje (+ biuras)

* - 2018 m. VMP iniciatyva pradėtas steigti mokslo patarėjų tinklas: pareigybės buvo pradėtos steigi tokiose institucijose kaip Kanados Kosmoso Agentūra (Canadian Space Agency) ar Nacionalinėje mokslo taryboje (National Research Council).

Europos Komisija

7 Vyriausiųjų mokslo patarėjų tinklas EK

Status quo and major challenges

Analytical centres affiliated with political parties

The Research Unit of the Parliament

The Parliament (*Seimas*)

The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

The National Audit Office of Lithuania

The Government Strategic Analysis Centre (STRATA)

The Government and the Office of the Government

The Research Council of Lithuania

Centre for Excellence in Finance and Economic Research

The Bank of Lithuania

The State Data Agency

Research and Innovations Advisers Network

Consultancies and think-tanks

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Economy and Innovation

Other line ministries

Higher education institutions

Research institutes

Central Project Management Agency

Innovation Agency

Analytical units and/or advisory bodies (where applicable)

Conference of Directors of Lithuanian Colleges

Lithuanian University Rectors' Conference

Conference of Directors of Lithuanian State Research Institutes

Academic associations (usually based on discipline)

Research performing organisations and other external suppliers of evidence

Intermediary institutions

Government and other state institutions

S4P actors

Pilot project: Science and Innovation Advisers at the Sectoral Ministries and the Office of the Government

Funding source: NextGenerationEU Plan for Lithuania (RRF)

Duration: 2023–2026 (4 years)

Budget: 3 million EUR

Objective: 15 established positions in each sectoral ministry and the Office of the Government

Coordinating institution: Research Council of Lithuania

Goal: The project aims to create a Science and Innovation Adviser position in ministries and Government Office. Also create a network, which shape science based decision making culture in the public sector and to strength cooperation between science and public sector.

Network collaboration
15 advisers + supervisor

Individual work in institution
14 ministries and Government Office

the network is fully formed in April 2024

2004

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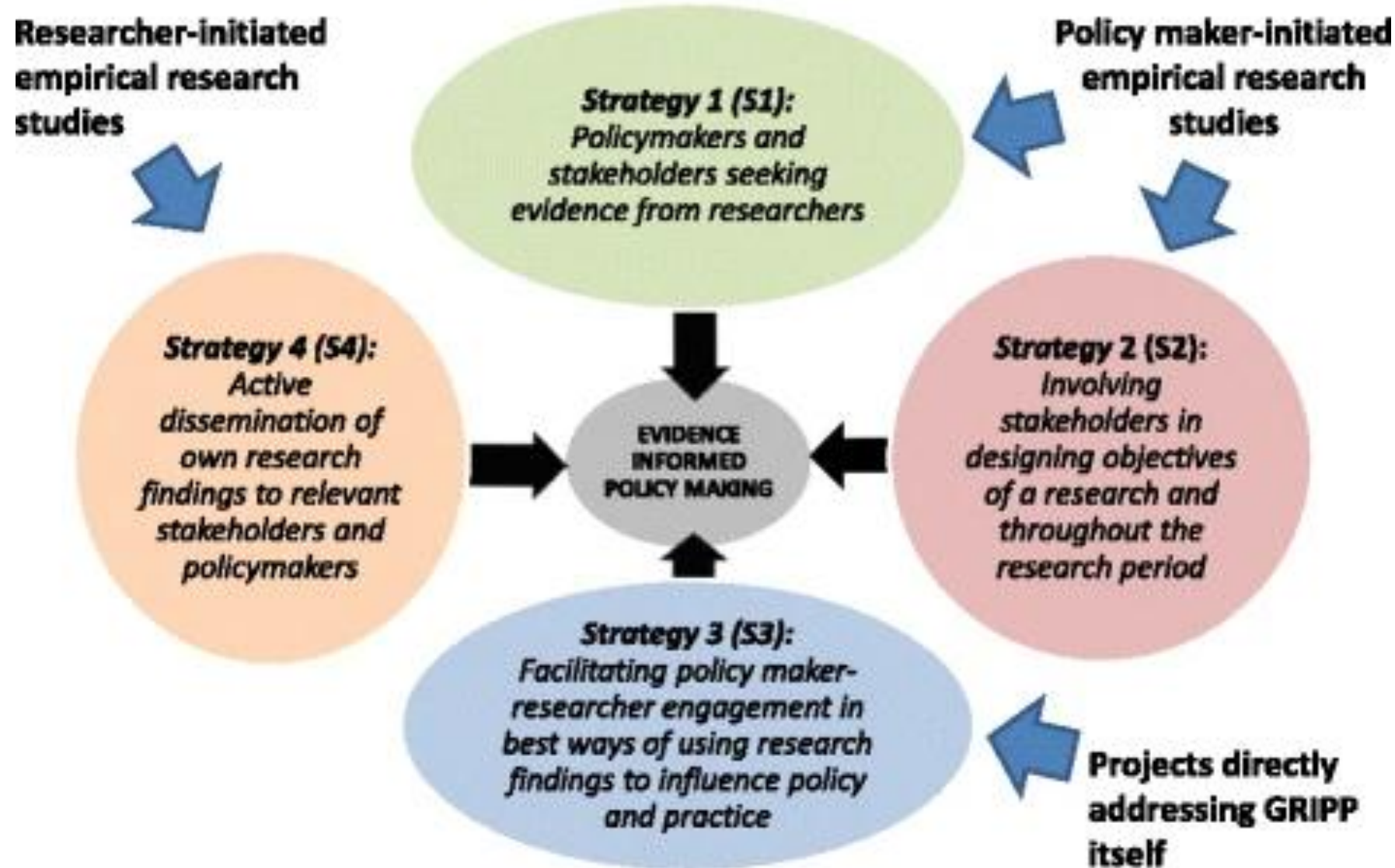- ✓ Discussion
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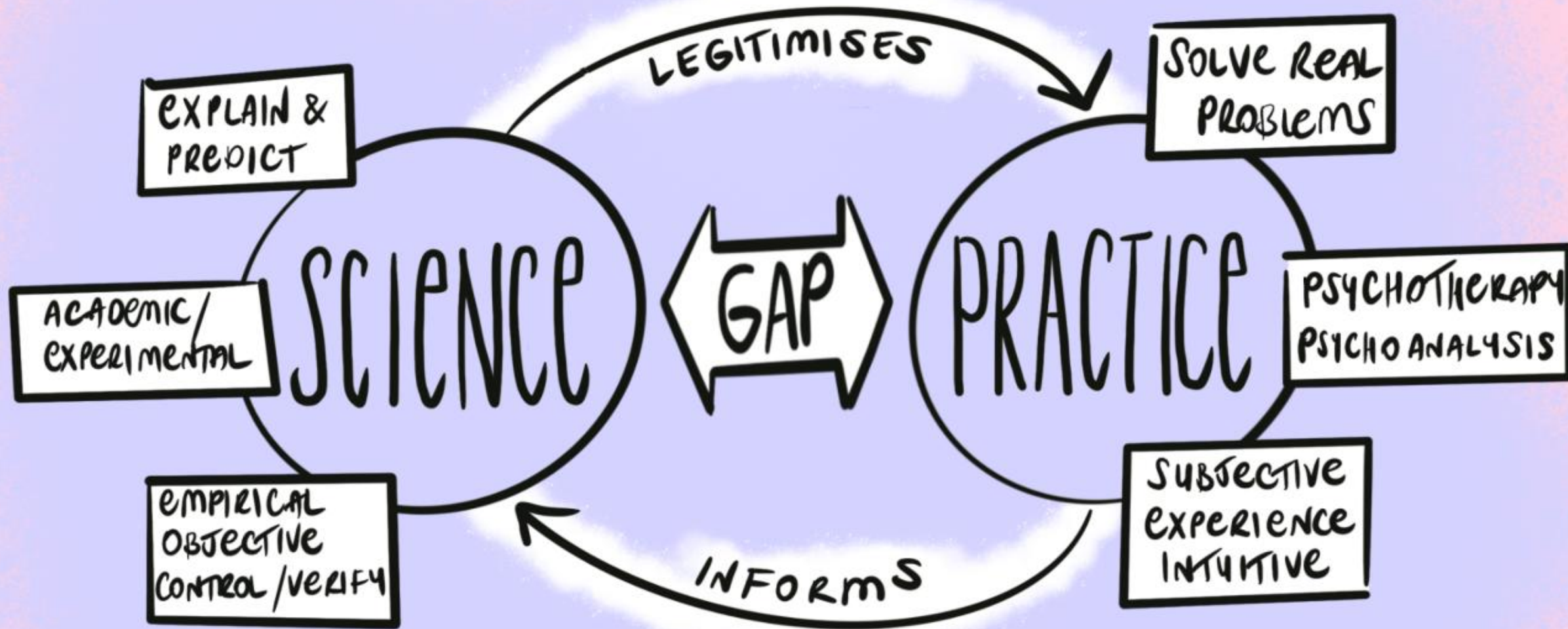
Differences of the life-style (scientists versus practitioners)

- **Knowledge:** generation / usage
- **Topics:** field of interest / current need
- **Methods:** many and different (scientific) / some and fast-going
- **Time constrains:** particular period / daily basis
- **Decision:** considerations and evidences / intuition and information
- **Axis of the decision:** groups / individuals
- **Sustainability:** long-term input / changing issues
- **Scale of damage:** individual, unit or institutional reputation / trust of society in institutions and government

Four Evidence Informed Policy making strategies

Researcher-initiated empirical research studies

Policy maker-initiated empirical research studies

Strategy 1 (S1): Policymakers and stakeholders seeking evidence from researchers

Strategy 4 (S4): Active dissemination of own research findings to relevant stakeholders and policymakers

Strategy 2 (S2): Involving stakeholders in designing objectives of a research and throughout the research period

EVIDENCE INFORMED POLICY MAKING

Strategy 3 (S3): Facilitating policy maker-researcher engagement in best ways of using research findings to influence policy and practice

Projects directly addressing GRIPP itself

Ozochukwu et al. (2016). https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12

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Previous collaboration examples (1)

- ✓ **Creation of anti-corruption environment in municipalities**.
- ✓ **Preconditions**: requirement of the law.
- ✓ **Coordinators** – municipal administrations (Šiauliai City, Šiauliai District, Radviliškis District, etc.)
- ✓ **Methods**: separate surveys of citizens and administration, documents content analysis.
- ✓ **Outcomes**: report, recommendations.
- ✓ **Challenges**: access to participants, report presentation, financial issues, time limits.

Previous collaboration examples (2)

- ✓ The project "**E-leadership in municipal administrations: the post-pandemic analysis (E-LEADER)**". The project of the Baltic-German University Liaison Office is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds from the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic Germany.

- ✓ **Coordinator** – Vilnius University.

- ✓ **Methods**: literature analysis, focus groups.

- ✓ **Outcomes**: report, public lecture, video for social media, scientific presentations and articles.

- ✓ **Challenges**: to get access to participants – leaders and employees of municipal administrations, to convince them to take a part in it, to organize time/place, dissemination (involvement of targeted group).

https://youtu.be/hQtk8ZUs7Ng?si=CiP5Yzp2GTSqPQ3b

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Future of S4P

Roles of governmental bodies

- Users of scientific knowledge (projects, recommendations)
- Customers of applied research topics
- Participants of scientific research
- Partners in Europe Horizon projects

Roles of scientists

- ...
- Evidence providers
- Consultants, members of working groups
- Consultants
- ...

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Discussion

From the point of view of scientist:

- Do researchers feel the need to work on topics of national interest?

- How are institutes or universities responding to the public demand?

- Motivation system, encouraging researchers to serve the needs of society and the public sector?

- How can we ensure continuity and sustainability of ecosystem under conditions of uncerntainty?

Thank you!

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About RENET

- *RESEARCHERS' EXCELLENCE NETWORK (RENET)*

- The international network was iniciated in the end of 2015 by *Šiauliai University* and now it is coordinated by *Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University, Lithuania.*

RENET aim

- ***The aim of the Network*** is to consolidate the research capacity which could help to develop scientific excellence of researchers and would enable to collaborate across disciplines and institutions at local, national and international levels.

- The joint activities of the network has two main **functions**:
1) Joint thematic networking discussions (seminars, lectures, conferences, pre-conferences, doctoral seminars, e-forums, etc.) by distance. All events will be recorded and publicized in the Network's website;
2) Researchers' mobility and competence exchange.

- ***Šiauliai Academy of Vilnius University*** (as the initiator and the coordinator of RENET) has long-term experience in four areas of doctoral studies: education, philology, economics and management. Research is carried out in 6 areas (social sciences, humanities, biomedical sciences, physical sciences, technological sciences and arts) in Siauliai Academy. We are open to cooperate in all of them.

Activities of RENET

1. Open seminars,
2. Open lectures,
3. International conferences, pre-conferences,
4. Doctoral seminars,
5. E-forums,
6. Videos of events.

1. Publishing possibilities,
2. Project possibilities,
3. Invitations to conferences,
4. Employment possibilities,
5. Editorial boards' possibilities,
6. Networking (internships, visits, research teams, etc.)

Information about it in the RENET webpage:
https://atviri.emokymai.vu.lt/course/view.php?id=126
Videos of RENET events: Youtube channel RENET Vilnius University, Šiauliai
Academy https://youtube.com/@renetvilniusuniversitysiau2425
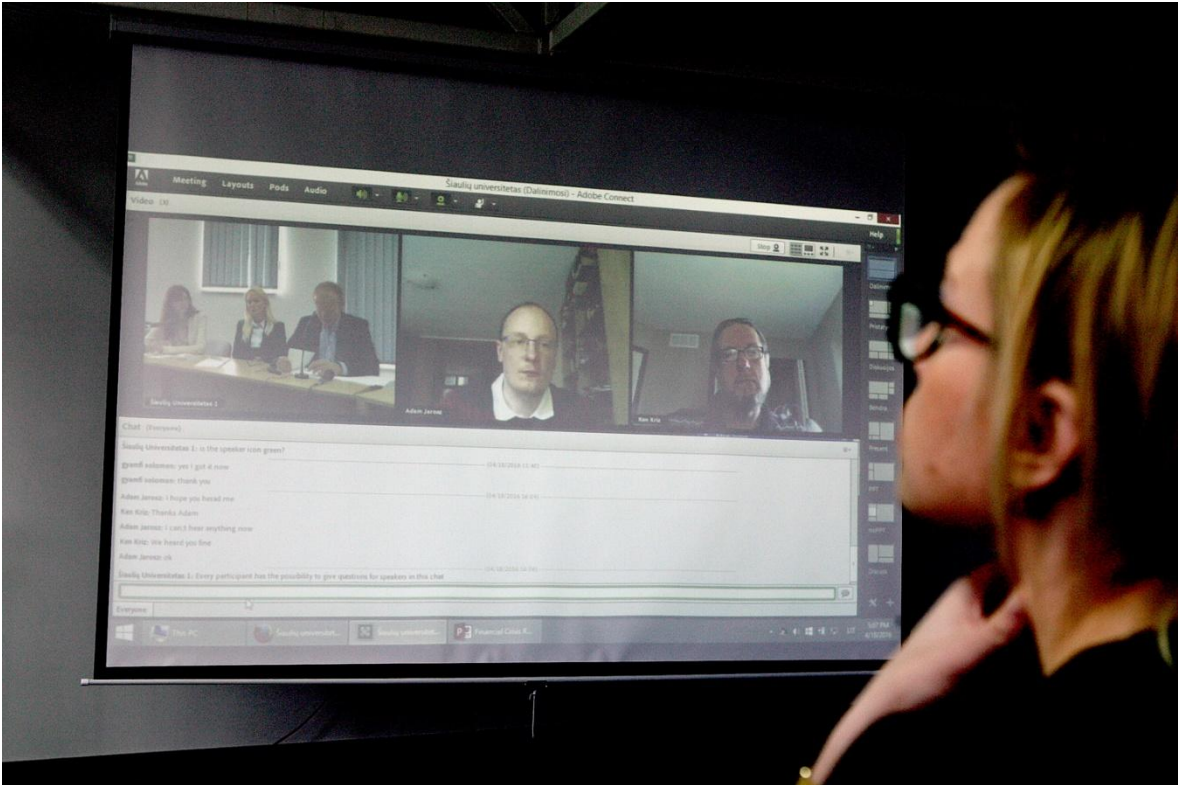
Members of RENET represent

27 countries, 55 institutions

RENET has started from representatives in
10 countries and 14 institutions
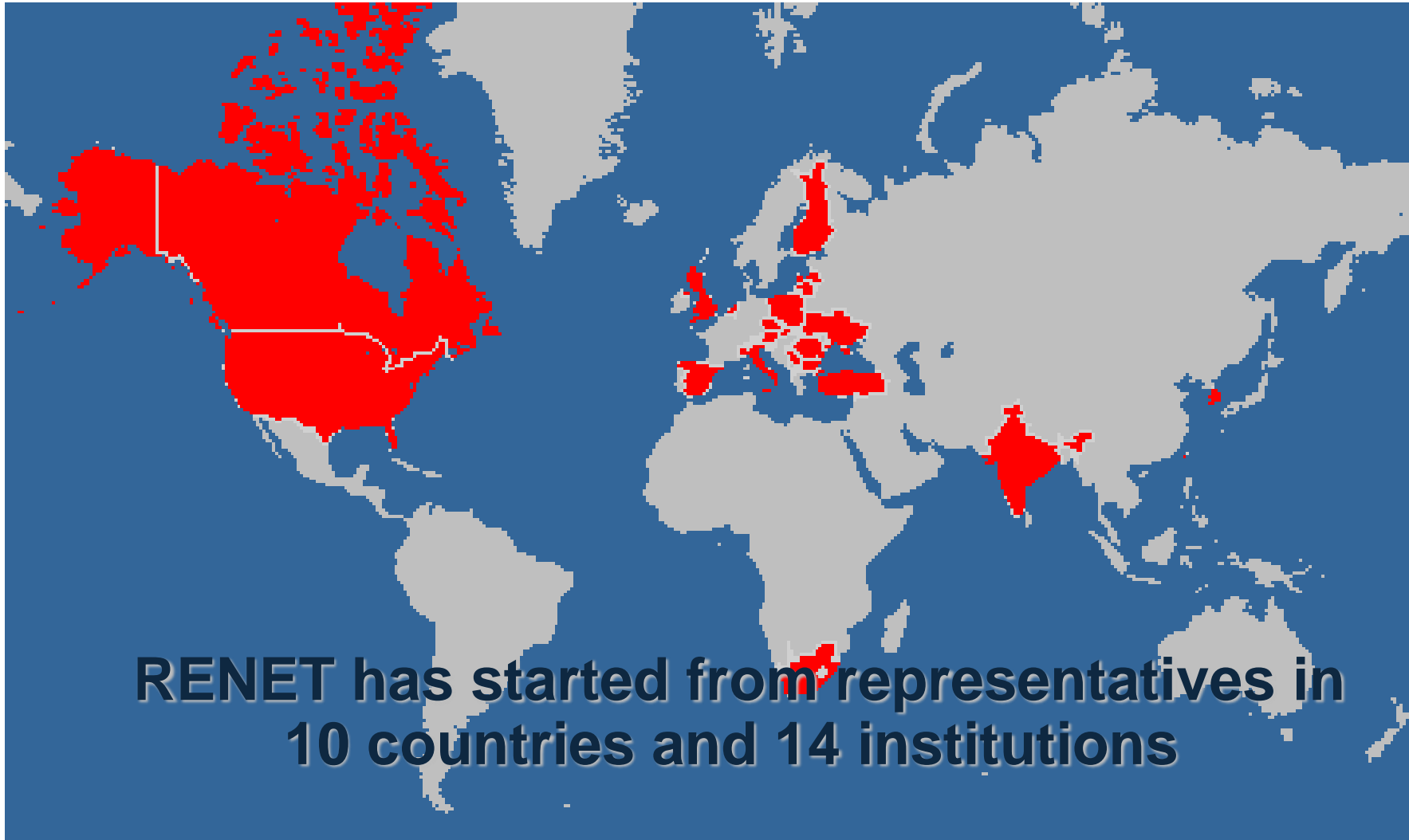
Benefits of RENET membership

✓ Sharing of ideas, insights and expertise during events.

✓ Possibility to save time and resources and to be the part of international scientific events.

✓ Possibilities for internships, common projects' applications, trainings.

✓ Information about publishing possibilities and membership in editorial board.

✓ Networking, partnership, friendship.

- How to apply for the membership:

- Application form (individual, institutional)

- https://atviri.emokymai.vu.lt/course/view.php?id=126

Contacts

- RENET Coordination Committee
- VU Šiauliai Academy
- Vytauto str. 84
- LT-76351 Šiauliai
- Lithuania
- competence.network@gmail.com