

SUMMARY OF BAPP-LITHUANIA 2005-2007 STRATEGY

During the period 2005-2007, BAPP-Lithuania's priorities are to continue improving NGOs' institutional development and cultivating a philanthropic climate in Lithuania. BAPP-Lithuania general goal in developing the NGO sector is to build a strong and viable base of NGOs that can facilitate citizen participation in decision-making processes at all levels.

Until present, BAPP-Lithuania has contributed to the achievement of the following results:

- The basic legal framework for NGOs in Lithuania has been established
- Advocacy NGOs (both individual organizations and coalitions) have been strengthened
- Citizens have become more organized to launch initiatives on their own and to innovatively seek solutions for their various problems
- Cross-sector cooperation has markedly improved
- The tradition of giving has been promoted and grantmaking at local level has become more transparent.

During the period 2005-2007, BAPP-Lithuania will provide support in the following areas:

1. NGO External Environment

BAPP-Lithuania will support efforts leading to: improved clarity in the legal definition of NGOs, clear mechanisms for NGOs' communication with government institutions (on the national level in particular) and NGOs' involvement in policy-making, adoption of tax incentives for individual giving, and increased awareness of the NGO sector by the public in general and government officials in particular.

Towards these ends, BAPP-Lithuania will primarily invest in strengthening the capacity of the Vilnius NGO Information and Support Center to advocate for the interests of the NGO sector, including the issue listed above.

2. NGO Institutional Development

BAPP-Lithuania will seek to increase the sustainability of NGOs, particularly their ability to collect and manage funds.

In the past, BAPP-Lithuania provided institutional support to a relatively large group of NGOs. It has also financed NGO management training and the development of a user-friendly tool for NGO self-assessment. In the coming years, BAPP-Lithuania will focus its support on a smaller number of national and regional level NGOs, primarily those carrying out advocacy work, and with potential to play a key role in Lithuania's civil society.

BAPP-Lithuania's institutional development support, including multi-year grants, will therefore continue to focus on improving NGOs' advocacy capacity – with special attention to NGO participation in policy development at national and local level,

organizational management – particularly strategic planning and governance, as well as communication mechanisms leading to an improved public image of NGOs. Support will also be available for advocacy campaigning in coalition.

3. Development of Indigenous Philanthropy

Given that most foreign donors have already exited the Baltics, or will do so in the foreseeable future, BAPP-Lithuania intends to strengthen its focus on the task of increasing local funding sources, with both public and private funds, for the non-profit sector.

Towards this end, BAPP-Lithuania will support:

- Community philanthropy, including the development of endowments of community foundations
- Initiating corporate philanthropy, taking advantage of the growing interest of the Lithuanian business sector in charitable giving, as well as the continued development of the country's economy
- The possible establishment of an independent grantmaking institution for NGOs, able to collect funding from a variety of sources, such as businesses, lotteries, and government – such way that the independence of NGOs will not be affected
- Further promotion among NGO constituencies of the 2 percent income-tax facility for individuals

BAPP-Lithuania expects that, by 2008, the main results of its grantmaking will be:

- A legal and policy context favorable to NGOs
- Self-sustainable mechanisms for meaningful interactions between NGOs and government
- A critical mass of advocacy NGOs
- Community foundations active at regional level
- A stronger base of indigenous philanthropic sources nation-wide.