



# How NGO can cooperate with scientists: Lithuanian case

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EKONOMIKOS  
FORUMAS

# My organisation

Association "Knowledge Economy Forum"

Members: business companies, universities,  
governmental agencies, experts

Activities:

"Lobby" the government

"Brainwash" the society

Values: for the sake of bright and wonderful  
Lithuanian future: creative, inspiring, technology  
and innovation based



# To buy love or...

... to develop long lasting relationships ?

NGO -> \$ -> Scientists

Scientists -> \$ -> NGO

NGO + GOV + SCIENTISTS + \$ = Wow !



# When you buy scientists

From the raw idea to the study

"Some nonsense, I do not understand anything, but I like the fact that my organisation is analysed in the study" (2005)

"Well, that makes sense and MIGHT be useful. We have money for that and should expand the research" (2008)

"If only I have imagined, how difficult it will be to talk with them ! They hardly have any diplomacy at all !" (2009)



# When scientists hire you

And why they might need NGO's

"That organisation has a wide network of contacts/experts"

"They can moderate focus groups and make people talk openly"

"They have lobbying and advocacy skills, they can defend us from the Government officials"

... after 3 years, Government official: "Dear European Commission. In our country social partners are **DIRECTLY** involved in the evaluation procedure. Let's look at that example"



# When the real cooperation starts

How "Learning Lithuania 2030 vision was developed"

"You also think that foresight is a nice idea ? But nearly nobody around understands what it is and many people are openly against. But if you believe - that's wonderful ! Let's do it together !"



"Whom shall we invite ? What methods shall we use ?"



"How shall we disseminate the results ?"

"Politicians are not active. Can you do something ?"

# Lessons learned

From all three cases

You need to be "a bit" of scientist in NGO to talk with scientists (have at least PHD student)

Patience and strict project management is a key

Everybody in the Government or society will ask YOU to explain what those crazy scientists have written in the study/report

WIN-WIN cooperative approach and slow building of networks has a long term effect on future actions, research and even policy making.

