



HE reform in Lithuania: achievements and fails

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Research and Education in Lithuania

- State universities (14)
- Private universities (8)
- State (13) and private (10) colleges
- State research institutes (11)
- University research institutes (1)
- State research establishments (3)
- Private business entities

Higher education institutions in Lithuania





Regulation by the Constitution of Lithuania

- **40 article.**
 - Schools of higher education shall be granted autonomy.
- **41 article.**
 - Higher education shall be accessible to everyone according to his individual abilities.
 - Citizens who are good at their studies shall be guaranteed education at State schools of higher education free of charge.
- **42 article.**
 - Culture, science and research, and teaching shall be free.



Transformation of higher education in Lithuania

- **1991 – Law on Research and Studies:**
 - Only two articles regulate higher education;
 - Study fee was implemented for state not financed students (1992);
 - Quality assurance and Assessment Centre established in 1995;
 - Decrees of the Government (by-laws) implemented system of study cycles (like on Bologna declaration) (1996);
 - Loan system established 1998;
 - Student unions were financed through student certificate (1999);
 - State finances allocated per student (17 price groups), per research performance (2000);
 - Central admission, state examination (Scotland model) (from 2000)
- **2000 – Laws on Higher Education and Law on Research and Studies:**
 - Binary system (colleges and universities);
 - More rights for students;
 - External council (supervision, from 3 different groups);
 - Fixed fee (1000 LTL) model, as a fee for all “not-good” students (only under state ordered places) (2002 amendment)
- **2009 – Law on Research and Studies.**



Agreement of political parties, 2007

- **Finances per student consist from fixed fee part and state compensation. Experiment with “student basket” per some study programs;**
- **Effective loan system;**
- **Autonomy for HEI: rights for study programs, property right. Agreements between state and HEI;**
- **Autonomy and accountability, external evaluation. Finances for achievements. Councils;**
- **Ombudsmen for HE;**
- **Quality assessment and assurance. Implementation of Bergen Communique (2005).**
- **Increase in financing of R&D. Goal: to achieve the average of EU by 2012. Financing Councils: Humanities and Sciences;**
- **Better cooperation of HEI and business**



Directions of the Reform on Higher Education by new Law

- **New model of governance: Council – the main governing board. It should be external: 5 (HEI, from which – 3 by Senate, 1 - student, 1 - administration) + 5 (by the Minister) +1 (together).**
 - Council decides on mission and vision, strategy of the institution;
 - Rector – appointed by the council.
 - Ombudsmen for HE;
- **New financing model: “student basket” per study fields (not programs),**
 - Institutions compete for the “basket”
 - Private schools finances by “basket”.
- **Requirements for quality assurance and assessment.**
 - Legal implementation of ECTS.
 - Accreditation of institutions
 - Internal system of quality assurance
- **New legal status of state HEI: they are becoming public institutions.**



Legal status of HEI

- Public institutions;
- Right to purchase and to sell property;
- Right to get loan from commercial banks;
- Property and territory inviolable (except decision by Seimas).
- Right for the state to invest into the HEI;
- Right to establish companies (such as joint stock co);
- State property – right to use it by agreement (for 20 years instead of 99);

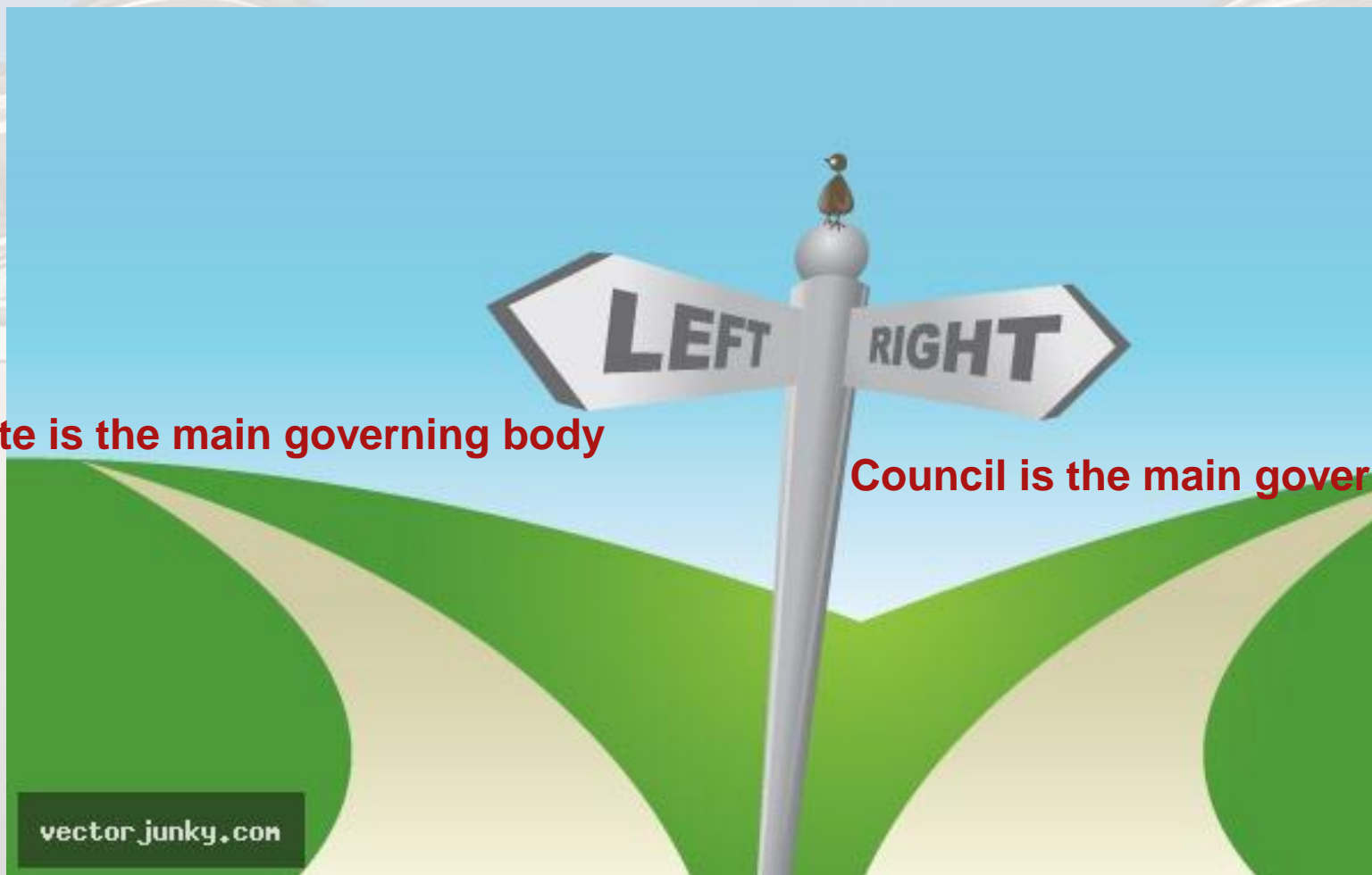


Questions that require further development

- Which state property should be considered as investment? Practice is different, no transparent model;
- Price paid on evaluation of the property;
- Interest rate on savings (earned money, not state-budget) (money transfer from budget year);
- Additional fee (0,2 % from salary fund) for the State solidarity fund (SODRA) – guarantee on unemployment;
- Control system still is like for the budgetary organizations;



Discussion on governance model

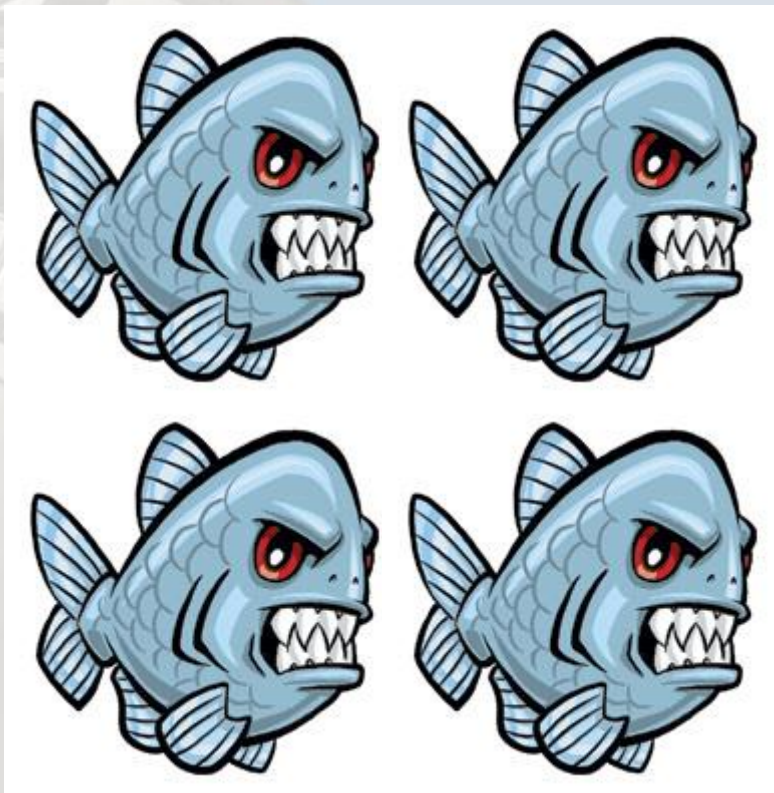


Senate is the main governing body

Council is the main governing body

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Rectors and the Ministry. Scope of the Ministry.



Rectors



The Ministry



The ideal model of the governance. Wish of the Ministry

We love our Ministry





Governance by the council (according to the Law)

- Approves the Statute;
- Makes decision on the mission statement & strategy;
- Makes decision on the structure;
- Approves annual budget plan;
- Appoints the Rector and Vice-Rectors;
- Approves the report of the Rector;
- Sets the rules for acceptance of the faculty members, etc.

Christmas “gift” for the Ministry:

All such functions are named as being against Constitution by the Constitutional Court, December, 2011



What have happened? (State universities)

- Number of rectors were appointed by this scheme (9 universities);
- Appointment of one rector is still disputed in the Court;
- Several universities did not follow the requirements of the Law - (3), because the term of the elected rector did not expire;
- Statute of Vilnius University has not been changed before 1st of January, 2012, as was required by the Law



New steps after the Constitutional Court

- Immediate amendment to the Law just after the Constitutional Court: some rights were granted to the Senate;
- Working group established;
- New formation of council was suggested (amendments are being discussed in Seimas):
 - External members should be named by universities and should be approved by Council on Higher Education (appointed by the Government decree);
 - Functions of new council remain (same like previous);
 - Senate is academic body;
 - Student representative (external member named by student union) will get extra seat
- Opposition is declaring its willingness to make more rights to the Senate after Autumn elections, 2012.



Reform in structure of higher education (state universities)

- Number of state institutes have merged with universities;
- 2 universities merged (KMU and LVA);
- Model of the further reform of universities was suggested:
 - 1 university in Vilnius (from 5),
 - 1 (MRU) – should be privatized,
 - 1 – in Kaunas (currently 5).
 - It should be done by stepwise process



Summing up for the governance model

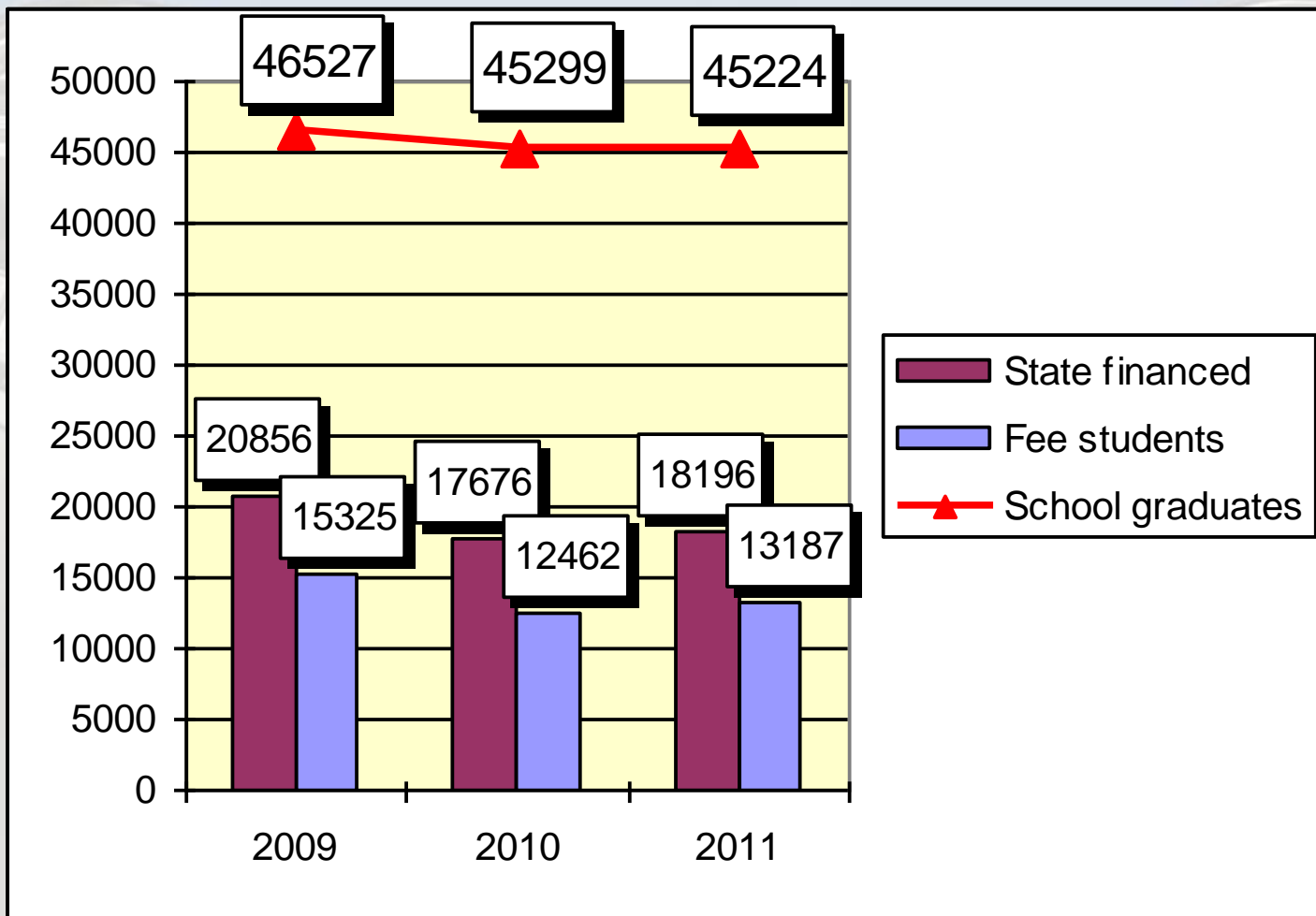
- Small governing body (external) is rather more reasonable than large Senate;
- Tendency of Europe: council – the main decision making body;
- No influence by the ministry;
- Level of autonomy might be different. Statutes can regulate more precise;
- Some key decisions by academic community, or ex. mission, strategy, election of the rector, etc.



Financing by the model of “student basket”

- Money receive particular HEI, which admits student. Student is free to choose HEI and the program;
- Price groups per branches of study;
- “Student basket” – per branches of studies (out of 6 fields and 63 branches, that may be grouped);
- State approves only main number of “baskets” and number in fields.

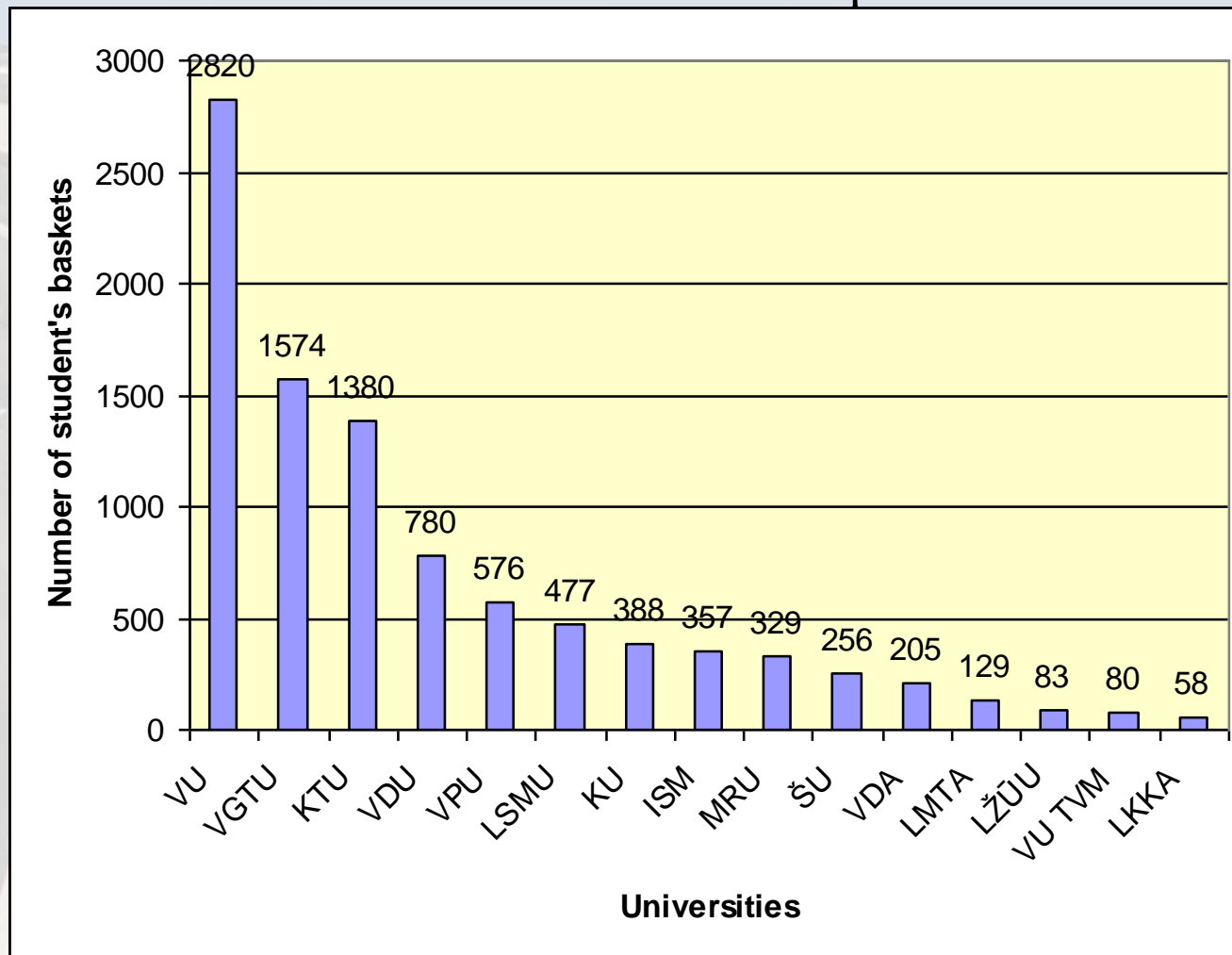
Admission to higher education institutions





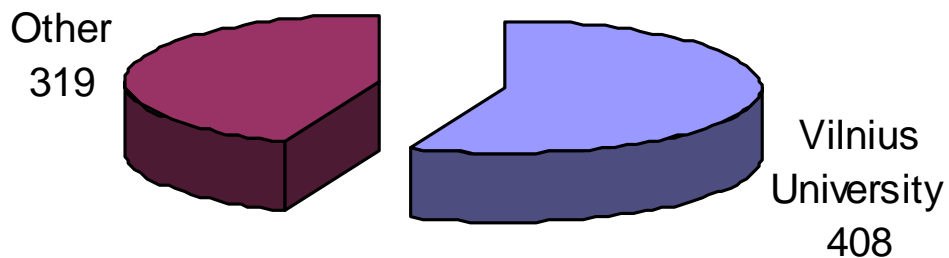
Admissions to universities, 2011

Number of “student basket” per institution



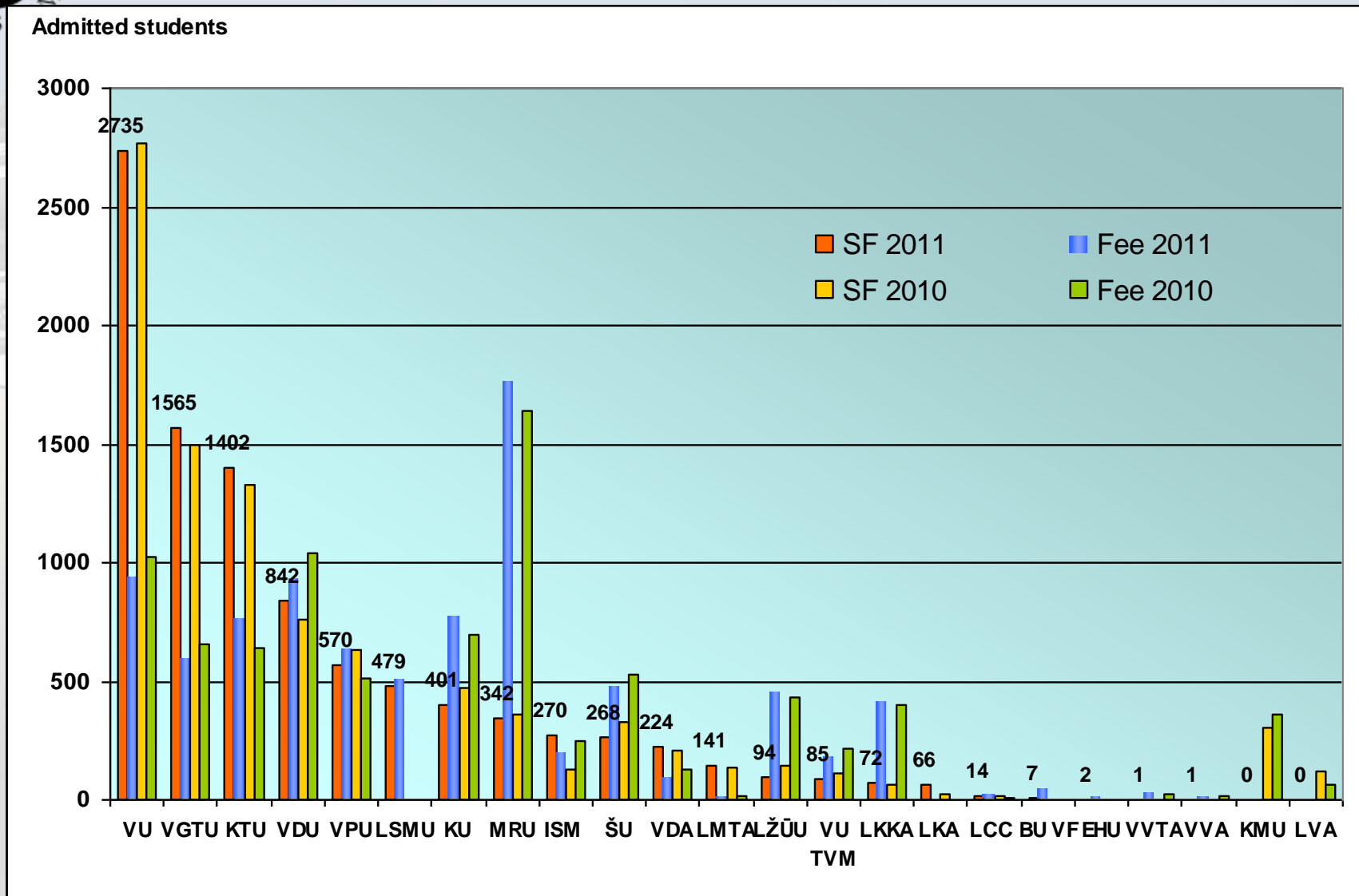


Number of graduates of Lithuanian schools that have received max. 100 points in 2011 (total number 727)



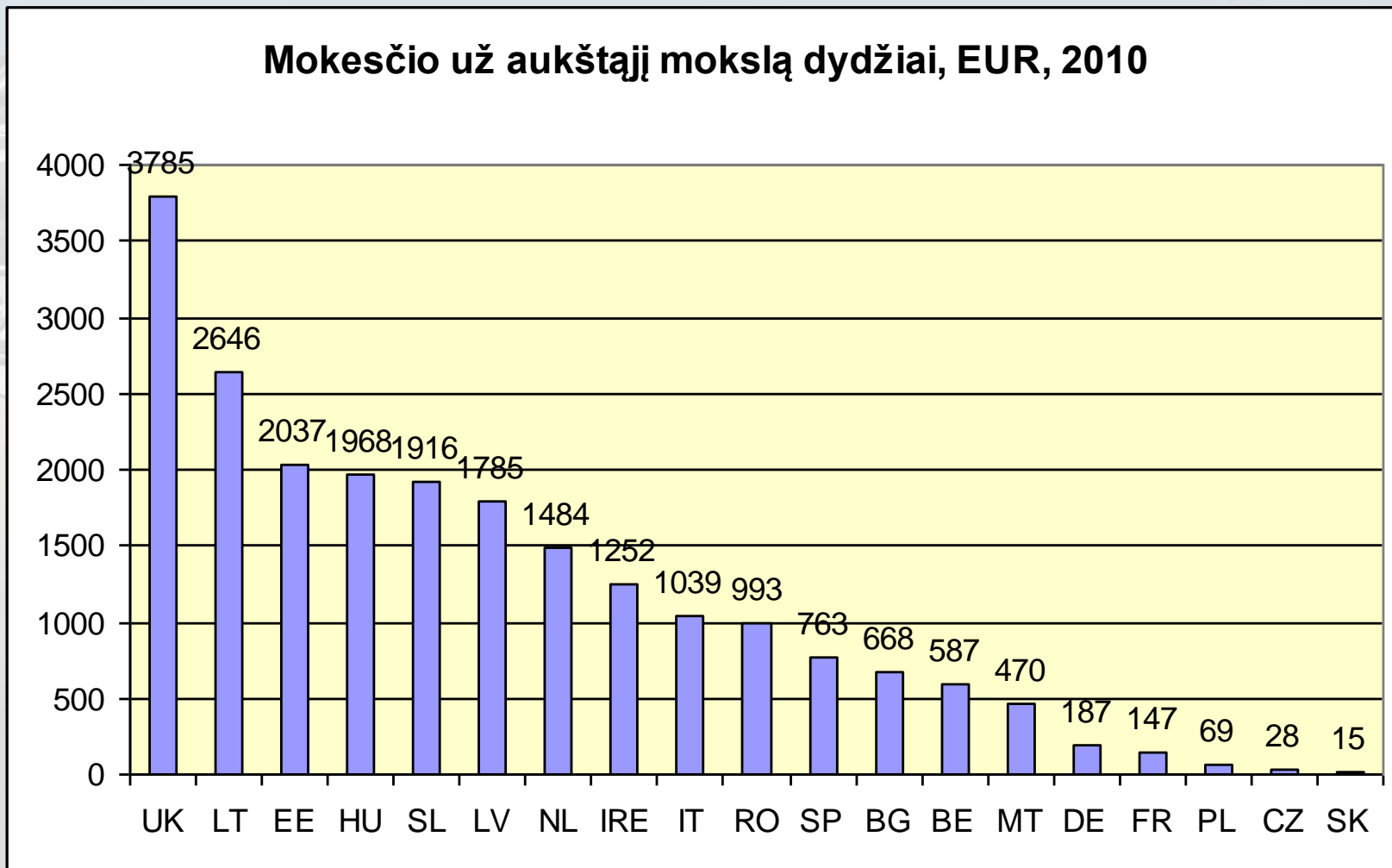


Tendencies of admission



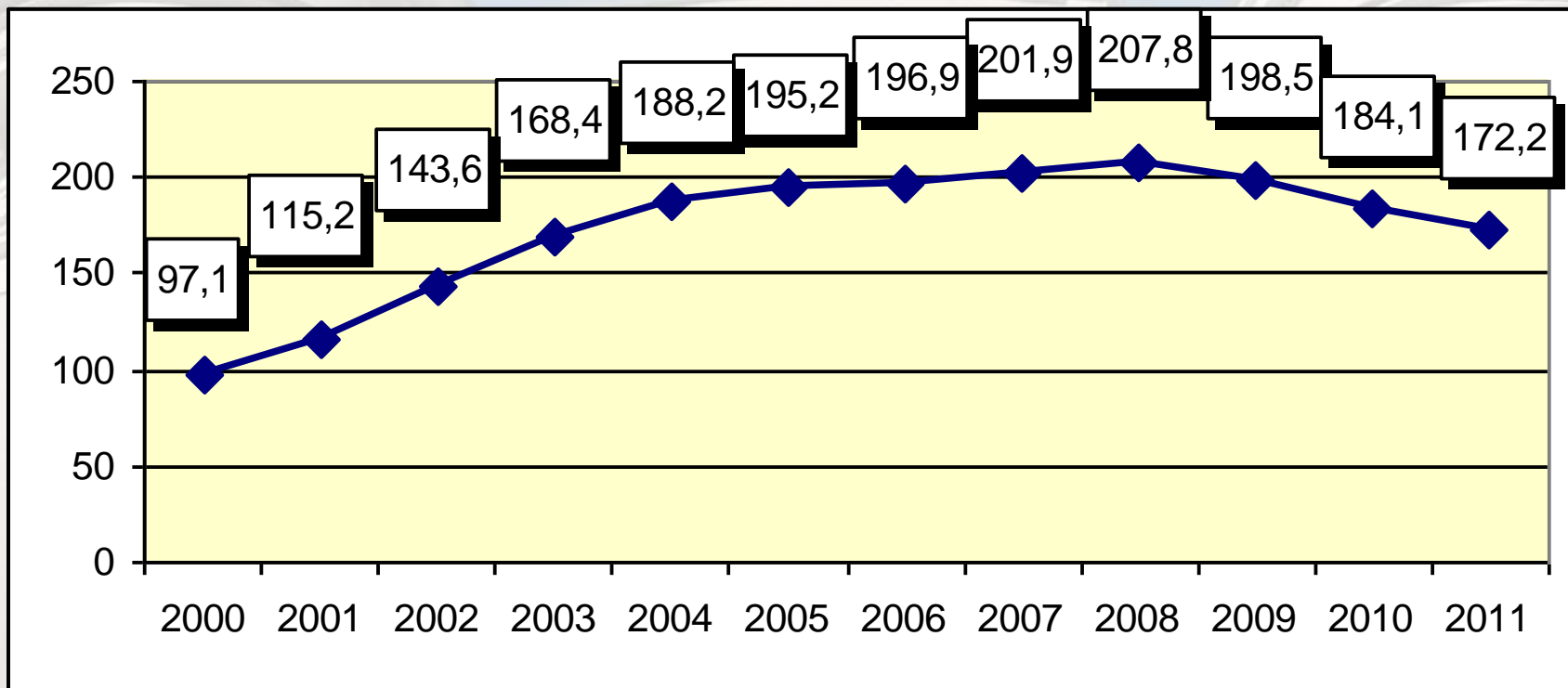


Student fees in EUR (calculated to public power parity) (by Eurydice, 2011)



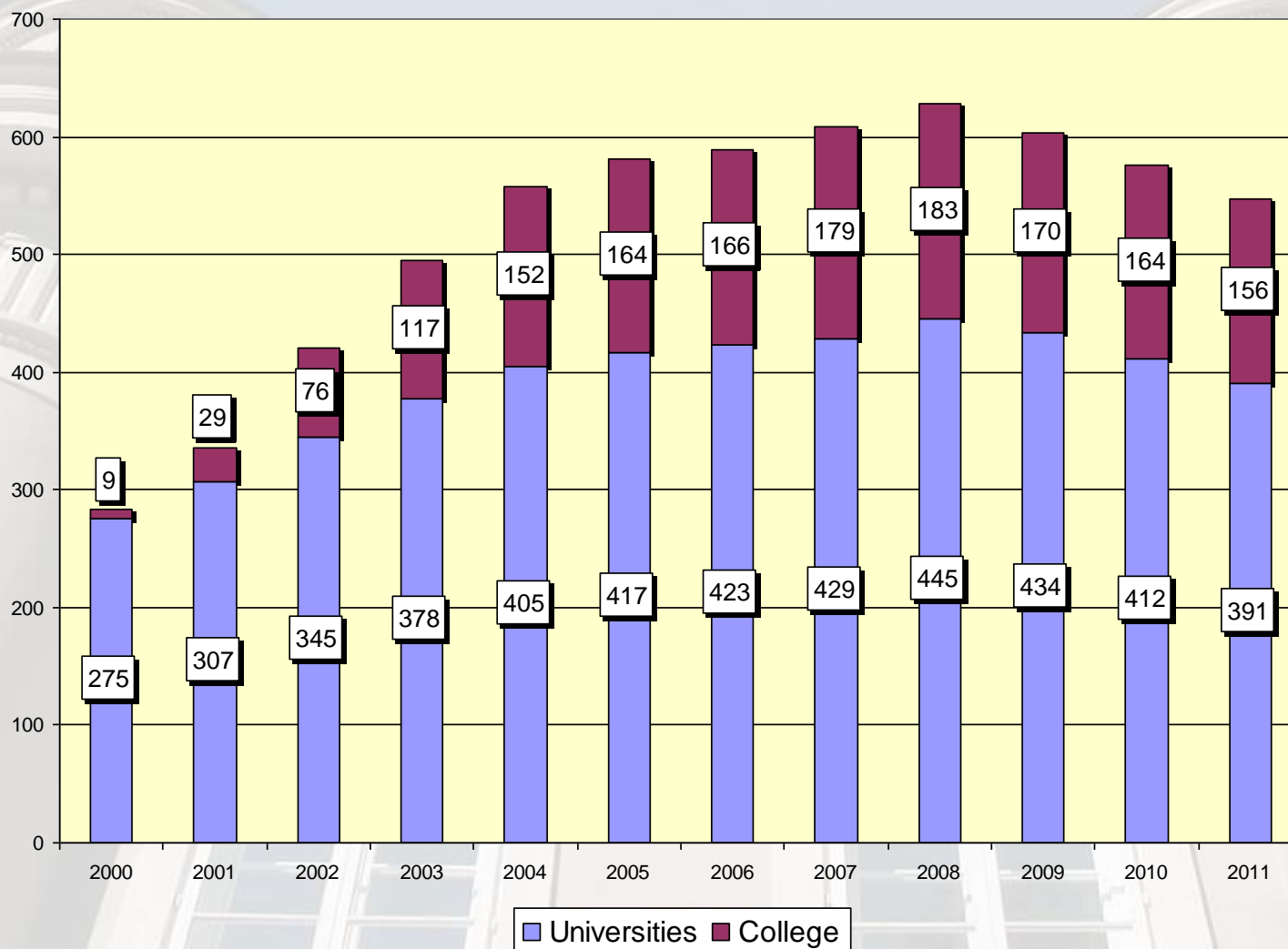


Number of students in HEI, (thousands) in Lithuania (University and college)



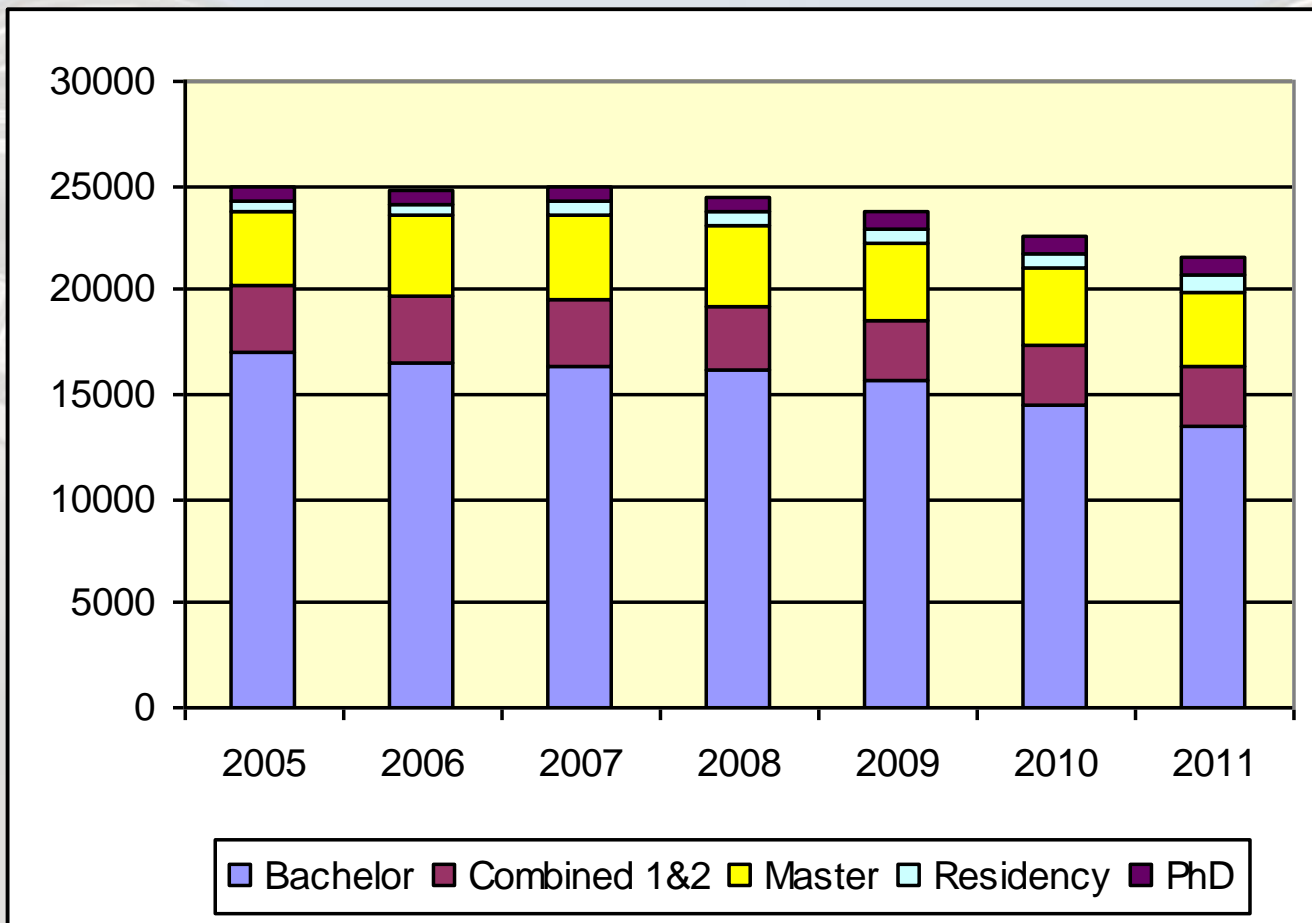


Number of students per 10000 inhabitants





Number of students at Vilnius University





Advertising campaign on HEI





Ranking of universities by weekly “Veidas”, 2011

Position	Universities	Sum of points
1	Vilnius university	69,76
2	Kaunas university of technology	61,18
3	Mykolas Romeris university	51,1
4	Vytautas Magnus university	50,14
5	Vilnius Gediminas Technical university	45,99
6	Lithuanian university of Health Sciences	33,62
7	Šiauliai university	30,6
8	Klaipėda university	28,75
9	Lithuanian university of Agriculture	28,67
10	Vilnius pedagogical university	25,8
11	Lithuanian academy of theatre and music	25,57
12	Vilnius Arts academy	15,51
13	Lithuanian academy of Physical Training	15,19



Conclusions and questions to be analyzed

- Is competition among institutions improving the quality of studies?
- Is it really bad to have big number of students?;
- Model of financing should be improved;
- Legal status should be specified – what is benefit being public institution;
- The governance model should be carefully analyzed. Politicians should find agreement;
- Bureaucracy on accreditation of institutions – is extra work worth for the quality?;



Thank you for your attention!

