

## Lithuania increase networking after joining the EU

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In 1990, after Lithuania declared its independence, the Ignalina NPP came to jurisdiction of the Republic of Lithuania, however, all technical scientific support organizations remained in Russia. Therefore the need to develop the independent institutions of nuclear regulatory and technical support was raised. During the 1991–2009 (till the final close of Ignalina NPP) the necessary infrastructure for nuclear regulation and technical-scientific support was created. Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI) became one of main technical support organizations in Lithuania, capable to perform all necessary safety analyses for Ignalina NPP. The support of Western countries and experience, received participating in different international projects, was very important during the process of experience acquiring. Lithuania's accession to the EU (2004) has opened wide horizons for cooperation. Active participation in European research programmes was very important to Lithuania since it allows Lithuania to further integrate into the European Research Area, benefiting both Lithuanian researchers and country as a whole. Lithuania is actively participating in the European research programmes (FP6, FP7) and this is the basis for successful participation in the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme Horizon 2020. However, evaluating the differences in research infrastructures between the “old” and “new” EU Member States, there is only way for new EU states to participate on equal basis with the EU-15 countries – to join forces and work together.

### Country or International Organisation

Lithuania

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