

*Applying the foresighting methods  
in the field of political science*

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This article aims to draw the attention to a field that has been widely acknowledged worldwide but can be considered as rather new in Lithuania – to the methods of foresighting and future studies. Foresighting can serve as a supplement to analytic research and can be applied as a significant methodological instrument in numerous fields of political science.

Authors state that foresighting is particularly relevant to the research of international relations. As actors of the international system are competing for power and attempting to formulate strategies to expand their power, foresighting and construction of future scenarios becomes an inherent part of the strategic processes. A scenario constructing process and examples are presented in the article.

*Why the European Union's Open Method  
of Co-ordination is not effective: weak by its origin  
or inadequately applied in Lithuania?*

***Vitalis Nakrošis, Ramūnas Vilpišauskas***

This article is devoted to the Open Method of Co-ordination (OMC) as a method of the European Union (EU) governance. First, the article presents the method, its characteristics and the rationale behind its application in the EU. This is followed by an analytical framework, which includes the factors of EU and national level (independent variables), influence mechanisms of the OMC as well as public policy and institutional change (dependent variables). This analytical framework was used for

structuring and summarising the results of the OMC research in Lithuania. The main conclusion of this article is that the OMC is not effective in Lithuania due to its weak mechanisms of influence. Although according to its definition the OMC is attributable to „soft“ forms of governance, its inadequate application reduces its effectiveness in Lithuania. These factors constrain the implementation of necessary reforms in Lithuania and reduce its contribution to economic growth and employment of the EU.

*Implementation of the EU Lisbon strategy in Lithuania:  
lost between Vilnius and Brussels?*

***Vitalis Nakrošis, Egidijus Barcevičius***

The major question for this article is to what extent the implementation of the Lisbon strategy contributed to public policy change in Lithuania. The analysis is based on an overall discussion of experience in preparation and implementation of the National Programme for Implementation of the Lisbon Strategy 2005–2010. Also, two case studies are conducted in the fields of active labour market policy and R&D policy. The overall conclusion is that Lisbon strategy is still to a large extent a missed opportunity. The article argues that perhaps the most important among the lost opportunities is the fact that the National Lisbon programme has not become a catalyst for policy reform. Furthermore, the national Lisbon programme has not yet found a well-defined place among other major national strategies in Lithuania. Finally, the programme has only partially contributed to the improvement of strategic planning framework in Lithuania and to a better co-ordination of horizontal policies.

*Emigration from Lithuania:  
what we do, what we should and what we don't know*

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Emigration is considered to be the most important non-military threat to Lithuania. Available statistical data indicates that approx. 10% of Lithuania's residents have emigrated over past 16 years. According to the Eurostat data, Lithuania also had the highest rate of emigration in the EU in 2005.

Most of the research done in this field explains high rates of emigration as a result of relatively low wage levels. However, this paper seeks to develop an alternative explanation, which focuses on the structural imbalances in the labour market. The imbalances have resulted from rapid increase in the supply of qualified university graduates and very slow development of Lithuania's knowledge intensive sectors, which could offer high quality workplaces. This argument is supported by empirical evidence.