



National Erasmus+ Office Lebanon

Opening Horizons for Cooperation

Baltic Info Days 2023

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia

21 November

Vilnius, Lithuania



Outline

- 1 General Lebanese context
- 2 Specific context of Lebanese HE
- 3 Facts and figures: focus on ICM
- 4 Cooperation with Baltic countries
- 5 Inclusion in ICM
- 6 Why cooperating with Lebanon
- 7 Tips and useful links



General Lebanese Context (1/4)



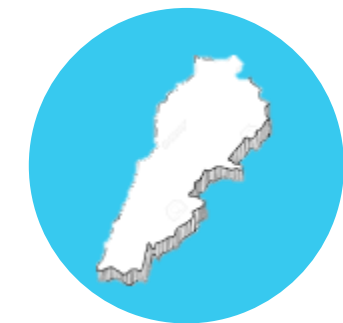
Small country of
around 5.4 million
people with an area
of 10452 km²



Religious and
cultural diversity (18
religions groups,
many languages
spoken...)



Political instability
(Turbulent region,
special
democracy...)



Country of
contradiction
(luxury living
standard,
corruption....)



General Lebanese Context (2/4)



The country that has been well known for its Free economy based on services, banking, tourism, free media, health care, HE and Int'l aids has been, since 2019, hit by economic and financial crisis.



However, the Lebanese people are known for their culture of resilience, hope, solution-driven and persistence.



General Lebanese Context (3/4)



5 400 000

400 000 Palestinians + 1 500 000 Syrians

>10 000 000 Diaspora

Religions	Languages
18 officially recognised	Arabic French - English Armenian, ...



General Lebanese Context (4/4)

Major turning points in the country since 2019:



- The financial crisis that has been escalating since 2019
- The Pandemic
- Beirut port blast on 4 August 2020



Put at risk the country's labels for:
The Hospital of the Middle East,
The University of the Middle East
and the Bank of the Middle East

Specific context of Lebanese HE sector (1/2)

- Public/Private: Competition is very high
- Old sector (AUB 1866, USJ 1875, LAU 1924, LU 1951)
- Freedom of HE guaranteed by the Constitution
- Geographically concentrated in Greater Beirut
- Multidimensional diversity (history, language, system, social and religious...)
- Foreign affiliated universities
- Openness to international cooperation
- Dynamic and prosperous
- No gender issues

Specific context of Lebanese HE sector (2/3)

The Higher Education sector in Lebanon has been hit hard by the multifaceted crisis:

- Root problems: Relevance of the university programmes and research; the rapid expansion of the sector; lack of national Quality Assurance system and NQF; lack of collaboration among the HE constituents.
- Scarcity of resources – “survival mode”
- Faculty and staff attrition – loss of human resources
- Lebanese university, the only public university, is the most affected by the crisis

More on the challenges can be found at: <https://www.hopes-madad.org/app/uploads/2022/11/HE-in-Times-of-Collapse-THE-RECOMMENDATIONS-.pdf> . Document developed in the framework of the “HE in times of Collapse” initiative NEO Lebanon has undergone with HOPES-LEB project

Specific context of Lebanese HE sector (3/3)

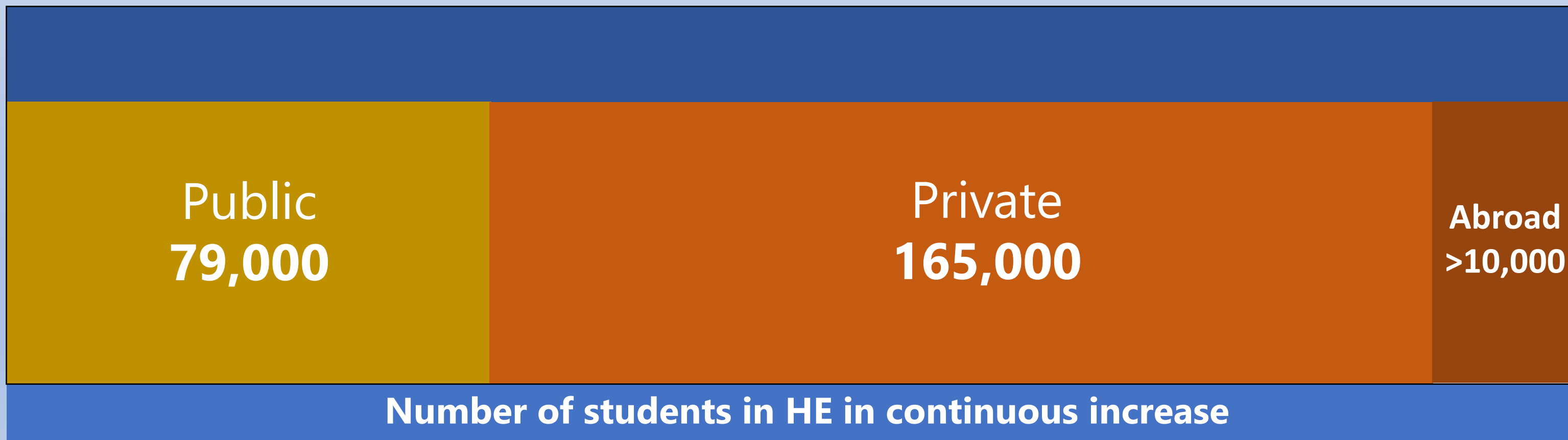
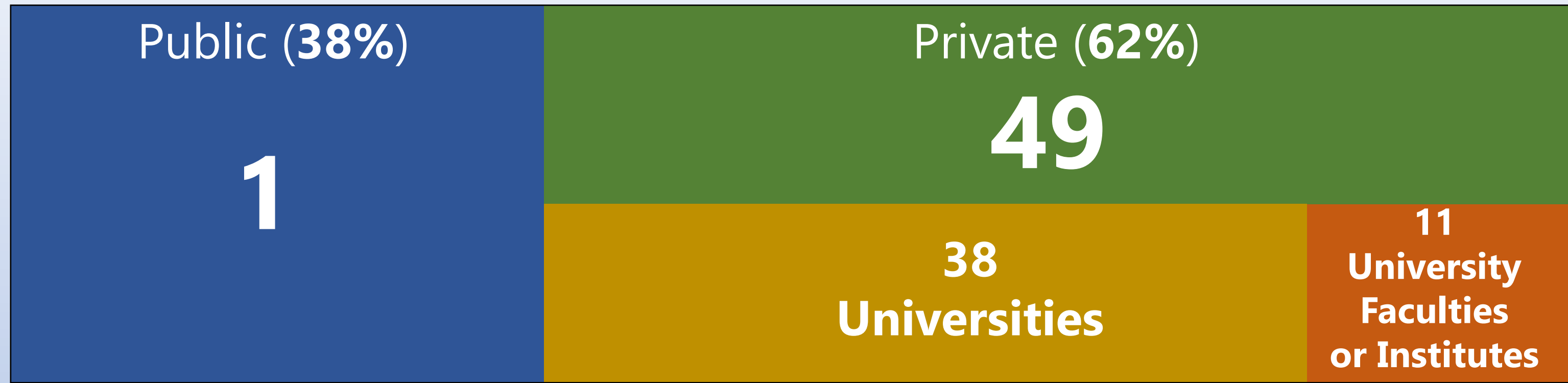
However, the HE system is now gaining back its momentum through:

- Solutions of the banking sector: fresh account, foreign accounts etc.
- Dolarisation of the tuition fees, diversification of revenue resources and ***more reliance on international funding and cooperation.***
- After long vacancy, new DGHE assigned on 28 March 2022
- Launching of Lebanon 5-year HE plan 2023-2027

→ **In this context:**

The financial crisis is no longer standing as a hindrance to international projects

Specific Context : Lebanese HE



International Cooperation

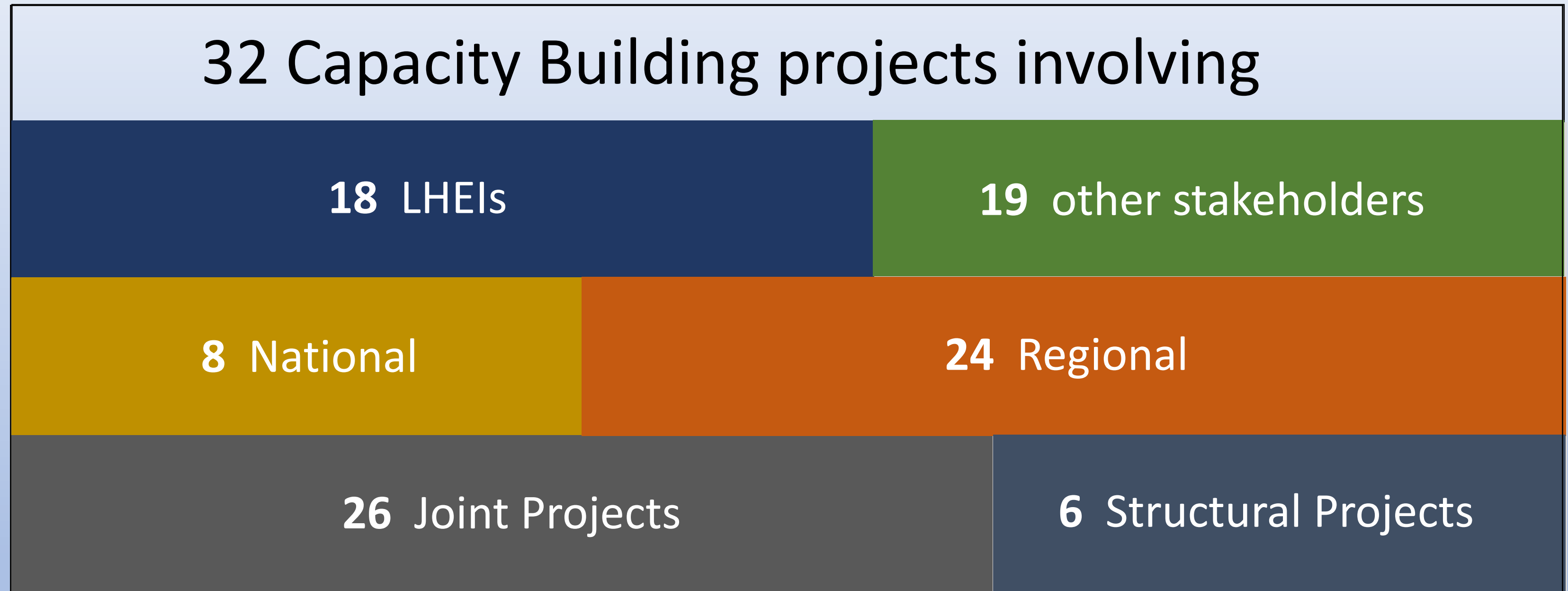
Active in Tempus since 2002

Active in Erasmus Mundus since 2004

Participation in Erasmus+



Facts and Figures: Erasmus+ CBHE projects (2015-2023)



2022 Guide for HEIs and CBHE projects by NEO Lebanon: <https://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/guide>

Performance of Lebanon in ICM (2015-2023) :



4632 Mobilities (2015-2020)	
2972 outgoing	1660 incoming

➤ **Performance of Lebanon in ICM :**

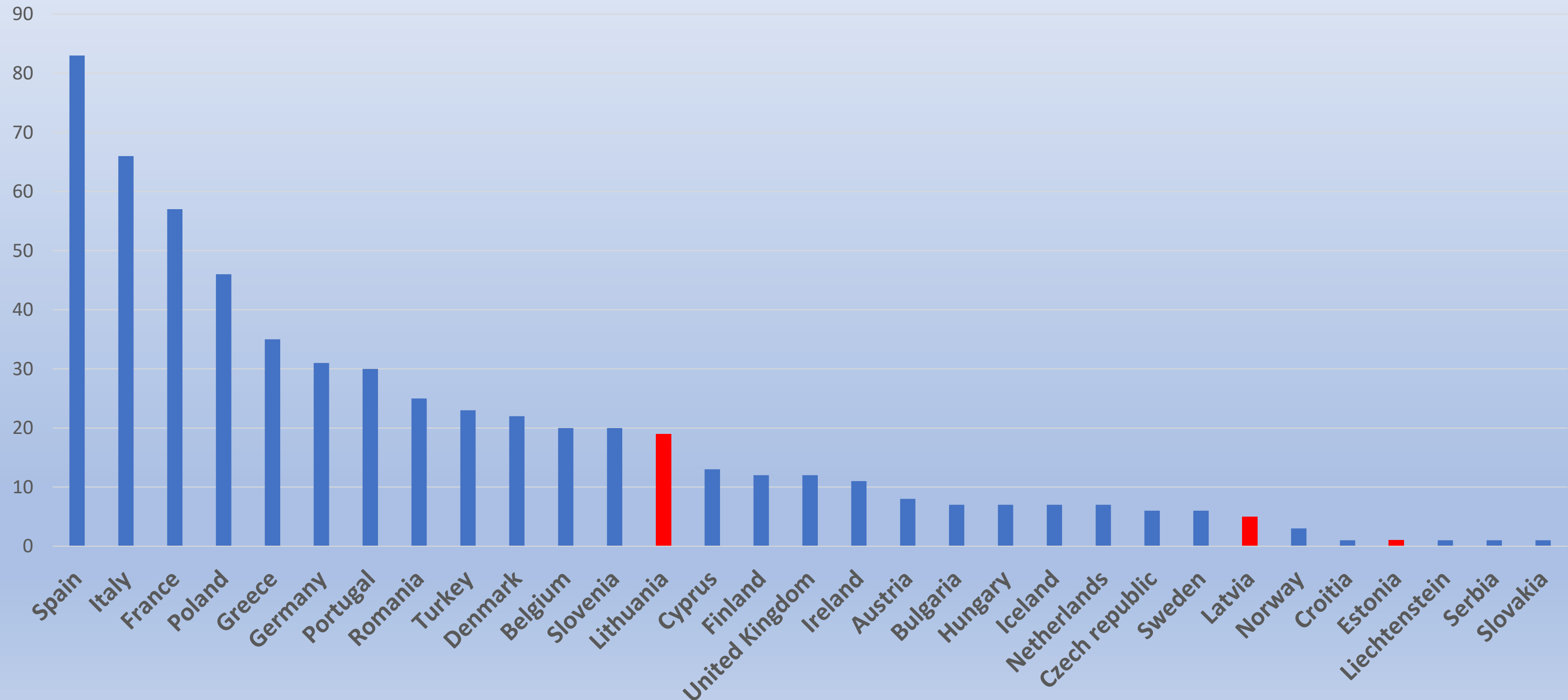
- 2021: 226 implemented outgoing mobilities
- 2022: 128 projects involving Lebanese partners
- 2023: under collection

Cooperation with Baltic Countries in CBHE & ICM (2015-2023)

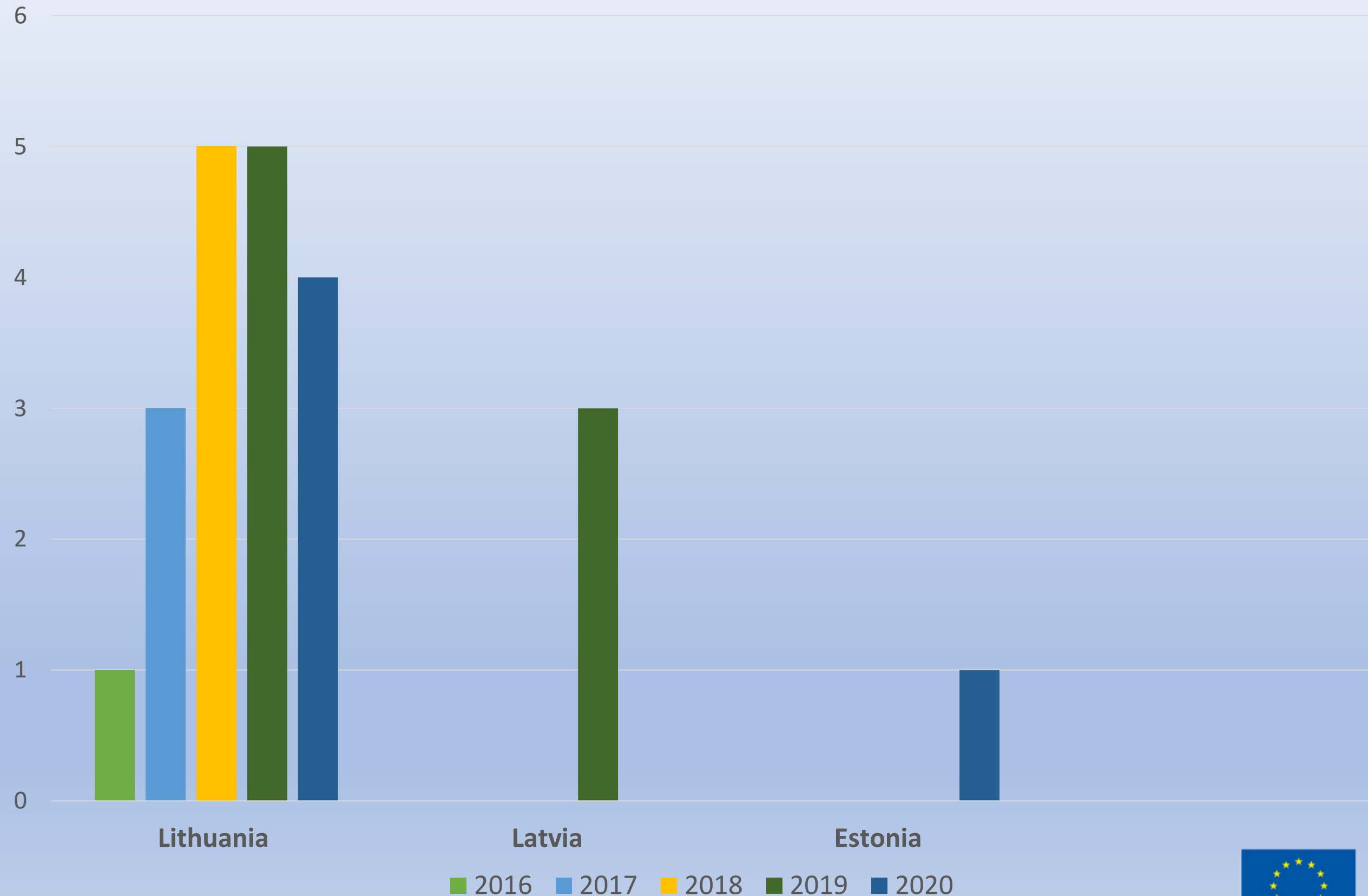
	E+ CBHE	Coordinator	E+ ICM (up to 2021)
<i>Lithuania</i>	1	0	18
<i>Latvia</i>	0	0	3
<i>Estonia</i>	1	0	1

Preferred Partnerships: partnering in ICM projects

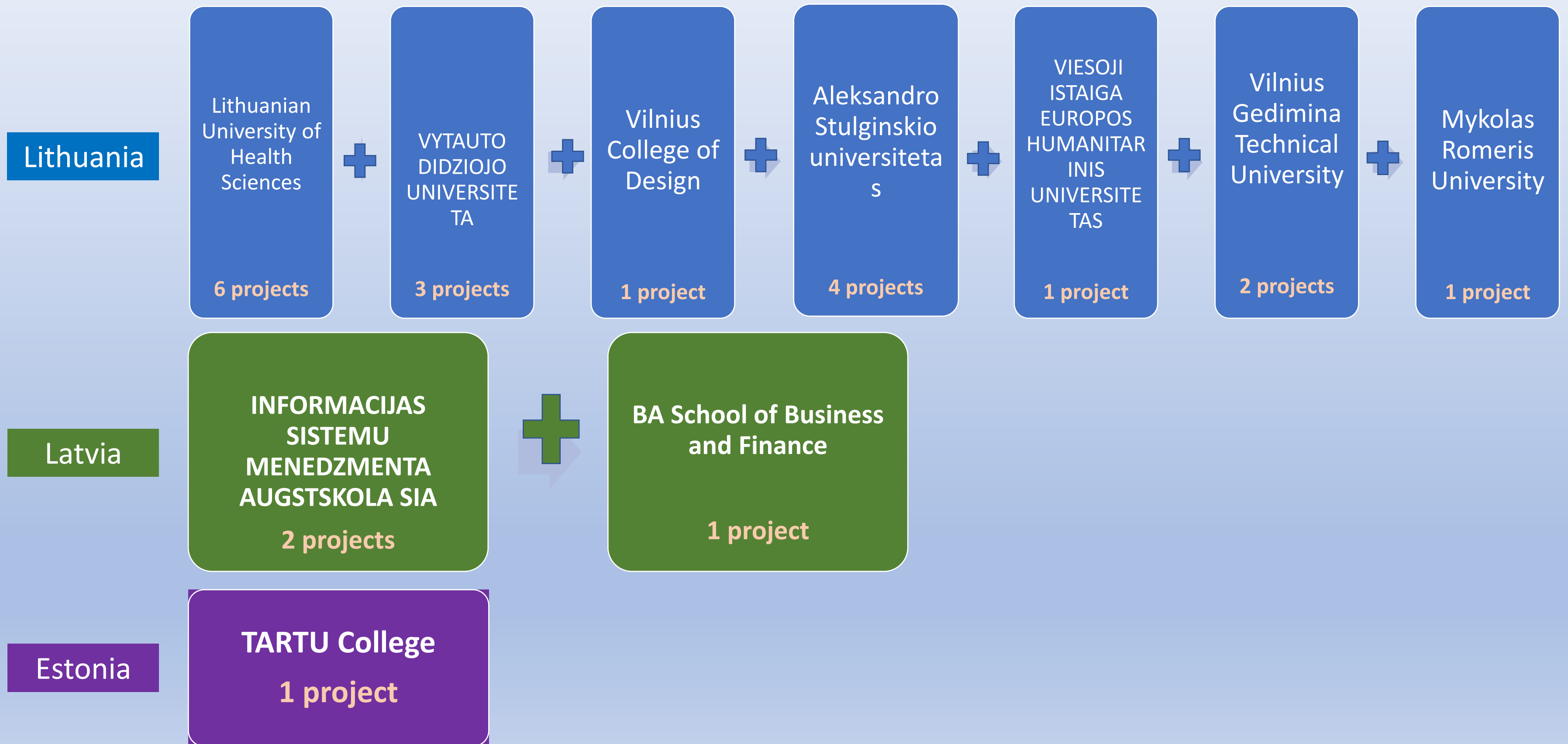
ICM by Programme countries (2015 - 2020)



Cooperation with Baltic Countries in ICM up to 2021



Cooperation with Baltic Countries in ICM up to 2021



Inclusion in ICM

- Universities have developed inclusion strategies but not necessarily implemented for ICM
- While special needs students have not yet participated in ICM in LHEIs, socially disadvantaged are being strongly considered.
- In the general context of Lebanon:
 - a unified definition of inclusion is needed based on a cross-sectoral approach
 - a supportive legal framework for inclusive education implementation is needed through updating and endorsing new laws and policies.

Inclusion in ICM

- Challenges:
 - special assistance for disadvantaged: financial and logistic considerations
 - No share of OS
 - Disadvantaged are themselves reluctant to apply
 - Selection process is done jointly with host universities
 - Late delivery of the grant to students; opening bank accounts in host country
 - Students need to advance initial costs such extra expenses of visa and insurance
 - Academic performance is still the dominant criteria for selection
 - Insufficient funding as raised by staff
 - Monitoring is not part of NEO's mandate since 2020

Why cooperating with Lebanon: Strength

- Exhaustion of traditional partnership, Need for renewed partnerships
- International mindset open-minded
- No language barriers
- Easy entry to the country
- Ready to coordinate projects: willingness and capability
- Flexible management in private and public sector
- High number of students with double nationalities

Priority areas to cooperate with Lebanon

Lebanon five-year HE plan 2023-2027 – Priorities:

- **Priority 1:** Strengthen governance and accountability
- **Priority 2:** Enhance quality and quality assurance
- **Priority 3:** Increase funding and monitor performance
- **Priority 4:** Higher education information and data
- **Priority 5:** Education, skills, relevance
- **Priority 6:** University-based research, development and innovation
- **Priority 7:** Doctoral education
- **Priority 8:** Teaching and learning
- **Priority 9:** Service to society and civic engagement
- **Priority 10:** Internatiolisation and strategic partnership
- **Priority 11:** Equality, diversity and Inclusion

Cooperation with Lebanon

Lithuanian Honorary Consulate in Beirut, Lebanon:

<https://www.embassypages.com/lithuania-consulate-beirut-lebanon>

Latvian Honorary Consulate General in Beirut, Lebanon:

<https://www.embassypages.com/latvia-consulategeneral-beirut-lebanon>

Estonian honorary Consulate in Beirut, Lebanon:

[https://www.embassypages.com/estonia-consulate-beirut-Lebanon:](https://www.embassypages.com/estonia-consulate-beirut-Lebanon)

Useful links

Contact us and we can redirect you



<https://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/home>



<https://www.facebook.com/erasmuspluslebanon>



https://twitter.com/NEO_Lebanon



<https://instagram.com/erasmuspluslebanon?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Thank you



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Paldies

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